



Viktor Mutt 100



Viktor Mutt. Photo: Estonian National Museum [1]

Viktor Mutt (1923–1998) is one of the most internationally known Estonian biochemists and medical scientists. His research was performed at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, where he defended his doctoral thesis on the preparation of secretin in 1959 and then continued research on isolation and analysis of bioactive peptides. During his career he discovered more than 50 naturally occurring bioactive peptides present in minute concentrations, including several important neuropeptides and peptide hormones [2]. He contributed to the understanding that not only small molecules but also peptides can be neurotransmitters, and that small molecule neurotransmitters can coexist in the same neurons with neuropeptides and may be released by stimuli at different frequencies.

Viktor Mutt was elected a member of the Royal Swedish Academy in 1983 and a foreign member of the US National Academy of Sciences in 1986. He was awarded several international scientific awards, and since 1990 he was an honorary doctor of the University of Tartu.

A conference in honour of the 100th birthday of Viktor Mutt was organized at the Estonian Academy of Sciences in Tallinn on 19 January 2024 (<https://www.akadeemia.ee/sundmused/viktor-muti-100-sunniaastapaevale-puhendatud-konverents/>), in cooperation with Tallinn University of Technology, the University of Tartu, the Estonian Biochemical Society and the Estonian Chemical Society. The conference was opened by the president of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, Tarmo Soomere.

The *Proceedings of the Estonian Academy of Sciences* has the honour of publishing the papers submitted by

speakers at this meeting, shedding light on the status of the research that Viktor Mutt initiated. Several speakers – Tomas Hökfelt, Tamas Bartfai, Ülo Langel and Tiit Land – have had the privilege to work with Viktor Mutt in Stockholm. All the presenters agreed that Viktor Mutt was a giant among his peers. Viktor Mutt is the author of 226 scientific publications listed in PubMed and 252 in Scopus. His most cited publication on neuropeptide Y [3] has been cited 2086 times as of 10 April 2024, according to Scopus.

Tamas Bartfai was my supervisor during my graduate studies, and in one of the courses Viktor Mutt was my teacher. At the time, the organizer of the conference, Jaak Järv, was a postdoctoral student of Tamas Bartfai. In this way, Viktor Mutt contributed to our reunion in a wintery and snowy Tallinn on 19 January 2024.

REFERENCES

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Guest Editor of the *Viktor Mutt 100* conference articles