



MEDNIGHT

MEDITERRANEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT



MEDITERRANEAN SCIENCE TEAM 2025

MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITIES GENDER EQUALITY PIONEERS

UJI UNIVERSITAT
JAUME I



UNIVERSIDADE D
COIMBRA



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MEDNIGHT

MEDITERRANEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT



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MEDNIGHT SCIENCE TEAM 2025 GALA

Celebrating Pioneers in Scientific Excellence and Gender Equality

DATE

14 March 2025

LOCATION

University Foundation, Brussels, Belgium

Egmontstraat / Rue d'Egmont 11 - 1000 Brussel / Bruxelles

TIME

2:00 PM – 4:30 PM

(Followed by a Cocktail Reception)

PROGRAMME

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM
CALL FOR MEDIA AND GUESTS

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM
OPENING SESSION

Theo Anagnostopoulos
Gala presenter, SciCo

Welcome Remarks

Gülsün Sağlam
EWORA Founding Honorary President

Marina Trimarchi
UNIME, MEDNIGHT Coordinator

Virginia Albarracín
MCAA Board Member

Opening Address

Lina Galvez Muñoz
*Member of the European Parliament
Chair, Committee on Women's Rights and
Gender Equality
Vice-Chair, Panel for the Future of Science
and Technology (STOA)*

Keynote Speech

Ekaterina Zaharieva
*Commissioner for Startups, Research and
Innovation. European Commission*

3:00 PM – 3:20 PM
GENDER EQUALITY PIONEERS

Introduction

Hülya Çağlayan
Secretary General, EWORA

Recognition Ceremony for the 3 Universities

Universitat Jaume I
*The Award by Silvia Rueda Pascual,
Spanish Government*

Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro
The Award by Gülsün Sağlam, EWORA

Universidade de Coimbra
*The Award by Isabel Capelo Gil,
Rector, UCP, Portugal*

3:20 PM – 4:20 PM
MEDITERRANEAN SCIENCE TEAM

Introduction

Ricardo Domínguez Jover
*MEDNIGHT Communications Manager,
El Caleidoscopio*

Scientist Presentations

Lubna Dada, LEBANON
Video presentation

Rocío Millán Gomez, SPAIN
The Award by Andrés Perelló, Casa Mediterráneo

Belma Kalamujic Strojil, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
The Award by Miguel A. Castro, The Conversation

Paola Bonfante, ITALY
*The Award by Cristina Robalo,
Community of Mediterranean Universities*

Beraat Özçelik, TÜRKİYE
The Award by Ahmet Sağlam, ITU

Elpiniki Ninou, GREECE
The Award by Georgia Loukaidou, SciCo

Sherine Ahmed El Baradei, EGYPT
Video presentation

Jelena Vladic, SERBIA
The Award by Joaquín Capablo, MCAA

Urška Lampe, SLOVENIA
The Award by Jesús Puerta, CIEMAT

Mónica Bettencourt-Dias, PORTUGAL
The Award by Fernanda Bajanca, MCAA/CHUT

Meryem Lemrani, MOROCCO
*The Award by Najat A. Saliba,
American University of Beirut*

Pierre Micheletti, FRANCE
The Award by Monica Dietl, CNRS/ISE

4:20 PM – 4:30 PM
CLOSING SESSION

Summary and Closing Remarks

Senem Sanal-Erginel
*Policy Officer, European Commission,
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

4:30 PM
COCKTAIL RECEPTION
Networking & Celebration



Mónica Bettencourt-Dias

PORTUGAL

Dr. Mónica Bettencourt-Dias is a prominent cell biologist whose research focuses on the mechanisms of cell division and the role of centrioles and cilia in signalling, proliferation and cell movement. Her work has significant implications for understanding diseases such as cancer and ciliopathies, as well as to understand the evolution and diversification of basic processes in life.



Paola Bonfante

ITALY

Professor Paola Bonfante is a distinguished mycologist renowned for her extensive research on mycorrhizal symbioses—the mutually beneficial relationships between fungi and plant roots. Her pioneering studies have deepened the understanding of plant-fungal interactions, contributing to advancements in sustainable agriculture and ecosystem management.



Lubna Dada

LEBANON

Dr. Lubna Dada is an atmospheric scientist specializing in the study of aerosols and their impact on cloud formation and climate dynamics. Her research involves investigating the nucleation processes of atmospheric particles and their influence on weather patterns and climate change.



Beraat Özçelik

TÜRKİYE

Professor Beraat Özçelik is a food scientist dedicated to developing functional foods and nutraceuticals. Her innovative work combines bioactive compounds with advanced food processing techniques to create health-promoting products that address modern nutritional needs.



Urška Lampe

SLOVENIA

Dr. Urška Lampe earned her PhD in 2016 from the University of Primorska, Slovenia. Her interdisciplinary research encompasses diplomatic and military history, as well as the social and traumatic aspects of war and its aftermath. She has extensively studied the experiences of Italian prisoners of war in Yugoslavia after World War II, contributing valuable insights into collective memory, individual – family – memories and post-war transitions.



Pierre Micheletti

FRANCE

Professor Pierre Micheletti is a global health advocate and humanitarian, focusing on the intersection of public health and social justice. With extensive field experience, he works in particular on the links between migration and health disparities, believing that shipwrecks in the Mediterranean are a dramatic symptom of the political and environmental disruption suffered by vulnerable populations in the global South.



Meryem Lemrani

MOROCCO

Professor Meryem Lemrani is a parasitologist with a focus on the epidemiology and control of parasitic diseases, including leishmaniasis. Her work involves studying parasite biology, transmission dynamics, and developing strategies for disease prevention and management.



Belma Kalamujić Strojil

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Dr. Belma Kalamujić Strojil is a population geneticist working on both plant and animal species. Her research aims to inform conservation strategies and ensure the preservation of biodiversity, particularly in the face of environmental changes.



Rocío Millán

SPAIN

Dr. Rocío Millán Gómez is an environmental scientist specializing in soil contamination and remediation. Her research focuses on developing strategies to mitigate soil pollution, particularly in areas affected by industrial activities, to promote environmental health and sustainability.



Elpiniki Ninou

GREECE

Dr. Elpiniki Ninou investigates microglial signatures in mouse and human-based models of familial Parkinson's disease using single-cell transcriptomics. Her work aims to elucidate the role of microglial cells in the onset and progression of neurodegenerative diseases.



Sherine Ahmed El Baradei

EGYPT

Dr. El Baradei is a hydraulics and irrigation engineering expert, or, in short, a water engineer. She is also an environmental engineering expert and is certified in astronomy, a field she is deeply passionate about. Dr. El Baradei is further pursuing studies in space systems, integrating space technology into her research. She is the founding director of the Space-Water-Environment Nexus e-Center under PACS e-Lab foundation and a professional to UNOOSA, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs; space4water project.



Jelena Vladić

SERBIA

Dr. J. Vladić specializes in green extraction processes and solvents, focusing on sustainability, waste reduction, and renewable resources. Her research explores aromatic plants, food and agricultural waste, and microalgae. She also investigates purification and valorization of microalgae obtained from wastewater by using green solvents for high-value compound production. By applying circular economy principles, her work promotes pollution reduction, food sustainability, and eco-friendly solutions for human applications.



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Mednight has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 101162227.



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