

## **B2.6. Team leader of P5 team: Acad. Maya SIMIONESCU**

**Positions:** **1995 – present:**, **Director, Scientific Researcher Grade I, PhD supervisor**, Institute of Cellular Biology and Pathology "N. Simionescu" (ICBP), Romania; **1998 – present: President** of the Section of Biological Sciences, Romanian Academy; **1995 – present: President** of the Romanian Society for Cell Biology; **1998 – 2005: President** of the Section of Biological Sciences, Romanian Academy; **Vice-president of the Romanian Academy**; **1976-1995: Visiting professor Yale University, SUA**;

**Education:** **1979: PhD in Biology** supervised by Prof. G. E. Palade, Nobel laureate; **1970-1973, 1973-1979: Special Training in Cell Biology, Rockefeller University and Yale University, USA.**

**Awards:** **2014: First Prize** for innovation *Nervous conductors made of collagen and process for preparing the same* Romanian Innovation Awards; **2013 - Gold medal EUREKA and AGEPI prize** for Innovation INNOVA (Bruxelles) for the same patent applications; **2013: National Order of the "Legion d'Honneur"** French Republic; **2011: Doctor Honoris Causa** of the „Vasile Goldiș” West University, Romania; **2008: National Order “Steaua Romaniei” Great Officer**, Romanian Presidency; **2006 - Doctor Honoris Causa** of the West University, Romania; **2001: UNESCO - L’Oreal Special Honour Award for Women in Science.**

**Evaluator:** NIH and NSF USA; Dept. of Experimental Medicine, Uppsala, Sweden; Medical Research Council (MRC) **United Kingdom**; INSERM – **France**; Romanian Academy; UEFISCDI **Romania**; European Research Council Expert - **European Commission**

**Editorial activity: member in the editorial board of:** Eur. J. Cell Biol., Differentiation, Cell Tissue Res., J. Cell. Mol. Med.

**Expertise fields:** cellular and molecular biology and pathology

**Leadership experience:** responsible for the scientific program and training of young PhD students; under the present leadership, ICBP was re-elected as Member Institution of the UNESCO-Molecular Cell Biology Network, Centre of Excellence of the Romanian Academy and was selected, by competition, Centre of Excellence of the European Community.

**Scientific achievements** were focused on cellular and molecular biology and pathology of the cardiovascular system and led to: **i)** discovery of transendothelial channels and their role in the exchange of macromolecules across endothelial cell (EC); **ii)** first identification of biochemically and structurally differentiated microdomains on the luminal and abluminal plasmalemma of endothelial cells; **iii)** first report on the existence of albumin and histamine receptors in EC; **iv)** discovery of intimal deposition of modified and reassembled lipoproteins as the first event occurring at the inception of atherosclerosis; **v)** detection of the effect of high glucose on endothelium and of glycosylated proteins on lipoproteins that may account for accelerated atherosclerosis in diabetes.