



Androniki Raftogianni was born in Giannitsa, Greece in 1983. She has recently been elected Assistant Professor of Physiology of Behavior (Neuroscience) at the University of Crete, Department of Psychology. She did her PhD (awarded March 2013) in the field of Neuroscience at the University of Athens (Greece) under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Fotini Stylianopoulou. Upon completion of her PhD studies, she moved to Germany (June 2013) where she worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research and at the DKFZ (Prof. Valery Grinevich's lab), affiliated with the University of Heidelberg. She recently moved back to Greece and worked as academic scholar (lecturer level) teaching Physiology and Biology at the University of Athens (2020-2022).

She has been a member of the Hellenic Society for Neuroscience (HsfN) since 2004 as well as an active member of international neuroscience societies such as EBBS, IBRO, FENS, ISN since 2009. She is also a member of the ALBA network since 2019. She served as Young Scientist EBBS Executive Committee Member (term Sep.2015- Sep.2018) and as Alternate member of the HSfN Governing Council (term 2017-2019). Being fully aware of the scientific and career challenges that young researchers may nowadays encounter in their laboratory life, she wishes, via her candidacy for the position of ordinary member of the EBBS Committee, to contribute to EBBS activities that give prominence to young researchers' concerns. She also aspires to contribute to EBBS actions aiming to eliminate gender inequalities in both science and society. Moreover, she believes in the strength of collegiality and interdisciplinarity and would thus put her efforts to bring together neuroscientists from different scientific backgrounds.

She has a strong background in Behavioral Neuroscience (animals) and has employed a variety of laboratory techniques including cellular and molecular neuroscience, image analysis, animal stereotaxic surgeries, optogenetics, chemogenetics and behavioural paradigms. She has received both national and international awards for her research studies. Her academic interests focus on the impact of stress and, in particular, on how early life (stressful or not) experience affects the developing brain and shapes future behaviours and mental health. In her PhD studies, she focused on how events (stressful or not) during critical periods throughout the lifespan, such as the neonatal period and adolescence, affect brain function controlling stress responsiveness and emotionality later in life. Her postdoctoral research activity aimed at identifying, via using optogenetics and chemogenetics, the role of neuropeptides (especially the role of oxytocin) in controlling stress, fear responses (Neuron;doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2019.04.029) and social behaviours. She is also interested in the use of animal models for the study of the involvement of neuropeptides in the etiopathogenesis of psychiatric diseases, including anxiety disorders and depression. Her work has been published in prestigious scientific journals ([here](#)).