

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	<b>Béla Merkely</b> , Rector, Semmelweis University
	<b>Szilveszter E. Vizi</b> , Former President, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
	<b>Gábor Gerber</b> , Dean, Faculty of Dentistry
9:50 - 11:05	<b>Session 1 - Pancreas</b>
	<i>Chairs: Péter Hegyi, Martin Steward</i>
9:50 - 10:15	<b>Michael Gray</b> - Novel regulation of CFTR-dependent ion and fluid transport in the airways by luminal succinate
10:15 - 10:35	<b>Péter Hegyi</b> - Why the pancreas secrets bicarbonate
10:35 - 10:50	<b>Martin Steward</b> - Manchester-Budapest collaboration in exocrine physiology 1996-2009
10:50 - 11:05	<b>Zoltán Rakonczay</b> - From Gene Transfer to Inflammation: Mechanisms and Clinical Implications in Pancreatic Disease

## 11:05 - 11:20 COFFEE BREAK

11:20 - 12:15	<b>Session 2 - Oral Biology</b>
	<i>Chairs: Bea Kerémi, Anna Földes</i>
11:20 - 11:45	<b>Pamela Den Besten</b> - The relationship between pH and ameloblast modulation; clues from CFTR loss of function and fluorosis mouse models
11:45 - 12:00	<b>Ákos Nagy</b> - Saliva as a diagnostic factor – Investigation of potentially malignant oral lesions based on salivary microRNA expression patterns
12:00 - 12:15	<b>János Vág</b> - Unifying error measurement across the digital prosthetic workflow

## 12:15 - 12:25 COFFEE BREAK

12:25 - 13:30	<b>Session 3 - Translational &amp; Clinical</b>
	<i>Chairs: Gábor Gerber, Péter Hermann</i>
12:25 - 12:45	<b>Ákos Zsembery</b> - Bicarbonate – not only a buffer!
12:45 - 13:05	<b>Miklós Sahin-Tóth</b> - Genetic risk factors of ductal dysfunction in chronic pancreatitis
13:05 - 13:20	<b>Ákos Szűcs</b> - Launching Robotic Pancreatic Surgery in Hungary: First Experiences
13:20 - 13:30	<b>László Márk Czumbel</b> - Innovative saliva diagnostics – moving beyond tradition during the Covid-19 pandemic

## 13:30 - 14:30 RECEPTION