



Dr. **Dimitris Kletsas** is a research director in the Laboratory of Cell Proliferation & Ageing at the Institute of Biology NCSR "Demokritos", Athens. He was a post-doctoral fellow in EMBL, Heidelberg, on the expression of specific cell cycle marker genes and in Imperial College, London, on cellular immortalization. Since 1999, is the Head of the Laboratory of Cell Proliferation & Ageing. He published over 100 papers and 10 book chapters, He coordinated or participated in national, European and other

international research grants and he was a national expert for the FP6 of EU. Currently he is the Secretary General of the Hellenic Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. His research interests include: the role of growth factors on the proliferation of several cell types and on extracellular matrix homeostasis, as well as the signaling pathways involved; alternative mechanisms of cell proliferation and differentiation, such as cell-matrix interactions, exogenous stress and the effect of mechanical forces; the mechanism of cellular senescence and the role of the senescent cell on the development of age-related diseases, including cancer; evaluation of natural products and new synthetic compounds with putative cytostatic/cytotoxic, as well as anti-ageing and wound healing action, and their mode of action.