

# Journal of Life Sciences

a Postdoc Community Initiative

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## *Mentor-Postdoc Spotlights Series 2026*



### **Dr. Christina Glytsou**

Rutgers University, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy and Robert Wood Jonshon Medical School, Rutgers Cancer Institute. New Brunswick, NJ 08854.

With over 15 years of experience Dr. Glytsou's research career began with a PhD from School of Biology, University of Padua, Italy, under the tutelage of Prof. Luca Scorrano. Her dissertation work focused on the identification and functional characterization of components of the OPA1 complexes targeted during apoptotic cristae remodeling.

After completing masters in science with a thesis in Molecular Carcinogenesis from the University of Athens Dr. Glytsou enrolled in a PhD program at the University of Padua where she studied Mitochondrial Biology with a special emphasis on Mitochondrial Dynamics in cell life and death. Dr. Glytsou later moved to the School of Medicine, New York University for a postdoctoral fellowship under the guidance of Dr. Iannis Aifantis. Her postdoc work focused on the Mechanism of therapy resistance in acute myeloid leukemia.

Dr. Glytsou joined Rutgers University as an Assistant Professor in 2023. With nearly 20 publications to her credit, her group's ongoing work focuses on mitochondrial dynamics driving drug resistance in blood cancers, exploring a combination treatment approaches and novel compounds to counter it. The most recent research outcomes from her group were published in [\*Science Advances\*](#).

Dr. Glytsou's words of advice to postdoctoral fellows: *"Stay focused, be resilient and adaptable throughout the postdoctoral journey. Experiments will fail, fellowship applications and papers will get rejected – that's part of the process. The key is to recover fast and adjust your approach. Networking, identifying additional mentors and building relationships with colleagues and collaborators is extremely important. Plan your future career steps in advance, from the day 1 of your postdoc"*.

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Dr. Sofia La Vecchia obtained her PhD from the University of Turin, Italy under the mentorship of Dr. Chiara Riganti. Her dissertation was titled “Autocrine 17- $\beta$ -Estradiol/Estrogen Receptor- $\alpha$  Loop Determines the Response to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer”

With over 10 years of experience and 7 publications, Dr. La Vecchia is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Glytsou group at Rutgers.

In line with JoLS-Pub’s mission to publish layman summaries of peer-reviewed research findings, a brief of her research findings was published in the January issue of [JoLS-Pub](#).