



**Dr Darius Kazlauskas** is a senior researcher at the Institute of Biotechnology of the Life Sciences Center, Vilnius University. In 2014, he defended his doctoral thesis 'Computational Analysis of DNA Replication Proteins in Double-Stranded DNA Viruses', which was chosen among the best in Lithuania. Darius Kazlauskas's research has contributed significantly to the fields of DNA replication and virology. He is currently working on CRISPR-Cas systems. Together with his colleagues, Dr Kazlauskas has written 21 articles that have been published in the best research journals (e.g., *Nature*, *Cell*, *Nature Microbiology*, *Nature Communications*, *NAR*, *mBio*, *JMB*, and *Bioinformatics*). His works are important to the scientific community (cited more than 1000 times). He collaborates with researchers from France, the USA, and Spain. In 2018, he started collaboration with Eugene Koonin (NIH, USA), who is one of the pioneers of computational biology and is a highly cited author (more than 220,000 citations). Together with him and other prominent virologists, Dr Kazlauskas prepared a widely cited (292 citations) article on the origin and evolution of RNA viruses (Wolf et al., 2018). A follow-up to this work (Neri et al., 2022) was recently published in the journal *Cell*. In 2019, he joined research on CRISPR-Cas systems by performing a diversity analysis of the PAM-interacting domains of the Cas9 protein, which was published in *Nature Communications* (Gasiūnas et al., 2020). Currently, research on CRISPR-Cas systems is being expanded by applying machine learning methods to their analysis. Dr Kazlauskas participated in eight international and national projects (as principal investigator in three of them) and was awarded EMBO and FEBS scholarships to carry out his research at the Pasteur Institute, Paris. Darius Kazlauskas's scientific achievements were recognised by the Rector's Science Prize of Vilnius University, scholarships of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and the Research Council of Lithuania.