

CURRICULUM VITAE



DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 25 April 1967, Szeged, Hungary

CITIZENSHIP: Hungarian

EDUCATION:

- 1991: **M.D.**, Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical University, Szeged, Hungary

POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING:

- 1991-96: **Resident** at the 1st Department of Internal Medicine at Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical University, Szeged, Hungary
- 1997: **Specialist** in internal medicine, 2003: rheumatology, 2005: nephrology, 2007: clinical immunology (grades for each: excellent).

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS HELD

- 1997-2001: **Registrar** at the 1st Department of Internal Medicine
- 2001-2004: **Registrar** at the Department of Rheumatology, University of Szeged, Hungary
- 2004-2006: **Division head**: 1st Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Nephrology and Immunology, Saint George Hospital of Fejér County, Székesfehérvár, Hungary
- 2006-2008 : **Consultant** in internal medicine, clinical immunology and rheumatology, 1st Department of Internal Medicine and FMC Hungary Dialysis Centre, University of Szeged, Hungary
- 2008-2010: **Assistant Professor**, 2010-2017.: **Associate Professor**, 2017-: **Professor** at the Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, University of Szeged, Hungary

- 2011-: **Department Head** at the Department of Rheumatology and Immunology, University of Szeged, Hungary

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 1993- : Tutor in internal medicine, rheumatology, clinical immunology and basic immunology at the University of Szeged (Hungarian language)
- 1996- : Tutor in internal medicine, rheumatology, clinical immunology and basic immunology at the University of Szeged (English language)
- **2008- : Coordinator of undergraduate training** of rheumatology
- 1997- : Tutor, since 2008: mentor of residents in internal medicine and rheumatology training
- **2013- : Director of the postgraduate program** for rheumatology training at University of Szeged
- **2013- : Mentor of residents in clinical immunology training**
- 2013- : Board examination in rheumatology
- 2021- : Board examination in clinical immunology
- **2008- : PhD program** leader in autoimmune diseases at University of Szeged

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

- 1995: **Training course** in the Genetics and IVF Institute, Fairfax, VA, USA
- 2001: **Visiting fellow** in the Institute of Immunology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg MB, Canada (Western blot, cell culturing, rat arthritis model).
- 2004: **PhD degree** (The investigation of pathogenetic factors in primary Sjögren's syndrome – with special reference to an autonomic nervous system dysfunction).
- 2021: **DSc degree** (Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences - Selected aspects of the immunopathology and clinical aspects of systemic autoimmune diseases)
- Publication activities:
 - 81 in extenso papers in English language international journals
 - independent citations: 3236
 - Hirsch index: 32
 - Handbook editor: Rheumatology for medical students (Hungarian and English version)

- Textbook chapter: 4 (in Hungarian textbooks in the field of rheumatology and immunology)
- Link to list of publications:
<https://m2.mtmt.hu/gui2/?type=authors&mode=browse&sel=10000086>
- Participation in international clinical trials:
 - Incomplete lupus erythematosus, Systemic lupus erythematosus with a disease duration of more than 10 years (under the supervision of ESCISIT)
 - The investigation of the genetics of systemic lupus erythematosus (BIOLUPUS)
 - PRECISESADS - Molecular Reclassification to Find Clinically Useful Biomarkers for Systemic Autoimmune Diseases Mechanisms for the Improvement of Drug Development and Therapy
 - IRBIS Network (International Registry for Biologics in Systemic lupus erythematosus)
 - ENDORSED – The definition of severe lupus
 - STRATEGY - STeroid Regimen And Timing of withdrawal for Effective eGFR recoverY in ANCA-GN.
 - Oral pyrophosphate supplementation for the treatment of calcinosis in systemic sclerosis – collaborating research group with the participation of several Hungarian and US scleroderma centres supported by SCTC
- Major research grants awarded:
 - 2002-2005: Research grant from the Hungarian National Research Fund (PI)
 - 2009-2015: Investigator-initiated research grants from Wyeth, Abbvie and UCB (PI)
 - 2009-2012: Bolyai scholarship from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
 - 2017-2020: EU-research grant (ECRIN) (PI)
 - 2018-2020 and 2020-2022: Research grants from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Szeged (PI and co-I)
 - 2022-2024: Scleroderma Clinical Trials Consortium Working Groups Grant (PI)
 - 2023- : Collaborative research grant – University of Szeged and Hungarian Research Network (co-PI)

