

Speakers CVs



Professor Dr Elizabeth O. Johnson

Professor of Anatomy at the University of Athens

Dr. Johnson is Professor of Anatomy at the University of Athens, and is an active adjunct Professor at the European University of Cyprus, Medical School. She was previously Associate Professor of Anatomy-Histology-Embryology at Ioannina University and research associate at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). While at the NIH she had a joint position at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and National Institute of Mental Health. Johnson was trained in Functional Neuroanatomy and Neurobiology at Cornell University, Functional Neuroanatomy and Psychoneuroendocrinology at the University of Maryland, and post-doctoral training in Molecular Neuroendocrinology & Chemical Neuroanatomy at the NIH. All levels of her education and training were accomplished with merit scholarships and competitive training grants.

Johnson has focused her research in the field of neurosciences and in particular in areas related to chemical, molecular and functional neuroanatomy. She has extensively studied in the neuroendocrine alterations associated with stress and immune function, including the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis and glucocorticoid signaling, in both clinical and basic science research projects. The bulk of her studies are marked by both a multi-level (in-vivo, in-situ and in-vitro), as well as a multi-disciplinary approach aimed at addressing the structure and function of the nervous system. The last 15 years she has collaborated closely with orthopaedic surgeons to address issues related to peripheral nerve neurobiology, focusing on issues related to peripheral nerve anatomy, nerve injury, repair and tissue engineering.

She has an outstanding scientific record with over 200 scientific contributions to the international scientific literature where she has distinguished herself in the field. She is on the Editorial Board of core anatomical textbooks. Her published original work has amassed over 5,000 citations. In addition, she has spoken extensively in areas of neuroanatomy and neuroendocrinology. As a result of her experimental studies, she has actively presented in over 180 scientific meetings, with more than 120 invited lectures at meetings and seminars.

Johnson is known for her rigorous teaching program in Anatomy, and has amassed over 200 teaching hrs per term during her tenure in Ioannina. She lectures on all aspects of anatomy to medical students for over 30 years, and spearheaded the curricular reform of the anatomy program at the University of Ioannina. In addition, she has organized and runs in-depth neuroanatomy hands-on course for neurosurgeons and neuroscientists. She has helped develop the careers of several young physicians and basic scientists in the neurosciences. She has trained graduate and post-graduate students using state-of-the-art methodologies ranging from in vivo surgical manipulations and measures, to in vitro (cell cultures), in situ and molecular techniques (in situ hybridization, immunohistochemistry, etc.)