



2022 NATIONAL INVENTORS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: Jan. 17, 1955

Primary Connections:

- BioNTech AG: Senior Vice President, 2013-present
- 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 (Hungary): B.S., Biology, 1978; Ph.D., Biochemistry, 1982

Key memberships/awards:

- Breakthrough Prize: Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, 2022
- Novim (Kavil Institute, UC Santa Barbara): Alexandra Jane Noble Science Impact Award, 2021
- Research!America: Building the Foundation Award, 2021
- Albany Medical Center: Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research, 2021
- Columbia University: Louissa Gross Horwitz Prize, 2021
- Vilcek Foundation: Vilcek Prize for Excellence, 2021

10 Things You Need to Know About

Katalin Karikó

Inventor of Modified mRNA 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 came to the University of Pennsylvania in 1989 and has served as a faculty member and researcher.
4. The adaptability of her co-invention of modified mRNA technology may serve as a key component for future mRNA-based therapies and vaccines.
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. In 2020 Karikó was elected as a member of Academia Europaea.
8. Brandeis University awarded the Lewis S. Rosenstiel Award for Distinguished Work in Basic Medical Research to Karikó and Drew Weissman in 2020.
9. 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.
10. Karikó has 13 U.S. patents.