

BENEDEK SZATHMÁRI



National Academy of Scientist Education, 3rd year

University of Szeged,
Faculty of Science and Informatics, Biology, 3rd year

YEAR OF BIRTH:

2001

FORMER SZENT-GYÖRGYI PUPIL:

yes

SZENT-GYÖRGYI MENTOR:

László Nagy

JUNIOR MENTOR:

Árpád Csernetics

SPECIALIZATION:

fungal genomics

SECONDARY SCHOOL:

Tóth Árpád Secondary
Grammar School, Debrecen

NAME OF TEACHER:

József Gőz

LANGUAGES:

English/advanced
Latin/advanced

IMPORTANCE, AIMS AND POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF RESEARCH

Fungal evolution, the investigation of which is challenging but also interesting due to great amount of convergence, is still burdened by countless unanswered questions. Our research group investigates the evolutionary biology and developmental genetics of fungi, focusing on the origin of complex multicellularity that, in contrast with other branches of the tree of life, appeared eight times independently in this clade. One of my projects is connected to the mentioned topic: I knock out genes responsible for basidium and fruiting body formation. Our aim here is to understand the origin of other fruiting body cells present around basidia better. There were also lots of simplifications in the course of fungal evolution. The group of unicellular yeasts with a reduced morphology provided some 'workstocks' for the industry, however, we know unworthily little about their evolution. I hope that with my other project, during which I investigate the density-dependent behaviour (quorum sensing) of spores of a mould species, I can also contribute to the creation of a gap-filling evolutionary concept regarding yeasts.

AMBITIONS AND CAREER GOALS

'*Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution*' I cannot agree more with this statement of Theodosius Dobzhansky, and my aim is to understand this overall concept. I think achieving this goal does not only require studying, but also the investigation of important problems and interesting phenomena, as well, during which one can pose, and even answer questions no one has before. Creating a complex scientific world-view built upon scepticism is crucial for me. I would like to become a broad-minded researcher with creative thoughts.

HONORS AND PRIZES

2020/21; 2019/20 - Richter Gedeon Talentum Scholarship
2020; 2019; 2018 - Árokszállásy Zoltán Biology Competition 5th; 7th; 4th
2020 - Biology OKTV 37th
2020 - Chemistry OKTV 17th
2020; 2019 - Latin OKTV 9th; 2nd
2020; 2019 - 'Eminence of Debrecen' Award
2020 - Most Successful Student of Tóth Árpád Secondary Grammar School
2019 - Albert Szent-Györgyi Competition 1st
2019; 2017 - Horváth István Károly Latin Competition 3rd; 1st
2019 - International Cicero Competition – participation
2018 - Curie Chemistry Competition 9th

PUBLICATIONS

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