



**Kristina Eskenazi Chairwoman
Health & Life Sciences Cluster Bulgaria**

Kristina holds a Master's degree in Strategic Management (AMBA) from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. She represents Bulgaria as a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of European BioRegions (CEBR). Also, she serves on the Management Board of KRIB (Confederation of Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria). Actively contributing to the development of policies and partnerships in the fields of innovation, biotechnology, and high technologies, Kristina is also a co-founder of "Spinoff Bulgaria" – the national platform for university spinoffs and deep-tech entrepreneurship development.

KRISTINA ESKENAZI IS THE CHAIRWOMAN OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES CLUSTER BULGARIA AND THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CLUSTER BULGARIA. SHE IS A SERIAL ENTREPRENEUR AND EXPERT WITH EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN BUILDING INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS, STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER BETWEEN ACADEMIA, INDUSTRY, AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR.



**Irena Pavlova
EU Programmes Manager
Sofia University "Big Data for
Smart Society" Institute**

IRENA PAVLOVA IS MANAGER OF THE EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS AT GATE INSTITUTE, SOFIA UNIVERSITY "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI". She is responsible for the initiation, organisation and implementation of GATE's research projects under various EU and national programmes. She is the coordinator of the VELES project aimed at creating a pilot regional data space in healthcare. She also participated in the creation of the first Bulgarian data space (in an urban environment).

Irena is also a lecturer at the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of Sofia University with a specialization in software engineering. Previously, Irena worked in industry, managing and participating in the technological implementation of more than 30 industrial and EU-funded projects. Her scientific interests include data spaces, data management and enrichment, data interoperability.



Prof Alain van Gool PhD
Professor Personalized Healthcare
Radboud university medical center,
EATRIS | European infrastructure
for translational medicine

ALAIN VAN GOOL Prof. Alain van Gool, PhD, is Professor in Personalized Healthcare at Radboud university medical center, Department of Human Genetics, Radboudumc Research Institute Medical Innovations (www.radboudumc.nl/en/research/research-institute); Radboud Healthy Data (healthydata.nl); Sectorplan Data-driven Innovations (Sectorplan Data-driven Innovation); Radboud Technology Centers (radboudumc.nl/research/technologycenters); Netherlands X-omics Initiative (x-omics.nl); EATRIS Biomarker Platform (EATRIS.EU)

Alain van Gool is professor Personalized Healthcare at the Radboud university medical center, with a strong passion in the application of biomarkers in translational medicine and personalized healthcare. After his study (biochemistry, 1991) and PhD (molecular biology, 1996) Alain worked at a mix of academia, pharmaceutical industries (Organon, Schering-Plough, MSD), applied research institutes (CancerUK, TNO) and university medical centers in Europe, Asia and USA. He has been leading technology-based biomarker laboratories, cross-functional expert teams, therapeutic project teams and public-private consortia, many of which were focused on the discovery, development and implementation of translational biomarkers in a variety of therapeutic areas. His technical expertise resides most strongly in molecular profiling (various Omics approaches), analytical biomarker development and applications in translational scientific research.

Alain currently coordinates several biomarker/omics/data/AI programs as part of the department of Human Genetics including Lead PI of the Netherlands X-omics Initiative; Director of the Healthy Data Program; Coordinator of the Sectorplan Data-driven innovation; Domain Leader MedTech & Data Sciences of the Radboudumc Research Institute for Medical Innovation, and Chair Biomarker Platform of EATRIS (the European infrastructure for Translational Medicine), thus contributing to the organisation and coordination of local, national and European technology infrastructures.

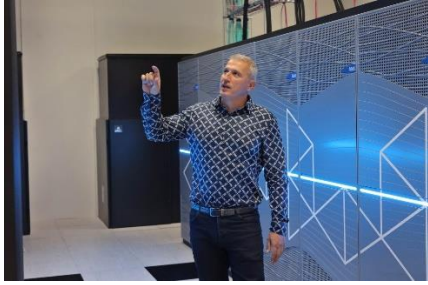


Nektarios Liaskos, PhD
Data Strategy Manager
EATRIS | European infrastructure
for translational medicine

Nektarios (Nek) Liaskos is the Data Strategy Manager at EATRIS, where he drives Digital Transformation (DT) in translational medicine by providing expertise in data management, FAIR practices, and research infrastructures. In this role, he works across multiple DT-related EU Projects including EATRIS-CONNECT, OSCARS, TRUSTroke, RealiseD, and CANDLER, helping to strengthen the European translational research ecosystem through improved data interoperability and openness.

