Prof. Dr. István Pócsi

**Position:**

Professor at the Department of Molecular Biotechnology and Microbiology, Institute of Biotechnology, Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Debrecen

I was born on May 5, 1961, in Debrecen. I went to grade school in *Hajdúdorog* and high school in *Hajdúnánás*. In 1979, I started my studies at *Kossuth Lajos Tudományegyetem* [*Lajos Kossuth* University of Arts and Sciences], majoring in chemistry, and I graduated in 1985 with an honors degree. Between 1985 and 1992, I worked as an assistant research fellow at *KLTE Természettudományi Kar Biokémiai Tanszék* [Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences of *KLTE*] and, later, as a grantee and research fellow in further training of *MTA TMB* [Academic Accreditation Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences]. I specialized in researching the purification and enzymological characterization of broad substrate-specificity type β-glucosidases, as a result of which I earned the title CSc in chemistry in 1993. From 1992, I worked at *KLTE TTK Mikrobiológiai és Biotechnológiai Tanszék* [Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology, Faculty of Sciences, *Lajos Kossuth* University of Arts and Sciences], first, as a research fellow and, then, as an associate professor. Gradually, my research interests turned towards the glutathione and reactive oxygen species metabolisms of industrially significant microorganisms. In 2000, I completed the habilitation process at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Debrecen and, since 2003, I have headed the Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology, Faculty of Sciences, *Lajos Kossuth* University of Debrecen, currently called Department of Molecular Biotechnology and Microbiology. In 2009, I was awarded the title doctor of biological sciences by *MTA*. The title of my dissertation was “*Néhány nagy gyakorlati jelentőségű gomba és gomba modellszervezet glutationmetabolizmusa*. [The glutathione metabolism of some practically significant fungi and fungal model organisms]” In 2011, I was appointed full professor at the Department of Microbial Biotechnology and Cell Biology.

So far, I have published 218 academic articles in periodicals on biochemistry, genomics, microbiology, mycology, food science and biotechnology, and I have also participated in writing 10 chapters of book-length publications (2 of which are in textbooks). My total impact factor is 494.905, and the number of citations received is 3291 (*MTMT Szakterületi táblázat*, December 18, 2021). My current research interests include oxidative stress response, the autolysis and apoptosis of the filamentous fungus Aspergillus nidulans, identification and annotation of the stress response proteins of filamentous fungi, regulation of environmental stress response and dimorphic transition in Candida albicans, generates of protein-based antifungal drugs and the development of functional foods.

Among my colleagues working directly under my supervision, three have received a dr. habil. degree, one of whom has earned the degree doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and has been appointed full professor. The number of Ph.D. dissertations completed under my supervision is 16 (in 5 of which I was a co-supervisor). I have supervised and co-supervised 130 theses, and 9 of my students, who took part in *TDK* [Academic Student Circle] competitions, have received special prizes at the national finals.

My teaching activities cover a broad spectrum. During the course of my career at the university, I have given and designed numerous courses in the fields of biochemistry, microbiology, mycology and biotechnology. Currently, I am responsible for coordinating the BSc and MSc accredited programs in biotechnology at the University of Debrecen.

I have participated in major study trips at King’s College London and Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. In addition, I have given lectures and seminar classes at several British, Belgian, Austrian, US, Danish, Dutch, German, Italian and Polish universities and research institutes.

I have taken part, or am still currently involved, in designing a number of basic research and innovation applications for tenders as a supervisor, professional expert or contributing researcher. At present, I am responsible for the projects *NKFIH 2018-1.2.1-NKP-2018- 00002 “A magyar fogyasztók rövid és hosszú távú aflatoxin-terhelésének meghatározása a tejtermékláncban és a kockázatkezelő intézkedések megalapozása”* [Determining the short and long-run aflatoxin exposure of Hungarian consumers in the dairy product chain and establishing risk management measures] and *NKFIH 2019-2.1.13-TÉT\_IN-2020-00056 “Biotechnológiai kutatások Fusarium mikotoxinoktól mentes gabonafélék és élelmiszerek előállítása céljából”* [Biotechnology research for the production of Fusarium mycotoxin-free cereals and food].

I am a co-editor of the periodical *Frontiers in Fungal Biology* and a member of the editorial board for the journals *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* and *Fungal Biology Reviews*. Furthermore, I am also a member of the advisory board for *Journal of Basic Microbiology*. In 2019 and 2020, I acted as a guest editor for the periodical *Frontiers in Microbiology* in the academic field “Aspergillus-derived mycotoxins in the feed and food chain.” During the course of my academic career, I have been the recipient of the following grants and scholarships: *Bolyai János Kutatási Ösztöndíj*, *Széchenyi Professzori Ösztöndíj*, *Széchenyi István Ösztöndíj* and *Öveges József Program Ösztöndíj*, as well as a Fulbright Research Fellowship. Since 2008, I have been a member of *MTA Mikrobiológiai Osztályközi Tudományos Bizottság* [Interdepartmental Microbiology Academic Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences]. In 2018, I was elected a board member of *Magyar Mikrobiológiai Társaság* [Hungarian Society for Microbiology], specifically, I chair the section on mycology.

In 2015, I was awarded the prize *Magyar Mikrobiológiai Társaság Emlékérem díj* [*Rezső Manninger* Memorial Medal of the Hungarian Society for Microbiology].