Prof. Dr. István Pócsi - Resume

I completed my graduate studies with an MSc with Honors in Chemistry degree in 1985 at the Kossuth Lajos University of Arts and Sciences in Debrecen. Between 1985 and 1992, as a Research Fellow and, later, as a Grantee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, I worked on the purification and enzymological characterization of broad substrate specificity β-glycosidases in the Department of Biochemistry at the Faculty of Science of the same University. As a result, I received my Candidate of Science degree in Chemistry in 1993. From 1992, I worked in the Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology as a Senior Research Fellow and later I was appointed an Associate Professor. My interest gradually turned towards the glutathione and reactive oxygen species metabolisms of industrially significant microorganisms. I received my Dr. habil. in Biology degree in 2000 from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Debrecen and, since 2003, I have been Head of the Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology, which is called now the Department of Molecular Biotechnology and Microbiology at the Faculty of Science and Technology. I received my Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences degree in Biology in 2009. The title of my dissertation was "The glutathione metabolism of some practically significant fungi and fungal model organisms". In 2011, I was appointed full-time professor and, starting from 2022, I have also been Leader of the HUN-REN-UD Fungal Stress Biology Research Group in Debrecen.

So far, 245 scientific papers of mine have been published or accepted for publication both in international and Hungarian journals of Biochemistry, Clinical Chemistry, Microbiology, Mycology, Biotechnology, Genetics and Genomics and Mycotoxin Research. I have also written 10 book chapters (including 2 text book chapters). My current research interests include physiology, regulation and evolution of environmental stress response in various fungi of industrial or biomedical significance, the autolysis and apoptosis of the filamentous fungus *Aspergillus nidulans*, identification and annotation of the stress response proteins of filamentous fungi, generates of protein-based antifungal drugs, the development of functional foods and also mycotoxin research in *Aspergillus* and *Fusarium* species.

My teaching activity is also wide-ranging. During my university career so far, I have worked out study programs of special courses and given lectures in Biochemistry, Microbiology, Mycology and Biotechnology. Currently, I am the Coordinator of the Biotechnology BSc program at the University of Debrecen.

I have accomplished longer scientific visits in the King's College London and in the Oklahoma State University. In addition, I have delivered lectures and seminar talks at many higher educational and research institutions in Europe and overseas. I have given English-language lectures at 25 international conferences so far.

I have taken and am taking part in the elaboration of a number of basic research and innovation-oriented projects either as a principal investigator or as a collaborating scientist. Most recently, I was the scientific coordinator (PI) of the Hungarian National Excellence Programme project "Estimation of the long- and short-term exposure of Hungarian consumers to aflatoxins present in dairy products and recommending risk management measures". (Project no. 2018-1.2.1-NKP-2018-00002).

Currently, I am a Member of the Editorial Boards of the journals Applied and Environmental Microbiology and Fungal Biology Reviews, and I am also serving as an Associate Editor of Fungal Genetics and Biology, Frontiers in Fungal Biology and Journal of Fungi, and served as a Guest Associate Editor of Frontiers in Microbiology.

Throughout my career, I received several scholarships, and I also won a Fulbright Research Fellowship. I have been Member of the Committee on Microbiology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences since 2008 and also a EUROFUNG Member since 2009.

In 2015, I was awarded the Manninger Rezső Memory Medal by the Hungarian Society for Microbiology. In 2023, I was invited to deliver the Pontecorvo Lecture at Asperfest19, Innsbruck, Austria.