

Melinda Kovács CV

PERSONAL DATA

Name: Melinda Kovács
Place and date of birth: Budapest, 25 April 1959
Mother's maiden name: Piroska Horváth
Address: 7400, Kaposvár, Ibolya Street 61.
Marital status: married
Children: Márton (1986) and Zsófia (1987)
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EDUCATION

Secondary: Móricz Zsigmond High school, Budapest (1973-1977)
Higher: University of Veterinary Medicine, Budapest (1997-1982)
Academic degrees and titles:
Candidate of Veterinary Science, CSc (1988), Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, DSc (2005), corresponding (2013) and full member (2019) of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

JOBS, ASSIGNMENTS

Current workplace Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (MATE), Kaposvár Campus, Institute of Animal Physiology and Nutrition, 7400, Kaposvár, Guba S. street 40.
HUN-REN–MATE Mycotoxins in the Food Chain Research Group, 7400, Kaposvár, Guba S. Street 40.

Positions held in predecessor institutions:

1983-1987 MTA TMB, postgraduate state scholarship
1987-1990 research fellow
1991-1992 assistant professor
1992-1999 associate professor
1999- full professor

Management positions:

1991-2015 head of department (Pannon Agricultural University, then Kaposvár University)
2000-2006 vice dean (Kaposvár University)
2006-2010 vice rector (Kaposvár University)
2013-2015 head of the institute (Kaposvár University)
2012-2019 head of the Doctoral School in Animal Science (Kaposvár University)
2019-2020 rector (Kaposvár University)
2020-2021 vice rector, campus director (Szent István University, Kaposvár Campus)
2021-2022 vice rector (MATE)
2021- head of the institute (MATE Institute of Animal Physiology and Nutrition, Kaposvár)

TEACHING

Digestive physiology, Production physiology, Nutritional immunology (MSc), Physiology of animal production (PhD)

Between 2012-2019 head of the Doctoral School in Animal Science.

RESEARCH

Her narrower fields of expertise are production physiology, feed and food safety, One Health, mycotoxicoses.

She revealed the correlations between fermentation biology and mycotoxin contamination of corn preserved by fermentation. She developed a procedure for determining the available lysine content of feeds of animal origin (*Magy. Állatorv. Lapja*, 1982.104.590-595). Using computer tomography, she determined the smallest fumonisin B1 (FB1) mycotoxin concentration that no longer causes lesions in pigs (*Livest. Prod. Sci.*, 2002.76.251-256). She was the first to demonstrate the in utero embryo-damaging effect of FB1 in pigs and domestic rabbits, as well as the fact that FB1 is excreted in sow's milk (*Teratogen. carcin. mut.*, 2000.20.293-299), and does not accumulate in the organs that serve as food raw materials (*Food Addit. Contam.*, 2008.25.88-96).

The main aims of her research activity in recent years: determining the interaction of mycotoxins in *in vitro* systems and animal experiments (*Toxins*, 2018. 10. online, *Acta Vet Brno*, 2017. 86. 37-44., *Acta Vet Hung*, 2017. 65. 340-353., *J Clin Toxicol*, 2015. 5. Paper 264. online, *World Mycotox J*, 2016. 9. 613-622.), as well as detection of the hitherto undiscovered effects of the mycotoxin fumonisin B1 (*Toxicol Ind Health*, 2016. 32. 998-1012, *Res Vet Sci*, 2016. 108. 38-46.). She launched a survey to determine the fumonisin B1 exposure of the Hungarian population (*Toxins* 2019, 11, 709; doi:10.3390/toxins11120709; *Foods* 2022, 11, 15. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods11010015>).

Scientometric data: 166 peer-reviewed scientific publications, over 1500 independent citations, HI: 23.

The complete list of publications is available:

<https://m2.mtmt.hu/gui2/?type=authors&mode=browse&sel=10002189>

Project management in the last 10 years

OTKA Investigation of the interaction between some respiratory pathogens and fumonisin B1 toxin based on modern imaging methods in pigs (2010-2014) (as contributor)

In vitro testing of the combined effect of mycotoxins (2012-2015) (as project leader)

TIOP/TÁMOP

Development of a modern Service and Research University in Kaposvár (TIOP 1.3.1., 2010-2011) (as contributor)

Developing the university competitiveness of the South Transdanubian region (TÁMOP 4.2.1., 2011-2013) (as a consortium member)

Examination of medium markers influencing the success of artificial insemination (TÁMOP 4.2.2., 2012-2014) (as a consortium member)

Implementation of complex food safety and related physiological and diagnostic research at Kaposvár University with international cooperation (TÁMOP 4.2.2., 2012-2014) (subtopic leader)

