

## Curriculum vitae

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Pircs Karolina, 16.05.1986, Hungarian.

ORCID: 0000-0001-8281-4785; ResearcherID: O-2016-2017, [Google Scholar profile](#)

URL for web site: <https://semmelweis.hu/hcemm-neurobiology/>

### • EDUCATION

- 2009 - 2013 Summa cum laude PhD in Biological Sciences, Molecular Cell Biology  
Dep. of Anatomy, Cell and Developmental Biology, Eötvös Lóránd University (ELTE),  
Budapest, Hungary, Name of PhD Supervisor: [Prof Gábor Juhász](#)
- 2004 - 2009 MSc in Biological Sciences, Area of specialization: Molecular Biology, Genetics  
Dep. of Anatomy, Cell and Developmental Biology, ELTE, Budapest, Hungary

### • CURRENT POSITIONS

- 2021 - present Assistant Professor (Permanent position, Faculty Funded)  
Group Leader: HCEMM-SU Neurobiology and Neurodegeneration Research Group, Hungarian  
Centre of Excellence for Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Translational  
Medicine, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary
- 2025 – present Senior researcher (3-year position, TKI funded)  
Group leader (shared with Csaba Kerepesi, PhD): HUN-REN-SZTAKI-SU Rejuvenation  
research group, Hungarian Research Network, Budapest, Hungary
- 2024 – 2026 Guest researcher (Laboratory of Molecular Neurogenetics)  
Faculty of Medicine, Dep. of Experimental Medical Science, Lund University, Sweden

### RELEVANT PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 2019 - 2024 Associate Senior Lecturer (Faculty Funded, competitively hired >20 applicants)  
Faculty of Medicine, Dep. of Experimental Medical Science, Lund University, Sweden
- 2016 – 2019 Postdoctoral Fellow (Faculty Funded)  
Laboratory of Molecular Neurogenetics, Faculty of Medicine, Dep. of Experimental Medical  
Science, Lund University, Lund, Sweden. PI: [Prof Johan Jakobsson](#)
- 2014 – 2016 Postdoctoral Fellow (Fellowship, Hjärfonden)  
Laboratory of Molecular Neurogenetics, Faculty of Medicine, Dep. of Experimental Medical  
Science, Lund University, Lund, Sweden. PI: [Prof Johan Jakobsson](#)

### • SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, PATENTS AND AWARDS

- 2025 Patent with HUN-REN-SZTAKI
- 2025 Supervisor of the Semmelweis PhD Innovation award winner Kinga Vörös
- 2024 Invited Speaker, Brain Awareness Week
- 2023 Semmelweis University Faculty Excellence Merit Award
- 2022 Invited Speaker, MultiPark Innovation Group
- 2021 Invited Speaker, Making the transition to a group leader role, EMBL Careers Webinar
- 2020 – 2021 Invited Speaker, Hungarian Virtual European Researcher's Night
- 2019 Invited Speaker, What's next? How to be a role model? Lund Stem Cell Center (SCC)
- 2019 Lund Stem Cell Center Article of the Year Award for Pircs et al. published in Cell Reports
- 2018 AcouSort, AcouWash User, #6 place in The Scientist 2018 Top 10 Innovations
- 2017 The FEBS Journal Poster Prize at 1<sup>st</sup> NAS Conference, Sigtuna, Sweden
- 2014 – 2016 Hjärfonden, Laboratory of Molecular Neurogenetics, Lund University, Lund, Sweden

### • TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- 2025 Supervision of a TEA-NET Visiting Research Fellow from Hongkong
- 2025 Supervisor of the 37th OTDK Student Conference winner, Sramkó Bendegúz, Pécs, Hungary
- 2025 Supervisor of the Semmelweis PhD Innovation award winner Kinga Vörös
- 2024 World Science Forum, GYA-IAP workshop on trust in science
- 2024 Fulbright Scholar mentor
- 2024 Invited Speaker at Brain Awareness Week and at the Unistem Cell Day
- 2024 Early Career Training Programme (ECTP) mentor
- 2020 – present Ongoing Supervision as a PI at HCEMM-SU and at LU: 2 researcher, 7 PhD students, 1 MSc student, 1 medical student, 1 pharma student

