



Heraklion 27/07/2022

ANNOUNCEMENT

Professor Christos Louis honored for contributions to malaria mosquito biology



Professor Christos (Kitsos) Louis was honored for his significant contributions to the understanding of the biology of the malaria mosquito on July 27 at the Mosquito Kolymbari Conference 2022, held at the Orthodox Academy of Crete. The Mosquito Kolymbari EMBO Conference takes place every two years. For more than 20 years it has been an international forum for the leading researchers studying mosquitoes and other insects transmitting diseases, such as malaria.

Professor Louis studied medicine at the University in Marburg. He then dedicate his life to science and specifically molecular genetics. He joined the laboratory of Prof. Sekeris at the University of Heidelberg for his Ph.D. degree. He continued his post-doctoral work in Switzerland at the University of Basel and at Princeton University in USA. In 1983 he was recruited to FORTH, where he became one of the founding members of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. In 1984 he was elected Professor at the Biology Department of the University of Crete. He served as the Head of Biology Department for 8 years, but continued his research activities at FORTH-IMBB, until his retirement.

Professor Louis was instrumental in the effort to obtain the sequence of the mosquito DNA, which was published in Science in 2002. He then lead the efforts to collect all knowledge of the mosquito vectors in dedicated databases, invaluable resources for researchers studying these insects. Professor Louis was a member of the Committee on Molecular Entomology (BCV) & WHO/TDR 1996–2004 & 2008. He played an important role in opening new avenues in research and inspiring new generations of scientists to investigate in this field, including the current IMBB Director John Vontas.

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