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

She completed her PhD training at the University of Oxford, at the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine (WIMM) and the Nuffield Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NDCLS), as a scholar of the UK Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Leukaemia Research Fund (LRF). She continued her postdoctoral training at the Stem Cell Laboratory, NDCLS, University of Oxford. In 2005, she moved to BRFAA in Athens, where she joined the Cell and Gene Therapy Laboratory.

In 2012, she was appointed Lecturer in Developmental Biology at the NKUA Medical School. She was subsequently promoted to Assistant Professor in 2014, Associate Professor of Biology and Applications of Regenerative Medicine in 2019, and Professor in 2024. In 2011, she was invited as a Visiting Lecturer to conduct research at the Stem Cell Laboratory, NDCLS, funded by the University of Oxford. In 2015, she undertook a sabbatical at the Division of Medical Genetics and the Department of Hematology, 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 academic contributions in the UK and Greece.

Her research has led to the systematic characterization of fetal and adult mesenchymal stem/stromal cells (MSCs) and their application in various disease models. For over 20 years, she has focused on the biology and differentiation properties of MSCs—particularly their paracrine effects—and their therapeutic potential across a range of pathologies. In recent years, her research has centered on MSC-based therapies in preclinical models, such as acute hepatic failure in mice. She has also been extensively involved in the analysis and functional characterization of MSC-derived secretome and extracellular vesicles, and their potential therapeutic applications.

Her research group has attracted substantial national and international funding, including support from Horizon 2020, FP7-HEALTH-2013-INNOVATION, the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation, Fondation Santé, the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), the Marie Curie European Industrial Doctorate, the Greek National Foundation of Fellowships, Asklepios-Gilead Research Grants, and the Hellenic Association of Molecular Cancer Research.

Roubelakis' scientific contributions are reflected in over 55 publications, with more than 3,650 citations and an h-index of 32 (Google Scholar, 2/2025). She has delivered more than 50 invited lectures at national and international conferences and

academic institutions, and has supervised over 65 junior scientists at the postgraduate level. She serves as an ad hoc reviewer for several scientific journals and as an expert evaluator for national and international research funding boards.

She is a founding member of the Hellenic Society of Nanotechnology in Medical Sciences and the Hellenic Society of Gene Therapy and Regenerative Medicine (HSGTRM)**.** She currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of HSGTRM and, since 2025, is the Society's President.

Maria Roubelakis teaches Biology to undergraduate medical students (in both Greek and international programmes) and is actively involved in 13 postgraduate programmes.

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