Professor Nicholas D Mazarakis was born in 1961 in Athens Greece. He immigrated to the UK when he was 14. He gained his BSc in Applied Biology in 1985 at the University of East London. He completed his PhD at King's College, University of London in 1990. He did his post-doctoral training (1990-1996) in the Departments of Gene Structure & Expression and Neurobiology, National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, working on neuronal gene expression of Zn finger transcription factors and immortalisation studies in transgenic mice. In 1996, he moved to the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in London, where he investigated the role of apoptosis in neonatal brain injury. In 1997, he joined Oxford BioMedica, a start-up gene therapy company in Oxford UK, where he became Vice President of Neurobiology. In August 2006 he was appointed as Chair of Gene Therapy and Head of Department of Gene Therapy in the Division of Medicine, Imperial College London, St Mary's Campus. He presently holds the Lucas-Lee Chair of Molecular BioMedicine and is Head of Gene Therapy, Division of Brain Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London, Hammersmith Hospital Campus. His research focuses on investigating molecular pathways of neurodegeneration and developing translational gene therapies for neurodegenerative diseases. He has pioneered the first ever lentiviral vector based gene therapy for Parkinson's disease (ProSavin®) which recently completed successful phase I/II trials. He is an elected fellow of the Society of Biology. He serves on editorial boards of scientific journals including *Human Gene Therapy, JAK-STAT* and *Journal of Gene Medicine* and is member of multiple scientific advisory panels including Prix Galien Greece (2012-) and European Research Council peer review evaluation (2009-). He lectures in conferences worldwide and has published in top science journals such as Nature, Science, Lancet and PNAS. He is recipient of multiple grants including an ERC Advanced Investigators programme grant (2008) and an ERC proof of concept grant (2013).