- 2014 – 2020 Finished supervision as main supervisor at Lund University, Lund, Sweden  
2 summer students, 1 BSc student, 5 MSc students
- 2022 Invited Speaker at BRIDGE-Translational Excellence Programme
- 2021 – present Mentor, National Academy of Education, Hungary
- 2021 Invited Speaker at EMBL Careers Webinar | Making the transition to a group leader role
- 2020 - present Invited Speaker at the European Researcher's Night (>100 participants)
- 2014 - 2024 Associate Senior Lecturer –Lund University, Lund, Sweden  
Lecturer, Course organizer since 2014 at the Faculty of Medicine: Molecular genetics of eukaryotic organisms, Gene Therapy Day at the Multipark Neuroscience Course, Scientific Writing as part of the Advanced Cancer Biology course, Neurodegeneration Team based learning course at the Advanced course in Neuroscience
- 2019 Invited Speaker at What's next? Meeting forum for Postdocs- Supervision of junior staff. How to be a role model? organized by Lund Stem Cell Center (SCC)
- 2015 - present Unistem Cell Day (workshop organizer at LU then at SU, invited speaker at SU), Europe-wide Public stem cell engagement dedicated to high school students (>500 students each year)
- Formal Pedagogic Training (totaling >5 weeks): Perspectives on Learning, Project Based Learning, Research Supervision, DUCO Management Training
- EMBO Laboratory Management Course: The art of leadership- fewer conflicts, more results
- EMBO Lab Leadership for Group Leaders
- **ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS**
- 2026 Organizer of a Hungarian Neuroscience Symposia, Budapest, Hungary
- 2022 MET – MMVBT Conference Speaker, HCEMM Symposium organizer, Budapest, Hungary
- 2020 - 2023 Organizer of the Stem Cell Center Distinguished Webinar Series, Lund University  
*Stem Cell Research and Clinical Translation*, virtual event (>100 participants)  
*New frontiers and implications of new species models*, virtual event (>60 participants)  
*Frontiers in the Development of New Gene Therapy Delivery*, virtual event (>60 participants)
- **INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**
- 2023 – present Head of the Molecular signaling in neurodegenerative diseases special interest group at LU
- 2022 – present Mentor, National Academy of Education, Hungary
- 2021 – present Head of the FACS, Cell, HCA and Viral Vector Core Facility, Semmelweis University
- 2020 – present Supervisor, 5 PhD students enrolled in Theoretical and Translational Doctoral School
- 2020 – present Organizer of the Stem Cell Center Distinguished Webinar Series, Lund University
- 2019 – present Associate Senior Lecturer, Lund University, Sweden
- 2019 – present Mentee, Future Faculty, Lund University, Sweden
- 2014 – present Member, Special Interest Group leader, Infrastructure Tender (worth €350,000) writer in 2020 for a new high content screening machine purchased by the Multidisciplinary research focused on Parkinson's disease (Multipark), Lund University
- **REVIEWING ACTIVITIES (if applicable)**
- 2020 – present Guest Editor, GeroScience (IF: 8.878)
- 2020 – present MSc, Half-time, PhD thesis defence Opponent, Committee Member at LU, SU, Hungarian University of Sports Science, Warsaw University, Poland and Elche University, Spain
- 2025 Grant Reviewer, National Science Centre Poland
- 2024 Grant Reviewer, CELSA, Lendület Consolidator
- 2021 Grant Reviewer, HCEMM and OTKA
- 2018 Grant Reviewer, Neurological Foundation of New-Zealand
- 2018 Grant Reviewer, DFG (German Research Foundation)
- Regular reviewer for Nature Comm, Brain, Autophagy, Plos One, Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology, Experimental Neurology, Frontiers of medicine, Cellular Reprogramming, Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience, FEBS Open Bio, JCOMM, Frontiers in pharmacology, Cell Biology and Toxicology, Translational neurodegeneration
- **MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES**
- 2025 - present ELLIS
- 2025 - present ISSCR, International Society for Stem Cell Research
- 2024 - present MÉT, Hungarian Physiological Society

2022 - present Hungarian Young Academy  
 2022 - present Hungarian Academy of Sciences Excellent Research Center  
 2022 - present AcademiaNet: nominated by the Swedish Research Council – the expert database for outstanding female academics (now Bosch Alumni Network)  
 2020 - present Women in Autophagy Beth Levine's Legacy Network (WIA)  
 2018 - present European Huntington's Disease Network (EHDN)  
 2017 - present Nordic Autophagy Society member (NAS)  
 2015 - present Transautophagy (European Cooperation in Science and Technology): Swedish representative  
 2014 – present Stem Cell Center member, Lund University  
 2014 – present MultiPark member, Head of the Molecular signaling in neurodegenerative diseases Special Interest group and tender writer, Lund University  
 2014 – present Network of European CNS Transplantation & Restoration (NECTAR)

• **CAREER BREAKS**

1<sup>st</sup> Parental leave with daughter for 10 months: from 2018-03-26 until 2019-02-04

2<sup>nd</sup> Parental leave with son for 10 months: from 2023-01-09 until 2023-11-02

