

Rebecca Matsas Short Bio

Dr Rebecca Matsas' long-term research interests focus on nervous system development and regeneration. She is an elected EMBO member, serves at the Governing Board of the Network for CNS Transplantation and Restoration ([NECTAR](#)), is currently President Elect and the next President of the Hellenic Society for Gene Therapy and Regenerative Medicine and an active member of national and international professional organizations, including the Hellenic Society for Neuroscience - HSfN, the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies - FENS, the International Society for Stem Cells Research - ISSCR, the Hellenic Initiative against Alzheimer's Disease - HIAAD. She has served for 4 years as General Director of HPI. She has received numerous awards and has been decorated Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite for promoting franco-hellenic scientific co-operation. Through her research she has studied neural stem cell biology and has identified key molecular mechanisms coordinating cell cycle exit and differentiation. She has developed therapeutic cell transplantation in pre-clinical animal models of brain and spinal cord injury and disease, with important functional recovery. Her garnered knowledge has laid the groundwork for transition from mouse models to a human setting to address specific biological questions that are clinically relevant. She has thus embarked on the cutting-edge area of cell reprogramming for generation of induced pluripotent stem cells to model human brain development-in-a-dish and neurodegenerative disease-in-a-dish, aiming to investigate mechanisms of neurodegeneration, identify new disease targets and evaluate the effectiveness of novel disease-modifying therapies. She is reviewer in scientific journals, serves at the Editorial Board of GLIA and has contributed in several reviewing panels for research funding, including the ERC. She has received numerous research grants as PI and has published extensively in esteemed journals, such as PNAS, Nature Commun, NPJ Parkinsons Dis, eLife, Cel IMol Life Sci.