

Nikos Poulakakis is Professor at the Biology Department of the University of Crete, and Director of the Natural History Museum of Crete (since 2018). In March 2021, he was appointed as group leader of the Paleogenomics and Evolutionary Genetics (PEG) lab at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB), Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH).

He studied Biology at the Univ. of Crete (1997) and holds a MSc in Paleontology (2000) from the Dept. of Geology (Univ. of Athens) and a Ph.D. in Biology (2005) from the Dept of Biology (Univ. of Crete). He has worked as a postdoctoral associate at the Natural History Museum of Crete (2005-2006) and at the Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology of Yale University (2007-2009).

His research interests include molecular systematics, phylogeny, phylogeography, as well as population and conservation genetics of animal species and their response to environmental changes, such as climate changes. Most of his work is based on modern and/or ancient DNA analysis and has worked with a variety of invertebrate and vertebrate taxa.

He has supervised 64 undergraduate theses, 27 master's theses (2 in progress), 12 doctoral dissertations (5 in progress), and 10 postdoctoral researchers. One of his PhD student is now Research Leader, Collection-Based Genomics at Natural History Museum, London (Kapli P.). Two others that he was active member of scientific committee (Sagonas K., Kornilios P.) received Marie Quire fellowship for the Queen Mary University of London, and the Institut de Biologia Evolutiva (CSIC UPF; Barcelona), respectively and they are currently assistant professors in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the University of Patras, respectively. The rest of PhD students are now PostDoctoral Associates in very well and famous institutions (Psonis N. in Institute of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology, Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas).

He has published over 116 papers in international, peer-reviewed scientific journals (four more are under review). He has participated in 31 international and national conferences with 131 announcements. Additionally, he has authored four chapters in textbooks and translated and/or edited eight textbooks related to evolution and ecology.

He has participated in, or is currently participating in, 30 research projects as a coordinator or PI, with a budget totaling over €10 million. All these years of my research activities, I had the opportunity to collaborate with leading scientists around frontline research themes from the whole world, demonstrating my potential to be an independent research leader (few examples are: J.R. Powell, A. Caccone (Yale University, USA); Kevin de Queiroz (Smithsonian Institution, USA); D. Reese, (Peabody Museum, USA); D. Geist (University of Idaho, USA); M. Russello (University of British Columbia, Canada); L. Beheregaray (Macquarie University, Australia); C. Ciofi (University of Florence, Italy); A. Stamatakis (HITS, Germany); S. Sfendourakis (University of Cyprus); Medugorac, I. (Universität München, Germany), Elaine A. Ostrander (National Institutes of Health, USA); Somel, M. (METU, Turkey); Malaspinas, A.S (University of Lausanne, Switzerland).

He is member of the editorial boards of four scientific journals

- BMC Zoology (<https://link.springer.com/journal/40850/editorial-board>)
- Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution (<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/ecology-and-evolution/sections/phylogenetics-phylogenomics-and-systematics/editors>)
- Journal of Biological Research - Thessaloniki (<https://ejournals.lib.auth.gr/jbiolres/index>)
- Diversity (https://www.mdpi.com/journal/diversity/special_issues/69877O134B#:~:text=Mediterranean%20ecosystems%20have%20been%20shaped,world%20of%20Mediterranean%20animal%20diversity) .

and serves on national (Greece) and international (Portugal, Chezh) research program evaluation committees

1. FCT Biological Sciences Evaluation Panel (Portugal)
2. Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI). «Environment and Energy»
3. Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI). «Life Sciences»

Five recent publications

1. Stratakis, M., Ioannidis, P., Bista, I., Absolon, D., Eagles, W., McCarthy, S., Denton, A., Lymberakis, P., Poulakakis, N. 2025. Unravelling the thread of Podarcis omics; insights into the genome and transcriptome of the Cretan Wall Lizard. *Genes and Genomics*, 48, 27-43. (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13258-025-01676-1>)
2. Ann M Mc Cartney, ...Nikos Poulakakis, ... Sylke Winkler 2024. The European Reference Genome Atlas: piloting a decentralised approach to equitable biodiversity genomics. *npj Biodiversity*, 3, 28
3. Gaughran, S.J., Gray, R., Menna Jones, M., Fusco, N., Ochoa, A., Miller, J.M., Poulakakis, N., de Queiroz, K., Caccone, A., Jensen, E.L. 2025 Whole-genome sequencing confirms multiple species of Galapagos giant tortoises. *Evolution Letters*, 79(2), 296–308.
4. Jennifer R. S.,... Nikos Poulakakis ..., Elaine A. Ostrander. 2023. Dog10K: Genome sequencing of 2000 canids advances the understanding of demography, genome architecture, and function. *Genome Biology*, 24 (1), 187.
5. Ochoa, A., Gaughran, S.J., Gray, R., Fusco, A.N., Weston, J.W.J., Conrad, C., Poulakakis, N., Miller, J.M., Caccone, A., Jensen, E.L. 2026 Integration of ultra-low coverage whole-genome sequences for reconstructing the evolutionary history of Galapagos giant tortoises. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* (in press)

He is a founding member of the Hellenic Evolutionary Society and member of several national and international scientific societies. He was awarded the Emmanouil Benakis Prize in 2008 by the Academy of Athens.

Citations records through Google Scholar

<http://scholar.google.com/citations?user=jua2DeoAAAAJ&hl=en>

Number of times cited: 4477

h-index: 40

i10-index: 87