

## Board Members



### **Dr Maria Angela Guzzardi, PhD**

Maria Angela Guzzardi completed her PhD in Innovative Strategies in Biomedical Research in 2010. As PhD visiting student she worked at the Oxford Center for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, University of Oxford (UK) and at the Center for Bioengineering in Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Shriners Children Hospital, Boston (MA, USA). During 2010 she worked at School of Computer Science and Engineering, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel) as postdoctoral research fellow. She is currently holding a position as Researcher at the Institute of Clinical Physiology, National Research Council (CNR) in Pisa (Italy). Her research is focused on the study of the mechanisms underlying the association between maternal obesity during pregnancy and the long-term risk to develop cardiovascular disease, diabetes and neurodegenerative morbidity in the offspring.



### **Dr Catherine Gibbons**

Catherine Gibbons is an exercise physiologist particularly interested in exercise, physical activity and sedentary behaviour in the control of appetite and obesity. She began her research career with an MSc in Sport and Exercise Nutrition at Loughborough University before moving to University of Leeds to complete her PhD entitled 'Tonic and Episodic Peptides and Appetite Control in Response to Nutrients and Exercise in Obese Adults' in 2013. Since then she has held Research Fellow and Senior Research Fellow positions working on large-scale exercise research projects using a psychobiological systems approach in order to investigate exercise-induced compensatory eating. Catherine is currently involved in three collaborative EU FP7 projects "Full4Health", "Satin" and "Daphne" alongside other pharmaceutical related projects. In "Satin" she is lead researcher on a work package investigating the role of gut peptides as biomarkers of appetite and satiety in response to novel functional foods. In "Daphne" she is Principal Investigator on a work package investigating the impact of sedentariness and physical activity on markers of appetite control and health. Her work has received several awards including 'New Investigator Award' from International Association of Obesity and she has published over 27 publications in international peer-reviewed scientific journals.



### **Dr Teodora Handjieva-Darlenska**

Teodora Handjieva-Darlenska graduated Medical Faculty in Medical University – Sofia, Bulgaria in 2005. Since then, she received a specialization in pharmacology and two PhD levels in pharmacology (Medical Faculty – Sofia), and in nutrition (University of Copenhagen, Denmark). She is currently Assistant professor in Medical University – Sofia. Dr. Handjieva-Darlenska is a daily coordinator of the PREVIEW project, supported by the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of the European Union. She is also actively involved in the EU funded project EPHE for prevention of childhood obesity. Her main research interests are in the field of nutrition, obesity and pharmacology.