Research and development aimed at preventing and removing mycotoxin contamination at the University of Kaposvár (TÁMOP 4.2.2.D, 2015) (as project leader)

GINOP Estimation of human exposure to the mycotoxin fumonisin B1, determination of toxin-induced oxidative stress, cell damage and metabolic changes in in vitro and animal experimental models (GINOP 2.3.2-15-2016-00046, 2017-2021) (as project leader)

An agro-ecologically integrated production system based on domestic, qualified grain and protein sources for the production of pork with high biological value (GINOP-2.2.1-15-2016-00021, 2016-) (as contributor)

Others EFOP-3.6.3-VEKOP-16-2017-00005 Strengthening scientific supply by supporting students' professional workshops and programs (2019-2023) (as contributor)

EFOP-3.6.3-VEKOP-16-2017-00008 Innovative scientific workshops in the national higher education (2019-2023) (as contributor)

Safe, environmentally friendly, high-quality and healthy animal product production based on the One Health concept (Thematic Excellence Program, 2019-2022) (as project leader)

Member (1996-2002), deputy head (2002-2012), head (2012-) of the MTA-KE Research Group (existing now as HUN-REN–MATE Research Group).

RRF Agribiotechnology and precision breeding for food security National Laboratory (2022-2026) (as member of the project management and contributor)

International

Studies on some herbal additives giving partial protection against toxic or immunosuppressive effects of some mycotoxins and improving wound granulation FP7-PEOPLE-2012 (Marie Curie, 2013-2016) (as contributor)

Erasmus+ mobility project, partner institution: Oxidative Stress Research Centre in Cape Peninsula University of Technology (OSRC-CPUT) (2017-2018, 2020-2021) (as project leader)

OSIRIS (HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01) Increasing the reproducibility of scientific results (2013-2016) (as contributor)

PUBLIC SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Memberships/positions held in the boards of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS)

Presidential Committee on Environmental Science - Subcommittee on Food safety (2009-), Presidential Committee on Public Education (2014-2017), Committee on Veterinary Science (2011-), Committee on Animal Science (2014-), Board of Trustees of the János Bolyai Research Scholarship (2010-2019), Council of Research Institute - Life Sciences Committee

(membership: 2012-2015), (President: 2015-2018), Section of Agricultural Sciences, Vice-President (2017-2020), Council for Accrediting Research Sites (2021-), MTMT Scientific Council (2021-), Sustainable Development and Technology Program Board (2023-), vice-chair of Regional Committee in Pécs (2023-).

Memberships/positions held in national organisations

Member (1998-) and member of the board (2024-2009) of the Hungarian Society for Animal Hygiene and Environmental Protection.

Member (2007-2010), Vice-President (2010-2012), then President (2018-2019) of the Committee of the Agricultural Science of the Hungarian Higher Education Accreditation Committee (HAS). Member of HAS Higher Education Vocational Training Committee (2012-2018). t of the Committee for Quality Assurance, Development and Strategy of HAS (2020-2023).

Member of Jury 2 of OTKA (2000-2003, 2006-2009, 2015-2017), member of the Life Sciences College of OTKA (2009-2011). National Research, Development and Innovation Office – member of the College of Environmental Sciences (2018-2019).

Member of the Life Sciences Speciality College of ELKH (2020-2023), member of the Governing Board of HUN-REN (2023-).

Memberships held in international organisations

World Rabbit Science Association (2002-2018), International Society of Mycotoxicology (2009-), International Society for Animal Hygiene (2012-).

Other committee memberships

PTE Habilitation Committee (2013-), PTE TTK Doctoral and Habilitation Committee (2013-2018), SZIE Doctoral and Habilitation Committee (2013-2016), Doctoral and Habilitation Committee of University of Veterinary Medicine, Budapest (2016-).

University public activity

President of the Habilitation Committee (2000-2007), member of the Doctoral Committee (2000-2010), member of the Doctoral School Council of the Doctoral School in Animal Science (2000-), member of the University and Faculty Council (2000-2010), President of the Doctoral Committee (2007-2010), President of the Doctorate Committee (2008-2010), Member (2010-2019), then President (2017-2019) of the Doctoral and Habilitation Committee.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Széchenyi Professorship Grant (2000-2003), Dr. Heinrich Baur Research Foundation Award (Technical University of Munich, 2002), Guba Sándor Commemorative Medal (2005), Golden Ring of the Public Foundation for Scientific Life (founder: Kaposvár city and Somogy county) (2005), Szent-Györgyi Albert Award (2010), Hungarian Gold Cross of Merit (2014), PAB Silver Plaque (2019), Széchenyi Prize (2022), Honorary citizenship of Kaposvár County City (2023).