

# Reichstein Medal Award Lecture 2021

September 6, 2021, 2.00-3.00 pm

Auditorium Ettore Rossi, Kinderklinik  
Universitätsspital-Inselspital Bern



## «Developing mRNA for Therapy»



SAPhS  
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Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. **Katalin Karikó**  
BioNTech RNA Pharmaceuticals  
& University of Pennsylvania

Senior Vice President at **BioNTech** RNA Pharmaceuticals since 2019 where she leads the mRNA-based protein replacement program. She is also Adjunct Associate Professor at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. She received her Ph.D. in biochemistry from University of Szeged, Hungary, in 1982.

Her research has been focusing on **RNA-mediated mechanisms** with the goal of developing in vitro-transcribed mRNA for protein therapy. She investigated RNA-mediated immune activation and co-discovered that nucleoside modifications suppress immunogenicity of RNA, widening the therapeutic potentials of mRNA. She is co-inventor on mRNA-related patents for application of non-immunogenic, nucleoside-modified RNA.

Her patent on nucleoside-modified uridines is used to create the **anti-SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccines**, BNT162b2 and mRNA-1273 by BioNTech/Pfizer and Moderna/NIH. She has 10 patents granted by US and 3 published patents.

**COVID Measures: max.200 participants  
protective mask wearing obligation  
Registration mandatory via  
[www.saphw.ch](http://www.saphw.ch) or scan :**



# COVID-19

