



EU-LIFE Woman Postdoc Mentoring Programme

Short bios of mentors



Electra Gizeli

Group leader

IMBB-FORTH (Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology of the Foundation of Research and Technology-Hellas)

Crete, Greece

Dr Electra Gizeli is a Professor at the University of Crete, Dept. of Biology and Affiliated Researcher and Deputy Director at IMBB-FORTH. A chemist by training, she carried out her graduate studies in the UK, at UCL (MSc) and Univ. of Cambridge (PhD). Following two short post-doctoral visits in Lausanne (EPFL) and the USA (Sandia National Labs), she received a BBSRC Fellowship and established her group at the Inst. of Biotechnology, Univ. of Cambridge, on acoustic biosensors and their application to bioanalytical sciences.

Upon her return to Crete in 2003 as a Faculty member of the University and IMBB-FORTH, she has expanded significantly her research interests to cover, in addition to biosensor and biophysics, molecular diagnostics, nanobiotechnology and biomedical engineering. The multidisciplinary focus of her work has led to several new findings in the fields of life sciences and nanotechnology. The transfer of innovative concepts from the lab to the society has been a constant inspiration in her group, with emphasis on molecular diagnostic tools for healthcare applications and agro/food safety. She has organized and led several evaluation studies in hospitals in Europe and Africa for novel methods for infectious diseases-testing. She is the co-founder of two spin-off companies of FORTH, both dedicated to diagnostic platforms and methodologies.

In 2022, she established the Mentoring and Career Track Scheme (MCTS) in IMBB which she is still leading together with the MCTS committee. She has ample experience on the mentoring of students and early researchers in both Greece and the UK and can assist particularly those interested in implementing novel scientific concepts derived from their research to the real world. Her large experience with writing and coordinating proposals, and specifically EU-funded Research and Innovation grants with many partners and under several calls (Path-Finder, Health, Environment etc.) can be useful to those interested to seek EU funding in a range of disciplines.