



Dr. Parveen Akhtar, PhD

Date of birth 19/03/1988 | **Nationality** Pakistani | **Gender** Female (she)

 Biological Research Centre, Szeged, Temesvári krt. 62, Szeged 6726, Hungary

 akhtar.parveen@brc.hu |  [@parvidua](https://twitter.com/parvidua) |  [0000-0002-3264-7154](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3264-7154)

I am interested in photosynthesis—the process by which sunlight is captured and converted into chemical energy in the thylakoid membranes of plants, algae and cyanobacteria. Understanding the physical, molecular, and biological mechanisms that have allowed photosynthetic organisms to conquer the planet, could pave the way to new renewable energy technologies and fight climate change. My current research efforts aim at extending the light-harvesting capability of natural photosynthetic proteins and finding new ways to store solar energy in bio-hybrid devices.

Education

- 2018 [PhD in Biology](#)
University of Szeged, Biology Doctoral School
- 2011 [Bachelor's in Education](#)
Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan
- 2011 [MSc in Plant Sciences](#)
Azad Jammu & Kashmir University, Pakistan
- 2008 [BSc in Biological Sciences](#)
Azad Jammu & Kashmir University, Pakistan

Additional training

- 2023 [Visiting researcher](#)
(3 m) School of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 2017–2019 [Postdoctoral studies](#)
(7 m) School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 2014–2017 [Exchange studies](#)
(12 m) School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 2012–2013 [International Training Course](#)
(11 m) Institute of Plant Biology, Biological Research Centre, Szeged

Employment

- 2020– [Research associate](#)
Institute of Plant Biology, Biological Research Centre, Szeged
- 2018–2020 [Research fellow](#)
ELI-ALPS, Szeged
- 2016–2018 [Junior research associate](#)
Institute of Plant Biology, Biological Research Centre, Szeged

Awards and decorations

- 2023 [1st Prize “Qualitas Biologica”](#)
Biological Research Centre Szeged
- 2023 [Kovács Tibor Prize](#)
Hungarian Membrane Transport Curatorium
- 2022 [Bárány Róbert Prize](#)
Eötvös Loránd Research Network
- 2022 [Poster Prize](#)
51st Membrane Transport Conference, Sümeg, Hungary
- 2019 [Ernst Jenő Award](#)
Hungarian Biophysical Society
- 2018 [HAS Young Investigator Award](#)
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- 2017 [2nd Prize of the Szeged Academic Society](#)
Regional Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- 2016 [Best Poster Prize](#)
4th International Workshop on Solar Energy for Sustainability, NTU, Singapore
- 2015 [EBSA Travel Bursary to attend the 10th European Biophysics Congress](#)
European Biophysical Societies Association
- 2012 [Best Student Prize](#)
Chief Minister of Punjab, Pakistan

Research grants

- 2021–2025 [Young researcher excellence grant NKFI FK-139067](#)
National Research Development and Innovation Office Hungary
Project title “Augmenting the absorption cross-section of photosystem I for enhanced photosynthetic energy conversion efficiency”
- 2021–2023 [Postdoctoral researcher excellence grant ELKH SA-76/2021](#)
Eötvös Loránd Research Network
Project Title “Az I. fotokémiai rendszer antennaméretének korlátjainak megismerése és növelése”

Scholarships

- 2017 [Sao Paulo Advanced School of Sciences \(two weeks\)](#)
Brazilian Biophysics Society
- 2015 [Campus Hungary Individual Scholarship \(one semester\)](#)
Balassi institute / Széchenyi 2020 Program
- 2014 [COST award for “International Workshop on Ultrafast Processes in Photosynthesis”](#)
European Cooperation in Science & Technology COST Action TD1102
- 2014 [EBSA Biophysics Course on "Membranes and Lipid-Protein Interactions"](#)
European Biophysical Societies Association

- 2012 [International Training Course fellowship \(11 months\)](#)
Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Biological Research Centre
- 2011 [Merit-based scholarship for M.Phil. studies](#)
Mir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Pakistan
- 2009 [Merit-based scholarship for M.Sc. studies](#)
Azad Jammu & Kashmir University Muzaffarabad, Pakisztan

Teaching activities

- 2022 [BSc student co-supervisor \(Zita Szegletes\)](#)
University of Szeged
- 2022 [MSc student co-supervisor \(Fanny Balog-Vig\)](#)
University of Szeged
- 2021 [FMN779L-1 Biophysics practical course](#)
University of Szeged, Physics department

