



Spiros N Agathos is Professor Emeritus of Bioengineering at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium and group leader within its Earth & Life Institute (ELI) where he is involved in research on bioprocess optimization, pollutant biodegradation, and biotechnology for sustainability. In 2015 he became the Inaugural Dean of Life Sciences and Biotechnology at the newly-established Yachay Tech University in Ecuador.

He studied chemical engineering (Diploma, National Technical University of Athens, Greece; MEng, McGill University, Canada) and obtained a PhD in biochemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has previously served as a faculty member at the University of Western Ontario and Rutgers University and as a visiting professor in many universities in Europe and the Americas. He has published more than 200 articles (150 of which in peer-review international journals and 45 book chapters), edited 4 books and holds 4 patents. He has been serving as Editor or member of Editorial Boards of a dozen scientific journals and has participated in numerous international committees both for the organization of scientific events and for science and technology policy. He is a consultant to government agencies and industry worldwide and has lectured at many universities and research centres. He has supervised 24 PhD theses and more than 80 Master's theses to completion, while his former graduate students and postdoctoral associates have significant academic and industrial positions across the globe. Amongst his many awards, he is an elected fellow of the International Water Association (IWA), American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) and of the Society for Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology (SIMB). In addition to ISEB, he is currently an Executive Board Member of the Belgian Society for Microbiology and of the Belgian Chapter of the International Water Association (B-IWA) and serves as Vice-Chair, Environmental Section, of the European Federation of Biotechnology (EFB). As a member of the Environmental Working Group within the EU-US Task Force on Biotechnology Research, he has been a strong advocate for young researchers and especially for women in science and engineering.

Expertise: Environmental and Synthetic Biotechnology and Bioengineering, with special focus on: biocatalyst development, bioprocess optimisation for metabolite production from bacteria, fungi and algae, bioreactor design and scale-up, biodegradation of toxic pollutants and site bioremediation, microbial ecogenomics, and biotechnology for sustainable development.