

Dr. Anastasios (Tassos) Pavlopoulos
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Dr. Anastasios Pavlopoulos completed his PhD with Dr. Michalis Averof at IMBB-FORTH in Greece and his postdoctoral training with Prof. Michael Akam at Cambridge University in UK and with Dr. Pavel Tomancak at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in Germany. He started his independent research as a young group leader at the Janelia Research Campus of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in US and joined IMBB-FORTH as a Researcher C' in 2019 heading the Developmental Morphogenesis Laboratory. His lab studies development in established and emerging insect and crustacean experimental model organisms to understand how animal form originates and evolves. To achieve this goal, the group actively develops and integrates functional genetic and genomic tools with advanced light-sheet microscopy and image analysis pipelines to quantify developmental processes from a bottom-up cellular perspective, both in wild-type and in genetically or mechanically perturbed conditions. These multidisciplinary approaches have started shedding light on some common principles or even deep homologies in the underlying morphogenetic mechanisms by which animal tissues take shape during development, as well as on the evolution of these mechanisms to produce the stunning morphological diversity observed in nature. His research has been funded by the European Molecular Biology Organization, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and other organizations. Dr. Pavlopoulos has supervised more than 30 undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral researchers and has been teaching courses continuously since 2006 on Embryology, Animal Development and Evolution, Light-sheet Microscopy and Tissue Morphogenesis organized by EMBO, the Marine Biological Laboratory, the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, UC Santa Barbara, University of Crete and other institutions.