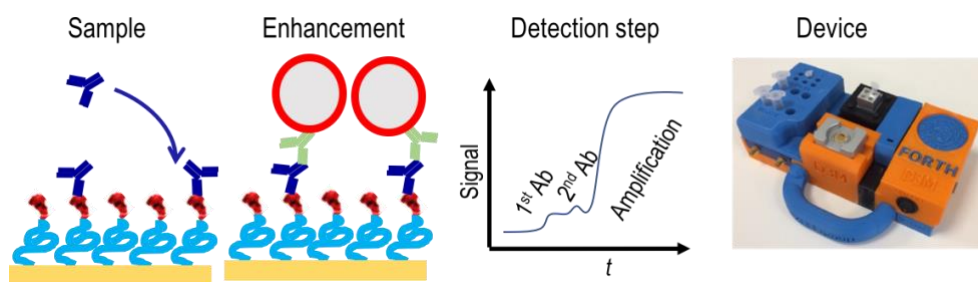


BIOSENSORS LAB RECEIVES FUNDING FROM HFRI TO DEVELOP A RAPID DIAGNOSTIC TOOL FOR COVID-19 ANTIBODIES DETECTION

Within the 4th call of the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (HFRI), the **Biosensors lab** (<http://biosensorslab.biology.uoc.gr/>) at the foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH) was awarded funding to develop a rapid and sensitive method for the detection of COVID-19 antibodies in whole blood and at the point of care. The method will be based on a portable device employing an acoustic biochip and has the potential to become fully automated, digital and miniaturized. The project includes validation of the newly developed methodology and innovative device in a hospital using directly crude patients' samples. Our aim is to have a rapid and reliable commercial immunoassay platform for immediate exploitation within 12 months.



The work is coordinated by **Prof. Electra Gizeli**, Head of Biosensors Lab at IMBB-FORTH and the Dept. of Biology at the University of Crete. It will be carried out in collaboration with two partners from the Clinical Virology Lab at the Univ. of Crete, **Prof. George Sourvinos** and **Assistant Prof. Alexandros Zafiropoulos**. The period of the award is 12 months and the total budget is 99.5K euros. The project was **one of the 4** selected for funding from a total of 67 applications within the thematic area of **Medical Technology**. The 4th HFRI Call, under which the project was funded, supports “Interventions to address the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic”. It was advertised as an emergency-call seeking for technologies and other solutions to prevent, address, diagnose and manage the current pandemic.