- 2023-2024 EULAR Research Voucher, Cognitive impairment in systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis - the potential role of biomarkers, főpályázó, 5000 EUR

MEMBERSHIPS AND FUNCTIONS

- **Executive Board Member (2008-), Treasurer (2012-2016), Vice President (2021-):**
Hungarian Association of Rheumatologists
- **Vice Chairman:** Albert Szent-Györgyi Health Centre, University of Szeged
- Member: **SLEuro** (since 2017), Scleroderma Clinical Trials Consortium (2021-)
- Member: **EULAR Research Committee** (2021-)
- Member: EULAR Network of Trial Centres (**ENTRI**) Initiative (2022-)
- Member: **Council** of the Albert Szent-Györgyi **Faculty of Medicine**, University of Szeged
- Member: **EULAR Task Force** for the 2023 Updated Recommendations for the Treatment of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
- Member: **DORIS Task Force** (2025-)
- Member: **National College of Medicine**, Division of Rheumatology (2025-)

Szeged, 29 January 2026



László Kovács



MOTIVATION LETTER

My name is László Kovács, I am a professor and head of the Department of Rheumatology and Immunology at University of Szeged, Hungary.

As an academic centre, our primary duty is the management of patients with systemic autoimmune and other immune-mediated diseases as the tertiary referral centre of Southeast Hungary. We take care of several hundreds of SLE, systemic sclerosis, Sjögren's disease and vasculitis patients, in addition to all forms of arthritis and musculoskeletal problems. I have more than 25 years of experience in the treatment of severe lupus.

Research and education are further major fields of our activity. Although our department is not a first-line research centre yet, we have been active in clinical and translational research in many fields of rheumatology*. I have been active in the research of anti-muscarinic acetylcholine autoantibodies in Sjögren's disease, in the investigation of the immunoregulatory role of galectin-1, and alterations in the cell surface glycoprotein composition in SLE T-cells, and now we are running Cytof studies on extrafollicular B-cells and various subtypes of regulatory T-cells in SLE. We have established an inception cohort of patients with SLE and several other systemic autoimmune diseases for long-term prospective studies. I am especially interested in cognitive dysfunction in SLE. I am dedicated to the education of rheumatology trainees, and I like interactive case-based practical teaching methods with the active participation of the students, often involving quizzes or team-based competitive techniques.

Our large patient population has provided us the opportunity to be part of the BIOLUPUS and the PRECISESADS consortia. I have participated in several other collaborative research projects initiated by SLEuro member experts, including the assessment of the value of SLEDAS, or the ENDORSED project. I feel very honoured that I can be a member of the EULAR Research Committee. In this position, I have put efforts into the initiation of the ENTRI project and a EULAR-endorsed mentorship program for talented young investigators from low- or middle-income EULAR-affiliated countries. I also have the privilege to be a member of the DORIS Task Force.

Based upon my experience at my workplace and the above-mentioned international activities, I think I could contribute to the aims of SLEuro in several ways. I would be motivated to take part in educational activities relating to the clinical care of lupus patients, to translational and clinical research and collaboration with patient organisations. I would be happy to contribute to collaborative research projects with patient data, biobanked samples or expert opinion. I may contribute to the activities of the Executive Committee by sharing special aspects of lupus centres in Central-Eastern Europe.

Szeged, 29 January 2026.



László Kovács

* List of publications of the Department:

<https://m2.mtmt.hu/gui2/?type=institutes&mode=browse&sel=institutes19781>



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