



**Hungarian Academy of Sciences**

THE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (MTA) IS THE MOST TRUSTED PUBLIC BODY IN HUNGARY, PERFORMING NATION-WIDE PUBLIC MISSIONS RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION, PROMOTION AND REPRESENTATION OF SCIENCE. THE MTA'S PUBLIC BODY CONSISTS OF ALMOST 17 THOUSAND SCHOLARS AND WORKS AS A SELF-REGULATORY LEGAL ENTITY. THE ACADEMY MAINTAINS A NETWORK OF FULL-TIME RESEARCH PERSONNEL, WHICH IN TURN IS A FUNDAMENTAL PILLAR OF THE COUNTRY'S SCIENTIFIC SPHERE.



The oldest scientific institution in Hungary was founded by Count István Széchenyi, who donated a year's income of his estates for this purpose on 3 November 1825, during the Pozsony (Bratislava) National Assembly. Hence, the Hungarian Learned Society was established, and the institution has borne the official name Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Magyar Tudományos Akadémia, MTA) since 1845.

*The motto of the Academy, 'Sunshine after rain', originates from 1831.*

## PUBLIC DUTY

- to support the implementation of science
- to express its professional opinion at the request of the National Assembly or the government
- to facilitate the use of the Hungarian language in the scientific world
- to guard the purity of the scientific public sphere and the freedom to express scientific opinion
- to maintain relations with Hungarian scientists working abroad and with scientists publishing on topics related to Hungary or Hungarians
- to support the scientific advancement of Hungarians in the bordering countries
- to increase public understanding in matters of science

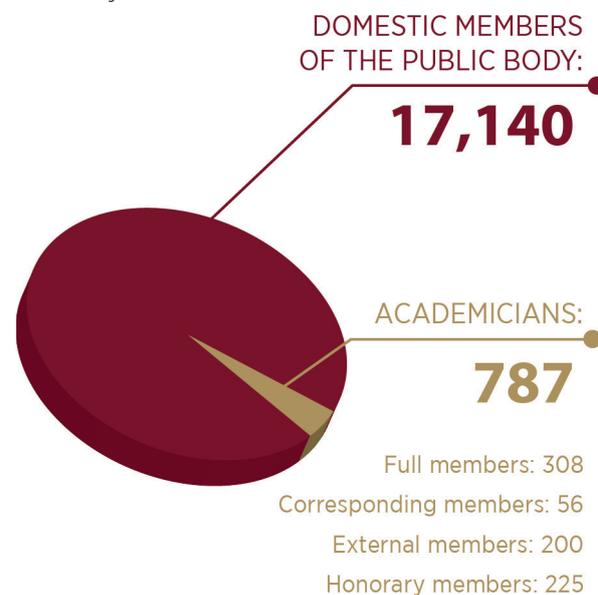
## PUBLIC BODY AND MEMBERS

The MTA's public body consists of academicians, that is, members of the Academy and scholars holding a science degree obtained or accredited in Hungary. The almost 17 thousand members play an active role in the Hungarian scientific sphere. Academicians

are elected by domestic members. Any Hungarian citizen can be chosen to serve as a corresponding member who (I) is recommended by at least three academicians in writing, and (II) holds a Doctor of the Academy title or has a scientific title deemed equivalent, and (III) is a recognised scholar pursuing research at an academic level. Those corresponding members who achieve outstanding scientific results over the course of their membership can be elected to be full members.

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The MTA's supreme decision making body, the General Assembly, meets at least once a year with the participation of academicians in the country and two hundred non-academician representatives. The General Assembly elects the members of the Presidium: the President; the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General as well as three Vice Presidents. In between General Assemblies the Presidium acts as the decision-making body of the Academy.



(Based on data as of 15 June 2016)

## SCIENTIFIC SECTIONS

The basic units of the MTA's organisation are eleven scientific sections. These departments include representatives of one or several closely related branches of science. Their membership consists of academician and non-academician members of the General Assembly. Each section organises scientific conferences and professional conventions. They also set up committees to address problems in certain scientific fields in which academician and non-academician members work together.

### The Academy's scientific sections are as follows:

- I. Section of Linguistics and Literary Scholarship
- II. Section of Philosophy and Historical Sciences
- III. Section of Mathematics
- IV. Section of Agricultural Sciences
- V. Section of Medical Sciences
- VI. Section of Engineering Sciences
- VII. Section of Chemical Sciences
- VIII. Section of Biological Sciences
- IX. Section of Economics and Law – including sociology, demography and political sciences
- X. Section of Earth Sciences
- XI. Section of Physical Sciences

Section Presidents, elected by section members, are responsible for the work of their section.

The public body's regional functioning is controlled by the MTA's Regional Committees in Debrecen, Miskolc, Pécs, Szeged, Veszprém and Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca, Romania). These committees organise scientific events, facilitate cooperation between the MTA and universities and inform the public of new scientific results.

## RESEARCH NETWORK OF THE MTA

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences owns ten research centres – which make up a total of 39 research institutes – and also five legally independent research institutes. The principal task of the research network is discovery, or to be more precise, basic research. The number of young scholars (under 35) and women are constantly increasing in the research institutes. Several thousand articles are published in internationally renowned journals. Research insti-



tutes closely collaborate with universities and also have strong contacts with a number of national and international enterprises of various sizes.

A top-priority task of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences is to organise conferences and scientific meetings both on a national and international level. Programmes are aimed at informing the wider public and decision makers about the latest scientific results. The most significant open programme of the MTA is the Festival of Hungarian Science, held every year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November. The MTA is the host and initiator of the World Science Forum, a biannual meeting organised by an international team. This is the only international forum where, based on complex considerations, representatives of science have the opportunity to debate with decision makers.

## WHO ARE THE DOCTORS OF THE ACADEMY?

The title 'Doctor of the Academy' is awarded to scholar candidates who fulfil all of the following requirements: (I) have a PhD degree; (II) have achieved original scientific results after obtaining the PhD degree; (III) are nationally and internationally known and renowned scholars in their field of science; (IV) excel as researchers; (V) summarise their results in an MTA doctoral thesis. The title 'Doctor of the Academy' is awarded by the Doctoral Council of the MTA, the main decision-making body of the doctoral procedure.

## WHO ARE THE TOP EXECUTIVES OF THE MTA?

President: **László Lovász**, mathematician  
Secretary-General: **Ádám Török**, economist  
Deputy Secretary-General: **Beáta Mária Barnabás**,  
plant biologist

Vice Presidents:

**Tamás Freund**, neurobiologist  
**Domokos Szász**, mathematician  
**Lajos Vékás**, scholar of law

# THE PRESIDENTS OF THE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

