

VIOLA NAGY



National Academy of Scientist Education, 3rd year

Semmelweis University
Faculty of Medicine, 4th year

YEAR OF BIRTH

2002

FORMER SZENT-GYÖRGYI PUPIL

yes

RESEARCH UNIT

Semmelweis University

SZENT-GYÖRGYI MENTOR

Csaba Barta

JUNIOR MENTOR

Andrea Szabó-Vereczkei

SPECIALIZATION

psychogenetics

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Fazekas Mihály
Practising Primary School
and High School, Budapest

NAME OF TEACHER

Attila Albert,
Gábor Endresz

LANGUAGES

English/advanced

IMPORTANCE, AIMS AND POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF RESEARCH

Addiction, in neurobiological terms, is a chronic disease of the brain's reward, motivation and memory centres and their interconnecting neural circuits. It is now well established that the risk of developing various substance and behavioural addictions, in addition to the undeniably significant environmental influences, can depend up to 50% on the genetic background of the individual. Identifying and studying the genes involved in this could be a key to improving the treatment and prevention of addictions, either by facilitating progress towards personalised medicine or at the level of identifying appropriate drug targets for medical treatment. Our research group is working on the genotyping of such known addiction-related genes, collected by the Genetic Addiction Risk Score (GARS), in the context of a population genetics study.

AMBITIONS AND CAREER GOALS

Since childhood, I have been fascinated by the history of medicine; the tangible results of progress that have provided precise yet simple solutions to the problems of the past. I see facilitating this kind of progress as the essential goal of biomedical research. I also wanted to be a part of this process; I wanted to do research since the beginning of my medical studies. The Szent-Györgyi programme provided the perfect background for this goal. In addition to learning practical methods, the programme helped me deepen my theoretical knowledge and has given me insight into the working conditions of researchers. All of this has only strengthened my commitment to this career path. Although I have not yet decided whether I want to work exclusively as a researcher or as a clinician as well, I know for sure that I want to continue to be actively involved in science.

HONORS AND PRIZES

2024 Semmelweis University Students' Scientific Conference, 3rd place (as a co-author)

PUBLICATIONS

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