

## Symposium in Memory of Ádám Kondorosi

### *Honoring a Legacy in Symbiotic Nitrogen Fixation*

April 30, 2026

Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Széchenyi tér 1, Budapest

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**09:00–09:30 Registration**

**09:30–10:00 Opening**

László Buday, Vice-President, Biology Section, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

#### **Welcome Addresses:**

- **Tamás Freund**, President, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
  - **Balázs Gulyás**, President, Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN)
  - **Jonathan Joël Robert Lacôte**, Ambassador of France to Hungary
  - **Sierd Cloetingh**, Former President, Academia Europaea
  - **Mária Deli**, Deputy General Director, HUN-REN Biological Research Centre
  - **Eva Kondorosi**, HUN-REN Biological Research Centre
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**10:00–10:20**

Sir John Beringer — *History of Microbial Genetics*

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**10:20–11:00**

#### ***The Beginnings of Nitrogen Fixation Research***

Chair: Claudine Elmerich

- **Katalin Karikó** — *My memories of Adam Kondorosi (video)*
  - **Zsófia Bánfalvi** — *Rhizobium meliloti Carries Two Megaplastids: Fourteen Years of Working with Ádám Kondorosi*
  - **Helmi Schlaman** — *The First Time*
  - **Marcelle Holsters** — *From pathogen to symbiont*
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**11:00–11:25 Coffee Break**

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**11:25–12:45**

***Ádám Kondorosi Academia Europaea Award Session***

**Chair:** Sierd Cloetingh

- **Allan Downie** — *Mutants I never found*
  - **Ray Dixon** — *Engineering Nitrogen Fixation Genes and Their Regulation*
  - **Paola Bonfante** — *A Shared Underground Journey: From Arbuscular Mycorrhizae to Nitrogen-Fixing Nodules*
  - **Jens Stougaard** — *Plant Perception of Microbial Signal Molecules*
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**12:45–14:10 Lunch Break**

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**14:10–15:20**

***Varietas Delectat: The Colors of Symbiotic Nitrogen Fixation***

**Chair:** Gabriella Endre

- **Georgina Hernández** — *Remembrance of Ádám Kondorosi from Mexico*
  - **Jan Kijne** — *Uridine, a Sleeping Beauty*
  - **Herman Spaijk** — *The Origin of the nod Genes: Frankia or Streptomyces?*
  - **Peter Gresshoff** — *Pongamia pinnata, a Legume Tree Species Impacting the Global Biofuel Scene (video)*
  - **Yi-Ping Wang** — *My Work on the Rhizobium Dicarboxylate Transport System and Nitrogenase*
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**15:20–16:10**

***The Impact of the Institut des Sciences Végétales on Symbiosis***

**Chair:** Péter Kaló

- **Bruno Gronenborn** — *Le bicentenaire de la Révolution and the Beginning of the ISV*
  - **Peter Mergaert** — *Antimicrobial peptides controlling bacterial symbionts in the rhizobium-legume symbiosis and beyond*
  - **Christian Staehelin** — *From the Kondorosi Laboratory in Gif-sur-Yvette to Guangzhou: Three Decades of Research on Symbiotic Glycosyl Hydrolases*
  - **Attila Kereszt** — *Not All Allies Are Welcome: Partner Discrimination in Legume–Rhizobium Symbiosis*
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**16:10–16:30 Coffee Break**

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**16:30–17:30 Closing Session**

- **Éva Kondorosi** — *My Swan Song in Interkingdom Communication*
- **Graham Walker** — *Rhizobium–Legume Symbiosis: A Window into Nitrogen Fixation, Interkingdom Interactions, Broader Biology, and Global Issues*

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17:30-18:30 Taking the symposium flower decoration to Adam's grave (max. 5 participants, transfer from the academy building to the cemetery and back)

**19:00–21:30 Dinner**

***Spoon The Boat***

*1052 Budapest, Vigadó square, Port 3*