

Dr Maria Sakkou was born in Egion, Greece. She obtained her diploma in 2000 at the University of Patras. She then moved on to pursue post-graduate studies at the University Aix-Provence III, where she obtained her Master Degree (DEA) in 2002. Furthermore, she performed her doctoral studies at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, Germany, where she investigated the molecular mechanisms underlying obesity by performing mouse genetics, and obtained a joint PhD degree from EMBL and the University of Crete in 2007. She then held a 6 year postdoctoral position at the Max-Planck Institute of Neurobiology in Martinsried, Germany, studying the molecular mechanisms underlying the diversity of Eph-ephrin signaling output in physiological and pathological conditions. In May 2013, Maria joined Prof. George Kollias's laboratory where she is currently involved in dissecting the role of TNF signaling in Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and thus exploring novel strategies for RA therapeutics.