

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

**70<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM OF



*Professor*  
***Gábor Varga***



27 February 2026, 9:30 – 14:30



Árkövy Lecture Hall, Faculty of Dentistry,  
Education Centre, Szentkirályi utca 47.  
1085 Budapest, Hungary

ORGANIZED BY



Semmelweis University  
Centre for Translational Medicine



Semmelweis University  
Department of Oral Biology



# *Professor Gábor Varga*

## BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Professor Gábor Varga, born in **1956**, is one of the most respected figures of Hungarian and international biomedical research, whose scientific, educational, and community-building activities have left a lasting impact across several disciplines.

He began his career as a research physiologist at the Institute of Experimental Medicine and, in 2002, was appointed **Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral Biology at Semmelweis University**. His scientific work has consistently focused on understanding biological systems at the molecular level, with particular emphasis on the regulation of epithelial tissue development and function, including the **salivary glands, tooth enamel, and pancreas**, as well as **mesenchymal stem cells derived from human dental tissues**.

Beyond fundamental research, Professor Varga has been a pioneer of **translational medicine**, leading and participating in numerous clinical and translational projects. Notably, his work has contributed to the development of **saliva-based diagnostic approaches**, including applications during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since **2021**, he has served as **Vice-Director, supervisor, and research group leader at the Centre for Translational Medicine**, where he continues to play a key role in bridging basic science and clinical application.

His scientific output is outstanding: he has published extensively in leading international journals such as Gastroenterology, Gut, Journal of Dental Research, and Periodontology 2000. His work is reflected in a **Hirsch index of 42 and more than 7,500 citations**, a testament to both the quality and the international relevance of his research. He has successfully led and contributed to major research projects funded by **OTKA, the European Union, the Wellcome Trust, the Royal Society, and the NIH (NIDCR)**.

Professor Varga is equally distinguished as an **educator and mentor**. He has supervised **25 PhD students to successful defense** and currently mentors several fellows and early-career researchers. Generations of students and colleagues regard him not only as an exceptional scientist, but also as a supportive mentor who sets high standards while remaining deeply human and accessible.

Beyond his professional achievements, Professor Varga's life is marked by remarkable **personal stability and values**. He has been **married to his wife, Kriszta, for 48 years**, and together they have raised **four children**. Today, he is also a proud grandfather of seven **grandchildren**, a role he embraces with the same dedication, joy, and responsibility that characterize all aspects of his life.

In the wider community, Professor Varga is highly respected as a **family man, moral role model, and exemplary member of the Reformed Church**, where his integrity, commitment, and service are widely acknowledged. His life and career demonstrate in a compelling way how **scientific excellence, ethical leadership, strong family values, and community responsibility** can be harmoniously integrated.

Taken together, Professor Varga's **scientific achievements, mentorship, leadership, and human qualities** make his career truly exemplary. It is therefore especially fitting that his **70th birthday** is celebrated with a **high-level international scientific symposium**, bringing together colleagues and friends from **multiple continents** who have been inspired by both his work and his personality.

# Program

## OF THE SYMPOSIUM

### 9:30 - 9:50 OPENING REMARKS

- 9:30 **Béla Merkely**, Rector, Semmelweis University  
**Szilveszter E. Vizi**, Former President, Hungarian Academy of Sciences  
**Gábor Gerber**, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry

### 9:50 - 11:05 Session 1 - Pancreas

*Chairs: Péter Hegyi, Martin Steward*

- 9:50 - 10:15 **Michael Gray** - Novel regulation of CFTR-dependent ion and fluid transport in the airways by luminal succinate  
10:15 - 10:35 **Péter Hegyi** - Why the pancreas secretes bicarbonate  
10:35 - 10:50 **Martin Steward** - Manchester-Budapest collaboration in exocrine physiology 1996-2009  
10:50 - 11:05 **Zoltán Rakonczay** - From Gene Transfer to Inflammation: Mechanisms and Clinical Implications in Pancreatic Disease

### 11:05 - 11:20 COFFEE BREAK

### 11:20 - 12:15 Session 2 - Oral Biology

*Chairs: Bea Kerémi, Anna Földes*

- 11:20 - 11:45 **Pamela Den Besten** - The relationship between pH and ameloblast modulation; clues from CFTR loss of function and fluorosis mouse models  
11:45 - 12:00 **Ákos Nagy** - Saliva as a diagnostic factor – Investigation of potentially malignant oral lesions based on salivary microRNA expression patterns  
12:00 - 12:15 **János Vág** - Unifying error measurement across the digital prosthetic workflow

### 12:15 - 12:25 COFFEE BREAK

### 12:25 - 13:30 Session 3 - Translational & Clinical

*Chairs: Gábor Gerber, Péter Hermann*

- 12:25 - 12:45 **Ákos Zsembery** - Bicarbonate – not only a buffer!  
12:45 - 13:05 **Miklós Sahin-Tóth** - Genetic risk factors of ductal dysfunction in chronic pancreatitis  
13:05 - 13:20 **Ákos Szűcs** - Launching Robotic Pancreatic Surgery in Hungary: First Experiences  
13:20 - 13:30 **László Márk Czumbel** - Innovative saliva diagnostics – moving beyond tradition during the Covid-19 pandemic

### 13:30 - 14:30 RECEPTION