

---

# In Conversation with Dr Andreas Persidis and Alexandros Athanassoulas

## SHORT BIOS

◆ **Dr Andreas Persidis** is the co-founder and CEO of Biovista Inc. In 2025 he was elected President of the Hellenic Alumni Association of the University of Glasgow and is a founder and past President (2010 – 2019) of the Hellenic BioCluster.

He is a member of the EU Horizon2020 Expert Advisory Group on Innovation for SMEs, an expert reviewer and evaluator for the European Commission, the Austrian (FIT-IT) and Greek government, has managed on behalf of the European Commission a roadmap study on systematic innovation, and has advised the Greek government (GSRT) on innovation strategy and research priorities in the areas of IT and the life sciences.

Prior to Biovista, Dr. Persidis managed technology development teams at European corporations in the engineering, software and telecoms fields. Dr Persidis has conducted research in the fields of machine learning and applied Artificial Intelligence. He holds a degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the University of Glasgow and a PhD from the University of Strathclyde. He has published extensively in international journals, co-authored book chapters in systematic drug repurposing and is an invited speaker at forums on drug repurposing, innovation and export oriented high-tech companies.

◆ **Alex Athanassoulas** is the Founder, President and CEO of STIRIXIS Group, the globally awarded design consultancy firm, with more than 850 projects in 29 countries, from the US to India and from Russia to Nigeria.

Alex holds a Master in Civil Engineering (MCivEng) from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Greece and an International Master in Business Administration (MBA) with Distinction, from the Adam Smith Business School of Glasgow University in Great Britain. He is certified in a wide range of areas, such as Project Management, Strategy and Innovation, and Board Practice and Directorship Development as well as Board Reputation, Responsibility and Public Relations.

He is President of the Sustainable Building Council of Greece and Vice President of CEO Clubs Greece. He's a founding member of CEO Clubs in Greece and Romania, and active in multiple boards and networks, including the Greek Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Technology, and Eurobank's EGG programme. He has served as an elected member of the Board of the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and the Board of the Hellenic Institute of Marketing. He is an elected member of the Hellenic Alumni Association of the University of Glasgow.

Alex is a renowned speaker on Systems Thinking and Strategic Foresight and Future Trends with more than 100 talks worldwide. He is widely recognised for leadership in business innovation and has received multiple international awards, including Best European CEO 2018 and International Game-changer of the Year in 2019. He has numerous technical and business articles published in national and international press.

Alex is married and has three children.

◆ **Dr Vasiliki Ivrou** holds a Master's degree in Maritime Archaeology from the University of Southampton and a PhD from the University of Glasgow. She worked as an Archaeologist at the Ministry of Culture before joining the Ministry of Education, Sports and Religious Affairs in 2025. She currently works as a High-School History teacher.

She has published extensively in international journals and co-authored book chapters in Maritime Archaeology and Exploration. She also has been called as an invited speaker at summer schools, teaching maritime archaeology, applied new underwater technologies, ancient ship building and maritime cultural landscape analysis.

Since 2002, Dr Ivrou has been a member of HIMA (Hellenic Institute for Marine Archaeology). She is a technical diver and a maritime archaeologist by training and has worked on underwater projects all over the Mediterranean and North Sea. She has also contributed as an academic advisor to the European Commission (FFP-7) project, dealing with the creation of a satellite-based monitoring system for underwater localisation – excavation and exploration of archaeologically significant areas.

She is a founding member and the Vice-President of the Hellenic Alumni Association of the University of Glasgow.