

Maria Roubelakis, DPhil is Professor of Biology and applications of Regenerative Medicine of the Department of Biology at National & Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), School of Medicine, and Affiliated Investigator at the Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens (BRFAA).



She performed her PhD training at the University of Oxford, WIMM and Nuffield Department of Laboratory Sciences as a Medical Research Council (MRC) and Leukaemia Research Fund, UK (LRF) fellow. She continued her postdoc training in the Stem Cell Laboratory, Nuffield Department of Laboratory Sciences, at the University of Oxford and in 2005 she moved to BRFAA, Athens, where she joined the Cell and Gene Therapy Laboratory. In 2012, she joined the NKUA Medical School as Lecturer of Developmental Biology. In 2014 she was promoted to Assistant Professor of Developmental Biology, in 2019 to Associate Professor of Biology and Applications of Regenerative Medicine and in 2024 to Professor level. In 2011, she was invited as a visiting Lecturer to perform research at the Stem Cell Laboratory, NDCLS, funded by the University of Oxford. In 2015 she did a 4-month sabbatical at the Division of Medical Genetics and Department of Hematology, Department of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, USA, funded by the prestigious Fulbright Visiting Scholar award. In 2017, she received the British Council Greece UK Alumni Professional Achievement Award for her studied in the UK and Greece.

Her studies led to a systematic characterization of fetal and adult mesenchymal stem/stromal cells (MSCs) and their application in various disease animal models. For over 20 years, she has been studying the biology and more specifically the differentiation properties of adult and fetal MSCs, and in particular their trophic effects that may exert a therapeutic potential in various diseases. In more recent years, her studies are focused on the use of MSC based therapies at the pre-clinical level, utilizing disease mouse models, such as acute hepatic failure. She has been actively involved in the analysis, the functional characterization and the potential therapeutic role of the secretome and exosomes derived from fetal and adult MSCs. Her group has attracted international and national financial support for conducting research (eg Horizon2020, FP7-HEALTH-2013-INNOVATION, Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation, Fondation Santé Research Grant in the Biomedical Sciences, FCT, Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, Marie Curie European Industrial Doctorate, Greek National Foundation of Fellowships, Asklepios, Gilead Research Grant, Hellenic Association of Molecular Cancer Research etc).

Maria Roubelakis' work is reflected in >50 publications that have received >3200 citations and *h*-index=30 (Google scholar, 1/7/2024). She has given more than 40 invited lectures at international and national conferences and universities and she has trained a significant number of >60 junior scientists at postgraduate level. She has served as ad hoc reviewer for various scientific journals and as an expert evaluator for international and national funding boards. She is founding member of the Hellenic Society of Nanotechnology in Medical Sciences and the Hellenic Society of Gene Therapy and Regenerative Medicine. Maria Roubelakis is also an elected member of the BOD of the Hellenic Society of Gene Therapy and Regenerative Medicine and from 2023 is the President-Elect of the Society. Maria Roubelakis teaches Biology to undergraduate medical students and she is active member of 13 postgraduate programs.

ORCID ID: 0000-0001-5790-6581