• **SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES**

2026 Plenary speaker at 9th Hungarian Neuroscience Doctoral Conference for Undergraduate Students, Graduate Students and Junior Post-Docs, Budapest, Hungary  
 2025 Invited Speaker at Women in Autophagy, online, (>500 participants)  
 2025 Plenary speaker at the 25th Kolozsvári Biologist day, Kolozsvár, Romania  
 2025 MIA Portugal – the Multidisciplinary Institute of Ageing Seminar, Coimbra, Portugal  
 2024 Towards a Strengthened European Cooperation in Brain Health Research, Budapest, Hungary  
 2024 6th Cell, Developmental, and Stem Cell Biology Conference, Budapest, Hungary  
 2024 EHDN and Enroll-HD, Strasbourg, France  
 2024 Hungarian Young Academy Forum, Budapest, Hungary  
 2024 53<sup>rd</sup> Membrane Transport conference, Sümeg, Hungary  
 2023 XXI. Meeting of Nobel Laureates and talented students, Szeged, Hungary  
 2023 NECTAR, Naples, Italy. *Direct neural conversion: New possibilities to identify potential novel therapeutic targets in HD using a patient-derived induced neuronal model*  
 2023 GMO Minisymposia, Pécs, Hungary  
 2022 HCEMM Symposia organizer and speaker at MÉT – MMVBT, Budapest, Hungary  
 2022 BRIDGE-Translational Excellence Programme: Translational Tools: New methods, virtual  
 2022 HUPHAR60, Annual Congress of Pharmacology Research and Innovation, Hungary, *MiND+: A new drug screening strategy for age-related cognitive disorders using induced neurons*  
 2022 EMBL Careers Webinar | Making the transition to a group leader role, virtual, >100 participants  
 2022 Invited speaker by the MultiPark Innovation Group, LU, *MiND+: A new drug screening strategy for age-related cognitive disorders using induced neurons*  
 2020 Hungarian Virtual European Researcher's Night, virtual (>100 participants), *Brain cells from skin cells: Basic cell reprogramming*  
 2020 The AIM Center's Early Career Investigator Series, selected ePoster, virtual. *Direct neuronal reprogramming of Huntington's disease fibroblasts reveals post-transcriptionally regulated autophagy and neurite impairments*  
 2019 Stem Cell Center Retreat, Lund Stem Cell Center Article of the Year Award, Lund, Sweden  
 2019 CRISPR seminar series, LU, Sweden *CRISPRi: same target, cell type specific outcome*  
 2019 Multipark Annual Meeting, LU, Sweden *Direct neural conversion: New possibilities to model late onset neurodegenerative diseases*  
 2019 The Segerfalk Symposium: Neural reprogramming and disease modelling, Lund, Sweden. *Modelling Huntington's disease using directly reprogrammed patient-derived neurons*  
 2017 EMBO Autophagy Meeting, Dubrovnik, Croatia, selected abstract. *Huntingtin aggregation impairs autophagy leading to Argonaute-2 accumulation and global microRNA dysregulation*  
 2016 Annual Transautophagy COST Action Conference, Warsaw, Poland. *Impaired autophagy in Huntington's disease impacts on global microRNA-levels through Argonaute-2 accumulation*  
 2014 - NECTAR conference; Galway, Ireland -14; Lund, Sweden -15, Paris - France -18, virtual -20

• **SELECTED PRESS RELEASES IN NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL PRESS**

- 2026 [Featured in Neuroloom Podcast – Huntington’s Disease Neuron Study](#)
- 2025 [Press release in Innotéka journal and in the Radio about research collaboration](#)
- 2024 [Presenter at the Brain Awareness week at ELTE University](#)
- 2024 [Interview about induced neurons in Kossuth Radio](#)
- 2023 [Press release in Hungarian IPM journal](#)
- 2023 [Science Café presentation](#)
- 2023 [Éva online magazine interview](#)
- 2023 [Radio interview about Dementia in Pontjókör, RadioCafé](#)
- 2022 [Profile Area granted!, Proactive Ageing: Brain & Movement](#)
- 2022 [Speaker at the inauguration of our new HCEMM Incubator House, Szeged, Hungary](#)
- 2021 [HCEMM-Semmelweis University Introductory Group video](#)
- 2021 [Press release about Dementia-free old age \(Demenciamentes öregkor\) in Hungarian journal "Figyelő"](#)
- 2020 [Swedish Research Council awards Lund Stem Cell Center researchers over 23 million SEK](#)
- 2020 [Autophagy and the treatment of Huntington disease: timing is key](#)
- 2020 [Stem cell researchers aim to understand Huntington progression](#)
- 2018 [Powerful molecules provide new findings about Huntington’s disease](#)
- 2018 [AcouSort, AcouWash User, #6 place in The Scientist 2018 Top 10 Innovations](#)

• **SELECTED PRIZES AND AWARDS**

2024: TKCS 3-year collaborative research grant 2023: Semmelweis University Faculty Excellence Merit Award, OTKA-FK 4 year Grant 2021: Thematic Excellence Program, 2020: HCEMM 5-year Junior Starting Grant, Swedish Research Council 5-year Establishment Grant, 2019: Article of the Year Award for Pircs et al. published in Cell Reports