

## John S. Papadakis (1936–2022)

John S. Papadakis was born in Agia Galini in 1936. He earned a degree in Mathematics from the University of Athens in 1963, a Master's Degree from the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences in 1967, and a PhD in Applied Mathematics from the Polytechnic Institute of New York in 1971.



### Academic Career

- University of Rhode Island: Elected Assistant Professor in 1971 and Professor in 1982.
- University of Crete: Returned to Greece in 1983, where he was elected Professor in the Department of Mathematics of the University of Crete.
- Served as a Member of the Executive Committee (1983–1986).
- Served as Chair of the Mathematics Department (1983–1985, 1991–1993).
- Served as the first Dean of the School of Sciences and Engineering of the University of Crete, a position he held for thirteen years (1983–1996). Under his leadership, the School's modern character was shaped according to international standards.

### Institutional Leadership & FORTH

In 1985, he founded the Institute of Applied and Computational Mathematics (IACM) of the Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH), serving as its Director for nineteen years (1985–2004). During this period, he was a member of the Board of Directors of FORTH, and in 2004, he was awarded the title of "Distinguished Member" of the Foundation. His influence on the formation of Crete's scientific ecosystem—which is today internationally recognized for its excellence and outward-looking orientation—was decisive and multifaceted.

### Research & Impact

His research focused on applied and computational mathematics, fields he consistently served and supported. Under his guidance, Applied Mathematics in Greece acquired a modern orientation and reached an internationally competitive level.

- Mentorship: He contributed decisively to the creation of research structures and the recruitment of exceptional young scientists. Supporting new researchers was always a primary priority and pursuit for him.
- Contributions: He participated as a scientific lead or coordinator in national and international research programs and authored numerous publications.
- Underwater Acoustics: Since 2005, he organized one of the most important international conferences in the field of underwater acoustics.

### Legacy

John Papadakis was deeply beloved by his friends and colleagues in Greece and abroad, as well as by the broader scientific community of FORTH and Crete.