

Dr. Chris Baylis has been Robert Cade Professor of Physiology and Medicine and director of the Hypertension Center at Gainesville, University of Florida from 2004. She finished PhD in Leeds, UK, had postdoctoral training at the University of San Francisco and Harvard Medical School. She was professor of physiology at West Virginia University, Hungarian collaborations have started here from 1993. Since the 1970-s she has been continuously acting as PI of NIH grants, has published over 180 peer reviewed scientific papers and was editor or author of a total of 88 books or book chapters. She was editor of the American Journal of Physiology and Current Opinion in Nephrology and Hypertension.

Her research has amassed considerable evidence that the maternal volume expansion during pregnancy requires a localized increase in the activity of phosphodiesterase-5 (PDE5), in the inner medulla of the kidney. This prevents the normal natriuretic influences that work through cGMP (nitric oxide and atrial natriuretic peptide) from acting and allows the activated sodium retaining influences (angiotensin II and aldosterone) to dominate renal sodium handling, leading to continual renal sodium retention throughout pregnancy. Her research resulted in understanding that systemic and intra-renal NO deficiency are both a cause and a consequence of chronic kidney disease, contributing to progression of the kidney damage and to the associated cardiovascular disease. Chris Baylis received the Irvine Page-Alva Bradley Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Heart Association in 2015. Her other awards included (list not complete):

1996 Koranyi Sándor Award of the Hungarian Society of Nephrology

2006 Louis Dahl Award of the American Heart Association

2007 Carl Gottschalk Award of the American Physiological Society

Prof. Baylis has been collaborating with 7 investigators from Semmelweis for decades. These collaborations culminated in high quality research publications. Her coworkers learned real working life of a true research scientist. How to lead and teach younger scientists? How to encourage everyone individually? Chris Baylis gave lectures at the 2011 and 2014 Semmelweis Symposia, and several other domestic and international meetings in Hungary. Chris Baylis is a renowned scientist and scholar, an avid supporter of research at Semmelweis University, a helper of colleagues and thus is profoundly worthy of the honorary doctoral degree of Semmelweis University.