

Announcement for Björn Ekwall Memorial Foundation Award 2022

The Björn Ekwall Memorial Foundation (BEMF) was initiated to honor the memory of Dr. Björn Ekwall (1940-2000), to promote cell toxicology and to establish a prize, the Björn Ekwall Memorial Award. The prize is awarded to scientists who have significantly contributed to the field of cell toxicology, and whose work is leading toward the replacement of animal experiments by alternative toxicity tests and approaches.

The Björn Ekwall Memorial Foundation board is happy to announce that the BEMF-award 2022 will be presented to Dr. Helena Kandárová during the opening session of the ESTIV congress in Barcelona Spain in November 21, 2022. The BEMF-award ceremony will include a short introduction of BEMF followed by the awardee's presentation.

Dr. Helena Kandárová is an European Registered Toxicologist having a deep knowledge in regulatory toxicology and especially in *in vitro* methods and broad practical experience to apply *in vitro* science and *in vitro* toxicology at research institutes, academia and industry. She performed her Ph.D. thesis at Freie Universität in Berlin on use of reconstructed human tissue models in regulatory toxicology. After finishing her Ph.D., she moved to *in vitro* science industry, MatTek Corporation. Dr. Kandárová's recent position is acting as Senior Scientist in Centre of Experimental Medicine at the Slovak Academy of Science, Bratislava, Slovakia and assistant professor in the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology, Institute of Biochemistry and Microbiology, Bratislava, Slovakia.

Dr. Kandárová has been and is actively involved in many national and international projects related to development, validation and implementation of *in vitro* methods to promote a paradigm shift from animal biology-based testing to *in vitro*-based testing in research and regulatory science. Her special focus is non-animal methods and approaches for topical toxicity testing. She has over 50 publications. Dr. Kandárová is an executive board member of several toxicology related organizations. To mention a few: she is president of the European Society for Toxicology in Vitro (2020-), a member of EPAA Mirror group (2020-) and the chair of the Slovak National Platform for 3Rs (2018-).

BEMF acknowledge very much Dr. Kandárová's novel scientific work, dissemination and promotion of non-animal science to replace animal testing.

Björn Ekwall Memorial Foundation

Cecilia Clemedson

Karin Gabrielson Morton

Karl Ekwall

Tuula Heinonen

Stina Oredsson

Anders Peterson

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