



Rebecca Matsas

Research Director, Head of the [Department of Neurobiology](#)
Head of the [Laboratory of Cellular-Molecular Neurobiology and Stem Cells](#)

Research scope and expertise

Rebecca Matsas' research interests focus on nervous system development and regeneration. She has pioneered stem cell research in Greece aiming at translational approaches for the treatment of CNS pathology. She has been studying neural stem cell biology and has identified key molecular mechanisms coordinating cell cycle exit and neuronal differentiation (PNAS 2007; Stem Cells 2008; 2010; 2014; PLOS Biol 2010). She has developed therapeutic cell transplantation in pre-clinical animal models of brain and spinal cord injury with important anatomical and functional recovery (Brain 2007; Stem Cells Transl Med 2013; Mol Ther 2015; GLIA 2016). More recently her group has introduced cell reprogramming technologies to model human neural development and disease. Her group has generated induced pluripotent stem cells from skin fibroblasts of patients with familial Parkinson's disease to elucidate disease mechanisms and identify new therapeutic targets. Directing their differentiation to neurons, the team has developed a clinically relevant model with distinct disease phenotypes appropriate for mechanistic studies and drug development (PNAS 2017).

Positions and Employment

2013-date: Head, Department of Neurobiology, Hellenic Pasteur Institute
2010 Jul-Sep: Visiting Scholar, Harvard Stem Cell Institute
2002-2005: General Director, Hellenic Pasteur Institute
1998-date: Research Director; Head, Laboratory of Department of Neurobiology, Hellenic Pasteur Institute
1992: Visiting scientist, Ophthalmology Department, Tubingen University Medical School, Germany
1989-1998: Senior Investigator; Head, Laboratory of Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology, Hellenic Pasteur Institute
1985-1989: Researcher, Hellenic Pasteur Institute
1980-1985: Postdoctoral Fellow and Research Associate, MRC Membrane Peptidase Research Group, University of Leeds, U.K.

Honors, Awards, Professional Activities

2017-: ELIDEK Greek Foundation for Research and Innovation, General Assembly member
2016-: Chair of the Internal Scientific Council of the Hellenic Pasteur Institute
2015: Elected EMBO Member;
Nominated by EMBO member of AcademiaNet, a network of outstanding women academics from all disciplines
2015-to date: Member of the International Advisory Board of the Hellenic Pasteur Institute
2011-14: Appointed by the Ministry of Education member of the Life Sciences Section of the National Scientific Council for Research and Technology

- 2010: Awarded Fulbright Foundation Award for Academic Excellence
- 2010-14: Elected Member of the Schools Committee of the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS)
- 2005: Decorated Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite by the French Republic for reinforcing the scientific relations between Greece and France.
- 2002-5 National Delegate in the 6th Framework Program: Life Sciences & Biotechnology for Health
- 2003-5: Member of the Executive Bureau of the International Network of Pasteur Institutes and Regional Representative of the European Pasteur Institutes
- 1992: EMBO Research Fellow
- 1980-5: Medical Research Council UK Research Fellow
- 1994-to date: National Delegate in the European Neuroglial Network since its foundation in 1994; Expert evaluator in reviewing panels of: the European Research Council-ERC, the European Commission for Horizon 2020 and the 5th and 7th Framework Programs, the Medical Research Council-UK, the International Spinal Research Trust, the European Leukodystrophies Association (ELA Foundation), L'Agence d'Evaluation de la Recherche et de l'Enseignement Supérieur de France (AERES), La Fondation pour l'Aide à la Recherche sur le Sclérose en plaques (ARSEP), the National Swiss Foundation, the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, the Cyprus Foundation, the Hellenic General Secretariat for Research & Technology
- 2009-to date Faculty Evaluation Committees Member and Faculty Recruitment Committees Member
- 1985 Founding member of the Hellenic Neuroscience Society and Council Officer for 6 years
- 1972-6: State Scholarship Foundation (I.K.Y.) Studentship

Editorial activities – Books and Encyclopedias

Member of the Editorial Board of *GLIA* and the *American J. of Stem Cells*; Peer-reviewer for *Nature Comm*, *Nature Rev Neurosci*, *Brain*, *Stem Cells*, *Development*, *J Cell Biol*, *FASEB J*, *Mol Therapy*, *J. Neurochem*, *GLIA*, *Mol Cell Neurosci*, *Brain Res*, etc.; “The function of neuroglia in Health and Disease”, Series: Adv Exp Med Biol Plenum Press, 1999, eds. R. Matsas and M. Tsacopoulos; Contributor, *Neuroglia* 3rd Edition, Oxford University Press, 2012; Contributor, *New Encyclopedia of Neuroscience* Oxford Academic Press, 2009.

PUBLICATIONS

[Updated List of publications in PubMed](#)