Nektarios earned his PhD at the UCL School of Pharmacy (University College London), specialising in preclinical toxicology and biomarker research. His doctoral research centred on predictive and diagnostic biomarkers drug-induced liver injury (DILI), leveraging multivariate statistics for the NMR-based analysis of three-dimensional cell cultures and animal models.

Prior to joining EATRIS, Nek was a translational researcher at Deutsches Zentrum für Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen (DZNE), contributing to the European Platform for Neurodegenerative Diseases (EPND). His postdoctoral work there focused on translational research methodology, KPI development, and the implementation of FAIR data principles. He also has experience as a scientific consultant, supporting start-ups and SMEs in developing AI-driven tools and digital biomarkers.



Kiril Kirilov, Chief Operating Officer
Petaxeil Supercomputer – Bulgaria
Consortium

KIRIL KIRILOV HAS WORKED FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR AS A MANAGER OF BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT, AS WELL AS IN THE FIELD OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING, CYBERSECURITY AND DIGITALIZATION OF COMPANIES. He has participated in large international projects aimed at large databases and infrastructure in the information technology sector. operation.

Kiril Kirilov has been working on the project to create the Bulgarian Discoverer supercomputer from the very beginning of the implementation of the activities for installing the machine and putting it into operation.



Hristian Daskalov,
Chairman of the Management Board,
Digital Innovation Hub Trakia
(DIH Trakia)

DR. HRISTIAN DASKALOV IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB TRAKIA (DIH TRAKIA) AND PROJECT MANAGER OF CYBER4ALLSTAR – PART OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF DIGITAL INNOVATION HUBS (EDIHs). HE IS A DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND CYBERSECURITY EXPERT WITH MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS OF EXPERIENCE ACROSS THE PUBLIC, ACADEMIC, AND CORPORATE SECTORS.

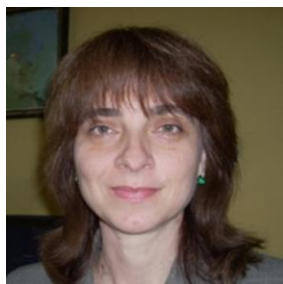
Hristian has teaching experience in project management in digital technologies and cybersecurity at the Technical University of Sofia and the University of Plovdiv “Paisii Hilendarski.” He actively works on European projects supporting the digital transformation of small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as the development of organizational capabilities for cyber resilience and industrial security. He is member of numerous national and international initiatives in the fields of AI, security, and innovation, including an Associate Expert at the Euro-Atlantic Resilience Centre (E-ARC) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania. As a digital policy consultant, he has provided advisory services to companies such as Amazon, AWS, Airbnb, Corteva, and others.



Dr. Ritika Kulshreshtha,
Singleron Biotechnologies GmbH

RITIKA KULSHRESHTHA IS A MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST CURRENTLY WORKING AT SINGLERON BIOTECHNOLOGIES GMBH, WHERE SHE SPECIALIZES IN SINGLE CELL MULTI-OMICS TECHNOLOGIES FOR BIOMARKER DISCOVERY AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH. RITIKA EARNED HER PhD AT THE MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR PLANT PHYSIOLOGY IN POTSDAM, WHERE HER RESEARCH FOCUSED ON UNDERSTANDING THE MOLECULAR AND PHYSICAL MECHANISMS UNDERLYING FLOWER DEVELOPMENT.

Following her PhD at Singleron Biotechnologies, Ritika now collaborates closely with researchers, principal investigators, and clinicians to help them harness the power of single cell multi-omics for identifying novel biomarkers and gaining deeper insights into disease mechanisms. Her work focuses on bridging cutting-edge technology with real-world biomedical applications to accelerate precision medicine.



Prof. Radka Kaneva, PhD,
Head of Molecular Medicine
Center, Department of Medical
Chemistry and Biochemistry,
Medical Faculty, Medical
University of Sofia

PROF. RADKA KANEVA IS A PROFESSOR IN BIOCHEMISTRY AND COORDINATOR OF THE BULGARIAN BBMRI-ERIC NODE. SHE IS MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY COMPLEX FOR BIOMEDICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH (NUCBTR), PI AND NATIONAL COORDINATOR IN SEVERAL EU PROJECTS AND ALLIANCES SUCH AS GENOME OF EUROPE, GDI, EVOLVE BBMRI, ERDERA, JARDIN. MEMBER OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF THE BULGARIAN ASSOCIATION FOR PERSONALIZED MEDICINE (BAPEMED).

Prof. Kaneva's main research interests are in the field of neuropsychiatric and behavioral genetics, oncogenetics, pharmacogenetics and genomics. She is PI and participant in numerous national and international collaborative projects related to genetics, epigenetics and genomics of rare and complex genetic disorders, and pharmacogenetics.



