

2014 Young Researcher's Award

The 2014 call for nominations for the [University's Young Researcher's Award](#) resulted in 24 high caliber candidates from across the spectrum of the University's disciplines. The evaluation committee, comprising the Deputy Rector of Academic Affairs and the external members of the University Council, announced on 22 July that the 2014 Prize has been awarded jointly to Ismene Karakasilioti and Lykourgos Bougas.

Ismene Karakasilioti was awarded her PhD in 2014 by University's Biology Department for her thesis titled «The role of Nucleotide Excision Repair (NER) factors in mouse development and disease». Her research on functional genomics and ageing, conducted under Assoc. Prof. George Garinis in association with the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB-FORTH), points to a novel mechanism by which an endogenous DNA damage –dependent signal induces a chronic auto-inflammatory response leading to fat depletion associated with premature aging syndromes. This research has been published in high impact journals such as *PNAS*, *Trends in Genetics*, *Cell Metabolism*, *Aging*. Dr. Karakasilioti is now working as a post-doctoral researcher in the Max Planck Institute for Metabolism Research, Cologne, Germany.

Lykourgos Bougas was awarded his PhD in 2014, by the University's Physics Department, for his thesis titled «Cavity-enhanced Polarimetry: Applications in Atomic Parity Violation and Molecular Chirality». His research in atomic and molecular physics focuses on the development of new cavity-enhanced polarimetry techniques. This work, conducted under Prof. Peter Raktizis in association with the Institute of Electronic Structure & Laser (IESL-FORTH), has been published in high-impact journals such as *Nature*, *Phys Rev*, *Phys Rev Lett*, *J Chem Phys*. Dr. Bougas' contribution is described by his supervisor as work of outstanding academic quality and the most important step forward in decades in the field of polarimetry. Dr. Bougas is now working as a post-doctoral researcher in the University of Berkeley Physics Department (Budker Group).