



European Research Council
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Press release

New ERC Scientific Council members appointed

9 August 2016

Today, two new members of the Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC) have been appointed by the European Commission: Professors Kurt Mehlhorn and Nektarios Tavernarakis.

Kurt Mehlhorn is Professor of Computer Science at Saarland University and Director of the Max Planck Institute for Informatics in Saarbrücken, Germany. Nektarios Tavernarakis is Professor of Molecular Systems Biology at the Medical School of the University of Crete and Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, at the Foundation for Research and Technology in Heraklion, Greece. Their mandate is for four years.

These new members have been selected by an independent [Identification Committee](#), composed of six distinguished scientists appointed by the Commission. The scientific community was consulted in this process.

The [ERC Scientific Council](#), composed of 22 distinguished scientists and scholars representing the European scientific community, is the governing body of the European Research Council. It is chaired by ERC President Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon and its main role is setting the ERC strategy and selecting the peer review evaluators.

Biographies



Professor Kurt Mehlhorn

Current position: Director of the Max Planck Institute (MPI) for Informatics and Professor of Computer Science at Saarland University

Kurt Mehlhorn heads the algorithms and complexity group at the MPI for Informatics. He co-authored some 300 publications in the field, published six books, and is one of the people behind the LEDA software library. He graduated more than 80 students, many of whom have now faculty positions. He has received several prizes (Leibniz Award, EATCS Award, ACM Paris Kanellakis Theory and Practice Award, Erasmus Medal of the Academia Europaea) for his work. He holds Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Magdeburg, Waterloo, Aarhus and Gothenburg universities and is an ACM Fellow. He is a member of the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Academia Europaea, the German Academy of Science and Engineering acatech, the US Academy of Engineering, and the US Academy of Science. From 2002 to 2008, he was vice president of the Max Planck Society. He is a co-founder of Algorithmic Solutions Software GmbH.



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Professor Nektarios Tavernarakis

Current position: Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, at the Foundation for Research and Technology, and Professor of Molecular Systems Biology at the Medical School of the University of Crete, Heraklion, Greece.

Nektarios Tavernarakis studied Biology at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and holds a PhD degree in Molecular Genetics from the University of Crete, Greece. His research focuses on the molecular mechanisms of necrotic cell death and neurodegeneration, the interplay between cellular metabolism and ageing, and the mechanisms of sensory transduction and integration by the nervous system. He is an elected member of the European Molecular Biology Organization, and Academia Europaea. He is the recipient of two ERC Advanced Grants, the EMBO Young Investigator award, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel research award, the Bodossaki Foundation Scientific Prize for Medicine and Biology, the Empeirikeion Foundation Academic Excellence Prize, and the BioMedical Research Award of the Academy of Athens.

Note to the editors

The European Research Council, set up by the European Union in 2007, is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. It offers three core grant schemes: Starting grants (up to €1.5 Million each), Consolidator grants (up to €2 Million each) and Advanced grants (up to €2.5 Million each). Every year, it selects and funds ambitious and creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run projects based in Europe. The ERC also strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. To date, the ERC has funded some 6,500 top researchers at various stages of their careers.

The ERC has a budget of over €13 billion for the years 2014 to 2020 and is part of the EU research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, for which European Commissioner Carlos Moedas is responsible.

More information

[ERC Scientific Council](#)

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