



Press Release

INSTRUCT-EL Symposium on Structural Biology

Athens 1 October 2024

Αθήνα, 28.09.2024

The **National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF)**, organizes the INSTRUCT-EL Structural Biology Symposium, which will take place on 1 October 2024, at the Athens Conservatory building (Aris Garoufalis Hall)

The Symposium is addressed to Greeks interested in the field of Structural Biology, Decision Makers, Funders and End Users.

The main objective of the Symposium is to celebrate the entry of Greece as a full member of ESFRI Landmark INSTRUCT-ERIC and at the same time to inform all stakeholders about Structural Biology and its applications. At the same time, the role of the National Hellenic Research Foundation, representative of INSTRUCT-EL, as a hub for the wider SE European region regarding INSTRUCT services will be highlighted, with the ultimate goal of expanding the community of Structural Biology users.

INSTRUCT-ERIC Council members and representatives of INSTRUCT centres will present scientific work and results supported by INSTRUCT (e.g. through user access, internships, R&D, Technology Development or Joint Research Actions) which will serve as a source of inspiration for the community.

The expected benefits of the country's participation in INSTRUCT are numerous and significant, such as the support of the Greek research community active in the field of Structural Biology, advanced training of Greek scientists in classical and emerging Structural Biology methodologies with state-of-the-art integrated equipment, their participation in projects implemented by INSTRUCT-ERIC with funding from the European Union and support of selected activities from the INSTRUCT budget, etc.

Structural Biology, a catalyst of the NHRF's Centre of Excellence for Cancer Therapeutics.

Structural and Cell Biology are vital, not only to advance fundamental understanding of how biological systems work, but also to support advances in biomedicine and biotechnology. In recent years, the identification of the three-dimensional structure of potential therapeutic targets (proteins) and the application of structure-driven drug design has led to a large number of formulations already on the market for the benefit of society as a whole. NHRF is creating a Centre of Excellence for theranostics of cancer and other diseases, unique in the country and in SE Europe as there are no similar technologies available in the region.



This innovative activity of the National Research Foundation combines treatments with diagnostics. State-of-the-art instruments and equipment will be installed in the specially designed facilities of the NHRF and will be fully operational by the end of 2025. Use of cutting-edge technology and the country's highly qualified scientific staff will develop the NHRF Centre of Excellence for Theranostics into a reference centre for the whole of SE Europe and the Middle East.

The Centre of Excellence for Cancer Theranostics will form the basis for the further operation of a Comprehensive Cancer Centre bringing together the high-level research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation with key oncological hospitals in Attica. This will promote collaboration between researchers, hospital clinicians and patients, a fact that is also favoured by the Foundation's key location in the centre of Athens, a short distance from the country's major hospitals.

Structural Biology is one of the main directions of the Centre of Excellence and NHRF is equipped with state-of-the-art instruments for the study of therapeutic targets using methods that can determine their structure and the respective molecular dynamics at high resolution. Participation in INSTRUCT, which works closely with other European infrastructures in the field of Health, Food and Environment, will be a driver for the country's development to conduct cutting-edge research and provide services to users from academia/research institutions, hospitals, companies, industries, etc.

In the near future, the NHRF looks forward to exploit the interconnection with all INSTRUCT centres and the interested public and private institutions of the country to create a centre for Structural Biology, acting as a hub of knowledge and innovation for the benefit of the Greek society and in particular for the benefit of young scientists and the economy.



Selected equipment at the Structural Biology Research Infrastructure at NHRF.