

Georgios (George) ZERVAKIS – Brief CV, December 2018

Georgios I. Zervakis was born in Athens, Greece. He completed his University studies at the Agricultural University of Athens (1988), and then conducted his PhD (1988-1992) at the same Institution (Laboratory of General and Agricultural Microbiology) and at the University of Bordeaux II – INRA (Laboratory of Molecular Genetics), France, with postgraduate fellowships from IKY and the EU respectively. He has been post-doctoral fellow of the Royal Society at The University of Manchester (UK), School of Biological Sciences (1994), and then research associate at the Agricultural University of Athens (1995). From 1996 to 2009 he worked as Researcher at the National Agricultural Research Foundation of Greece, Institute of Kalamata, serving also as Director of the Institute for over nine years (1997 – 2006). In March 2008, he was elected Assistant Professor in “Agricultural Microbiology – Mycology” at the Agricultural University of Athens, where he is working since October 2009; from 2014 to 2018 he served as Associate Professor, and in November 2018 he was elected Professor at the same University.

The main current activities and research interests of G. Zervakis could be summarized as follows: ecology, diversity and molecular phylogeny of fungi with emphasis on basidiomycetes; mushroom breeding and cultivation, evaluation of nutritional/dietetic/medicinal properties of fungal biomass; bioconversion/detoxification of agroindustrial wastes and other environmental pollutants, biodegradation of ligninocellulosic residues through the use of selected microbes (e.g. white-rot fungi); developing of composting technologies and evaluation of composts effects on plant growth and suppressiveness against soil-borne pathogens, etc.

G. Zervakis was member in several Organizing and Scientific Committees of national and international Congresses, while he acted as evaluator for research proposals submitted to Greek and international funding Agencies (e.g. GSRT – Greek General Secretariat of Research and Technology, IPE – Foundation for the Promotion of Research of Cyprus, NWO – Dutch Research Council, GAAV – Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, NCN – National Science Centre of Poland, CONICYT – Chilean National Science and Technology Commission, etc.). He has been the recipient of over 20 competitive research grants (through open calls, mainly EU-funded or financially supported by the GSRT) during the last 15 years, including FP5, LdV–ToI and LIFE–Nature (as scientific coordinator), international-bilateral (in two as scientific coordinator) and national (in three as scientific coordinator) projects. He has reviewed submitted manuscripts for more than 60 SCI journals, and is Editor in one of them (International Journal of Medicinal Mushrooms) and member of the Editorial Board in other two. G. Zervakis has authored/co-authored more than 170 papers in international peer-reviewed scientific journals (73 in SCI journals; >1300 citations excluding self-citations; *h*-index: 24, Scopus database), in proceedings of international congresses and as chapters in books. He is currently Vice-President of the Scientific Society “Mikrobiokosmos”, and Secretary of the OPTIMA (Organization for the Phytotaxonomic Investigation in the Mediterranean Area) Commission on Fungi.

List of indicative publications:

- Zervakis, G.** & Labarère, J. (1992). Taxonomic relationships within the fungal genus *Pleurotus* as determined by isoelectric focusing analysis of enzyme patterns. *Journal of General Microbiology* 138, 635–645.
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