



Preface

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This special issue of the *BIOLOGIA FUTURA* is dedicated to the 70th birthday of Professor *Anna Erdei*, who is an emeritus professor at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) and full member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. She has been an exceptional devoted contributor to immunological research and academic education worldwide and in Hungary. We, all the authors of the current issue, who worked with Anna in different phases of our lives think that the collaboration with her was extremely useful for us in developing immunology in Hungary and worldwide.

Based on the foundations laid down by Professor János Gergely, her mentor, she continued to advance a leading immunology research program in Hungary. The first Department of Immunology in Hungary was established by János Gergely at ELTE, and Anna Erdei followed him as head for the next 22 years. As a leader, she has been creating harmony between scientific thinking and liberated, good atmosphere. By now, the results are manifested in the education programs and textbooks of the Hungarian Medical University faculties. Furthermore, she was the head of the ELTE Doctoral School of Biological Sciences for about two decades, that resulted in many internationally recognized new Ph.D. research results and positions. Anna Erdei was Secretary General of EFIS (2000–2015), and she also supported the establishment of the EFIS Short-term Fellowship for purposes of transnational scientific collaboration and advanced training for doctoral students. In 2020, she was elected as Deputy Secretary General of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. As the president of the Hungarian National Fund of Scientific Research (OTKA) College of Life Sciences, she had been supporting the Hungarian scientific research for many years.

As guest editor of this issue, I should mention my overwhelming personal experience with a series of excellent international scientific conferences organized by the Department, such as the long, biannual (1985–2009) series of *Symposiums on Signals and Signal Processing in the Immune System (SASPITIS)*, all arranged in Hungary with participation of determining international leading immunologists as lecturers. This conference series was among others the platform where discovery of *ITAM* (immunoreceptor tyrosine-based activation motif) and *ITIM* (immunoreceptor tyrosine-based inhibition motif) signal transduction motifs was announced and discussed. It was a special pleasure to me to be a co-organizer of the latest 5 meetings. Then, we even stepped further by organizing two extremely successful international meetings renamed as “*IMPULSE*,” (*Immune-related Pathologies: Understanding Leukocyte Signaling and Emerging therapies*) (2011 and 2013) expanding the original topics toward broader and medically oriented concepts. I believe that these conferences promoted and initiated a lot of new ideas in development of immunology, as well as personal interactions between young scientists, Ph.D. students and famous senior researchers.

The authors celebrate her birthday by presenting some significant new trends and future perspectives of their research in immunology. On behalf of them, I wish Anna good health and the similarly high ambition and commitment in her forthcoming life and scientific career!

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Guest editor.

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