

Georgios I. ZERVAKIS – Brief CV, September 2025

Georgios I. Zervakis was born in Athens, Greece. He completed his studies at the Agricultural University of Athens (1988), and then 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 and Breeding of Cultivated Mushrooms), France, with postgraduate fellowships from the State Scholarships Foundation – 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 was appointed 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 active since October 2009. He served as Associate Professor from 2014 to 2018, and from then on as Professor. Since 2019 he is also Head at the Laboratory of General and Agricultural Microbiology.

The main current activities and research interests of G. Zervakis could be summarized as follows: diversity, ecology, molecular systematics and phylogeny of fungi with emphasis on Basidiomycota and Ascomycota; mushroom breeding (development of new high-performing hybrid strains) and cultivation (optimization of production methodologies), evaluation of nutritional/dietetic/functional properties of fungal biomass; bioconversion/detoxification of agro-industrial wastes, synthetic polymers and other environmental pollutants, biodegradation of lignocellulosic residues through the use of selected microorganisms (e.g. white-rot fungi), etc.

G. Zervakis was invited speaker and/or member of the Organization and Scientific Committees in several national and international Congresses. He acted as evaluator for research proposals submitted to Greek and international funding Agencies (e.g. GSRT and HFRI – Greece, IPE – Cyprus, NWO – Dutch Research Council, GAAV – Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, VEGA –Slovak Academy of Sciences, NCN – National Science Centre of Poland, CONICYT – Chilean National Science and Technology Commission, and the European Science Foundation – ESF). He is owner and co-owner of two patents, and co-breeder/co-owner of six registered/protected *Pleurotus ostreatus*, *P. nebrodensis* and *Cyclocybe cylindracea* hybrid mushroom strains (CPVR – UPOV). He was also member of the National Committee responsible for the drafting of legislation on the conservation and exploitation of wild edible mushrooms (Ministry of Rural Development & Food and Ministry of Environment & Energy, Greece).

G. Zervakis has been the recipient of over 30 competitive research grants during the last 20 years (through open calls, mainly EU-funded or financially supported by the GSRT), including LdV–ToI (as scientific coordinator), LIFE–Nature (as coordinator), Biodiversa+, international-bilateral (in two as scientific coordinator) and national (in seven as scientific coordinator) projects. In addition, he is responsible for the implementation of many other research projects which are funded/supported

by the private sector or other stakeholders. He has reviewed manuscripts submitted to more than 80 SCI journals, and is/was Editor (or member of the Editorial Board) in five of them.

G. Zervakis has authored/co-authored more than 280 papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals (129 in SCI journals, >4400 citations, *h*-index: 41; Scopus database), in proceedings of international congresses and as chapters in books. He was listed among the “World’s Top 2% Scientists” for four consecutive years (2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025) according to the publicly available database of top-cited scientists compiled by Ioannidis et al. (Stanford University, USA; Elsevier Data Repository, <https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/btchxktzyw/8>) in the main field “Biomedical Research”, subfield “Mycology & Parasitology”.

List of indicative publications:

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