



2023 NATIONAL INVENTORS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: Jan. 17, 1955

Primary Connections:

- University of Szeged (Hungary): Professor, 2022-present
- BioNTech AG: Senior Vice President, 2013-22
- RNARx: Co-founder and CEO, 2006-13
- University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine: Adjunct Associate Professor, 2009-present; Senior Research Investigator, 1995-2009; Research Assistant Professor, 1989-95

Education:

- University of Szeged: B.S., Biology, 1978; Ph.D., Biochemistry, 1982

Key Memberships/Awards:

- Breakthrough Prize: Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, 2022
- Japan Prize, Field of Materials and Production, 2022
- National Academy of Medicine: Member, 2022
- Albany Medical Center: Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research, 2021
- Columbia University: Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize, 2021
- Lasker Foundation: Lasker-DeBaakey Clinical Medical Research Award, 2021
- Vilcek Foundation: Vilcek Prize for Excellence, 2021

Things You Need to Know About

Katalin Karikó

Modified mRNA Technology Used in COVID-19 Vaccines

U.S. PATENT NO. 8,278,036

1. Karikó was born in Szolnok, Hungary.
2. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Temple University and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.
3. Karikó immigrated with her husband and young daughter from Hungary to the United States in 1985.
4. She came to the University of Pennsylvania in 1989 and has served as a faculty member and researcher.
5. Karikó is a founding member of the planning committee for the International mRNA Health Conference, an annual event started in 2013.
6. In her native Hungary, she has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Szeged, and the Széchenyi Prize.
7. Brandeis University awarded the Lewis S. Rosenstiel Award for Distinguished Work in Basic Medical Research to Karikó and Drew Weissman in 2020.
8. In 2021, she was recognized with the Wilhelm Exner Medal, awarded annually since 1921 to scientists and researchers who have had a direct impact on business and industry through their scientific achievements.
9. Karikó has 14 U.S. patents.