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Ioannis Kourkoutas is Professor and Head of the Laboratory of Applied Microbiology & Biotechnology at the Department of Molecular Biology & Genetics (MBG) of the Democritus University of Thrace (DUTH). He received his PhD from the Department of Chemistry, University of Patras (2002) and worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Ulster (UK) (2002 and 2005) and University of Patras (2004-2007). He has more than 120 publications in peer-reviewed journals, > 140 proceedings in national and international conferences, 14 book articles and 4 patents (citations > 3500; h-index: 32).

He has served as Lead Guest Editor and an editorial board member in many special issues and reputed scientific journals, as member of the steering and organizing committees of international conferences and as evaluator of research proposals in national and European calls. His research focuses on the development of innovative food products and the exploitation of agro-industrial waste for the production of high value-added products. He has participated in a large number of projects funded by national and European sources or by the food industry (total budget >8,500,000€ and Scientific Leader in most of them).