

PRESS RELEASE

Prof. Dr. Katalin Karikó Joins BioNTech Group

Mainz, Germany, February 2, 2014 – We are very proud to welcome Prof. Dr. Katalin Karikó at BioNTech.

Katalin Karikó leads the mRNA-based protein replacement program for BioNTech RNA Pharmaceuticals. She has more than 30 years of experience working with RNA. Prior to joining BioNTech RNA Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Karikó was on the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School for 25 years. There she investigated RNA-mediated immune activation and in a groundbreaking research she discovered that nucleoside modifications suppress immunogenicity of RNA. In 2006, she co-founded and served as CEO of RNARx. With the support of NIH, her team demonstrated in animals, including macaques the feasibility of using nucleoside-modified mRNA for protein replacement, thus opening a new field of therapy. She published more than 60 peer-reviewed papers and reviews many of them focusing on mRNA technologies. Dr. Karikó is co-inventor on mRNA-related patents, including the one awarded for RNA containing modified nucleosides.