Corr.-member Soren Hayrabedyan,
Institute of Biology and
Immunology of Reproduction
“Acad. K. Bratanov”
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

PROF. SOREN HAYRABEDYAN IS A CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION AT BAS, SPECIALIST IN IMMUNOLOGY AND BIOINFORMATICS.

PROF. HAYRABEDYAN IS PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF SEVERAL NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES IN EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY AND BIOMEDICINE, DEVELOPS RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE -PART OF OF THE NRRI 2020-2027, MENTORS A TEAM OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS

The scientific research of prof. Hayrabyan focuses on inflammasome signaling in reproductive and tumor immunology, by employing models integrating long-read transcriptomics (Oxford Nanopore Technologies), single-cell transcriptomics, and mitochondrial epigenetics in translational approaches. He is an early adopter of nanopore sequencing and integrates direct RNA bulk-seq with nanopore-adapted single-cell transcriptomics to capture cell-type-resolved gene-expression changes, differential isoform switching, and epi-transcriptome modifications linked to tumor development.



DR. STEFAN LOZENOV IS A SPECIALIST IN CLINICAL HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY. His professional experience includes clinical practice at Sofia University Hospital of Blood and Hematology, St. Ivan Rilski Hospital, Acibadem City Clinic, National Center for the Study of Blood and Hematology, Manchester Royal Infirmary Hospital, Royal United Hospital Bath, ICON plc. Currently he is free doctoral student at the Department of Cell Biology and Developmental Biology at the FACULTY OF BIOLOGY OF THE SOFIA UNIVERSITY.

Dr. Lozenov has professional interests in the field of onco-haematology, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, cell and gene therapy in malignant diseases, molecular pathogenesis of malignant diseases, therapeutic modulation of the intestinal microbiome in malignant diseases. Author of several research papers in the field.



G. Nikolov, DM, PhD Head,
Sector Assisted Reproduction
Reprobiomed Medical Center

DR. GEORGI NIKOLOV IS NATIONAL EXPERT AND CONSULTANT IN ETHICAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF ART: Co-author at the Ministry of Health of the Clinical Standard "Assisted Reproduction" and the regulations to the Health Act related to this. Participated as an expert in the establishment of the "Assisted Reproduction Fund" and in the preparation of the Regulations for its organization and activities. Participated as an expert in the preparation of the National Strategy for Reproductive Health. Participated as an expert in the preparation of the latest version of the clinical standard on AG.

Dr. Nikolov is a national expert and specialist in Human reproduction, incl. reproductive biology and clinical embryology - sperm analysis, classical 'in vitro' fertilization, ICSI, blastocyst cultivation, cryopreservation of human gametes, embryos and reproductive tissues, preimplantation genetic diagnosis, stem cells, etc. (The first children born in Bulgaria from cryopreservation of embryos, including the first twins after cryopreservation - 1999; one of the first babies born after testicular biopsy and subsequent ICSI). He participated as an expert in the preparation of the National Strategy for Reproductive Health and the latest version of the clinical standard on AG.



Prof. Simeon Stoyanov
Business Development
Director of the Discoverer
Supercomputer in Bulgaria

PROF. SIMEON STOYANOV IS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR OF THE DISCOVERER SUPERCOMPUTER IN BULGARIA AND WILL BE MANAGING THE BULGARIA'S FIRST AI FACTORY, BRAIN++.

With more than two decades of industrial R&D leadership, he has shaped advancements in product formulation, food technology, and the development of functional foods as well as innovative personal care and cosmetic products.

The career of prof. Stoyanov is defined by the successful translation of applied science into commercially relevant solutions tailored for both market demands and business objectives. Prof. Stoyanov's diverse expertise includes food science, soft matter physics, human physiology, sensory science, consumer behaviour, mesoscale modelling, high performance computing (HPC), data science, and digital R&D. He has led initiatives that harness HPC and AI/ML to resolve complex challenges in food and nutritional formulation, microstructure modelling, and data-driven product optimization, making him a leader at the interface of computational technology and applied product innovation.



GEORGI KALUDOV, TECHNICAL VITALITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER AT IBM
CO-FOUNDER AND CO-LEADER OF BULGARIA'S OPEN INNOVATION COMMUNITY
SINCE 2023, CO-FOUNDER OF THE IBM SOFIA ACCELERATOR.

Georgi Kaludov, Technical Vitality Development Manager at IBM

In 2021, Georgi Kaludov co-founded the Open Innovation Community affiliate in Bulgaria, and in 2023, he co-founded the IBM Sofia Accelerator—a corporate venture program helping tech startups in Eastern Europe scale their innovations with IBM technology. In 2024-2025, Georgi became an IBM Quantum Ambassador and a co-owner of few patents in the AI, Quantum, and Space technologies area.