Networks and memberships

- 2022– Academic staff member, Doctoral School of Biology, University of Szeged
- 2021– Public Body of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- 2017– Hungarian Biophysical Society
- 2017– Szeged Regional Committee of the Hungarian Biophysical Society
- 2016– International Society of Photosynthesis Research

Scientometric data

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ResearcherID | AHD-5996-2022 |
| MTMT ID | 10048470 |
| Publications in peer-reviewed journals | 31 |
| In Q1/D1-ranked journals | 29/12 |
| First/last-author articles | 14/1 |
| Book chapters | 1 |
| Conference papers | 2 |
| Cumulative impact factor | 171.77 |
| H-index | 14 |
| Total citations | 468 |
| Independent citations | 309 |

Conferences

Oral presentations

- 52nd Membrane Transport Conference, May 16–19, 2022, Sümeg, Hungary (Kovács Tibor prize talk)
- 51st Membrane Transport Conference, May 17–20, 2022, Sümeg, Hungary (Poster prize talk)
- 27th Congress of Hungarian Biophysical Society, Aug. 26–29, 2019, Debrecen, Hungary (Ernst Jenő prize talk)

4. 8th Regional Biophysics Conference, May 16–20, 2018, Zreče, Slovenia (selected talk)
5. 26th Congress of Hungarian Biophysical Society, Aug. 22–25, 2017, Szeged, Hungary (talk)
6. Dynamics and heterogeneity of thylakoid membrane components, Jan. 18–19, 2017, Ostrava, Czech Republic
7. Workshop on Ultrafast Processes in Photosynthesis. New Vistas at ELI-ALPS and COST PHOTOTECH Training School on " Advance Laser Spectroscopy in Green Photobiology, Oct. 18–21, 2014, Szeged, Hungary
8. PHOTOTECH 2015: Towards a Photosynthesis-biobased Economy, Oct. 7–9, 2015, Rome, Italy

Posters presentations

1. Regional Biophysics Conference, Aug. 20–26, 2023, Pécs, Hungary
2. French Photosynthesis Society meeting, Jun. 9–10, 2022, Gif sur Yvette, France
3. 51st Membrane Transport Conference, May 17–20, 2022, Sümeg, Hungary
4. XIII. Hungarian Plant Biology Conference, Aug. 24–27, 2021, Szeged
5. International Conference on Biophysics of Photosynthesis: from Molecules to the Field, Oct. 2–4, 2019, Rome, Italy
6. Ultrafast Spectroscopy User Workshop, Sep. 16–18, 2019, Prague, Czech Republic
7. 27th Congress of Hungarian Biophysical Society, Aug. 26–29, 2019, Debrecen, Hungary
8. The 1st European Congress on Photosynthesis Research ePS-1, Jun. 25–28, 2018, Uppsala, Sweden
9. 8th Regional Biophysics Conference May 16–20, 2018, Zreče, Slovenia
10. 42th Brazilian Biophysical Society Congress, Oct. 27–29, 2017, Santos, Brazil
11. 7th Summit Meeting: Excitation Energy Transfer Processes in Physical, Chemical and Biological Systems, Oct. 4–7, 2017, Raitenhaslach, Germany
12. 17th International Congress on Photosynthesis Research, Aug. 7–12, 2016, Maastricht, The Netherlands
13. The 4th International Workshop on Solar Energy for Sustainability "Photosynthesis and Bioenergetics", Mar. 21–24, 2016, NTU, Singapore
14. PHOTOTECH 2015: Towards a Photosynthesis-biobased Economy, Oct. 7–9, 2015, Rome, Italy
15. 10th European Biophysics Congress (EBSA 2015), July 18–22, 2015, Dresden, Germany
16. BRC Straub Days, Jun 3–5, 2015, Szeged, Hungary
17. The 3rd Workshop on Coherent Energy Transport and Optimization in Photosynthesis, May 1–3, 2015, NTU, Singapore
18. Workshop on Ultrafast Processes in Photosynthesis. New Vistas at ELI-ALPS and COST PHOTOTECH Training School on " Advance Laser Spectroscopy in Green Photobiology, Oct. 18–21, 2014, Szeged, Hungary
19. Photosynthesis Research for Sustainability, Jun. 2–7, 2014, Pushchino, Russia
20. BRC Straub Days, May 28–29, 2014, Szeged, Hungary

21. Eurosolar Fuel meeting, Apr. 12–15, 2014, Passau, Germany
22. Biophysics of Photosynthesis, Oct. 28–30, 2013, Rome, Italy
23. BRC Straub Days, Jun. 29–30, 2013, BRC, Szeged, Hungary

Szeged, 11 September 2023



(Parveen Akhtar)