

Laudation of Prof. Laszlo Bogre
Semmelweis University Doctor Honoris Causa Award
11 November 2016

It is unusual for the Doctor Honoris Causa degree at the Medical University that Laszlo Bogre did his first studies at the Agricultural University, Godollo, where he graduated in 1984. From the very first year of his studies he started research as a student at the Biological Research Centre, Szeged in the group of Denes Dudits. His research was on the molecular mechanisms of regeneration in plants. This took him to the field of signal transduction, and cell cycle regulation. Specifically became interested in protein phosphorylation, he was among the first to characterise Ca²⁺-dependent protein kinases in plants.

Also somewhat unusual that as a PhD student working on plants he obtained a British Council fellowship in 1987 to work at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London in an immunology lab on a protein kinase signalling pathway in T-cells. After his PhD he did his first post doc in Canada, Edmonton, and then moved to Vienna University where he got an assistant professor position.

In 2000 he got an invitation to take up a position at London University, Royal Holloway College, where he became full professor. Though his research field remained signal transduction and cell cycle regulation in plants, he is teaching cancer biology for biomedical students. He spent time in Japan and Holland as visiting professor, and kept connections with Hungarian Science all these times.

Specifically he kept close links with the Department of Medical Chemistry of Semmelweis University, in the form of regular exchange visits of students and staff, joined lab meetings and a number of common projects and publications. One of the highlights was the co-organised workshop on Cell cycle regulation. In 2012 he was a guest of the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to spend time in Hungarian Institutes including the Department of Medical Chemistry of Semmelweis University. He is also on the director board of the Biotechnological Research Centre, Godollo.

He published his works in more than 80 papers in leading journals, such as Nature, EMBO J, PNAS, edited a book in his research field of Plant growth signalling. Recently he became interested to become an ambassador of Science in African countries, specifically Zambia. His mission there to understand global challenges, such as climate change and educate them to be prepared to find solutions where they live, rather than being forced to migrate.