

ELIŠKA AND ZDENĚK STRMISKA AWARD



2023

MUDr. Martin Tolar, Ph.D.

Dr. Martin Tolar founded Alzheon in 2013 to improve the understanding of the biology driving neurodegeneration and to develop new interventions to prevent and treat neurodegenerative disorders and serves as its President & CEO. In 2021, Dr. Tolar founded the INDRC institute with the mission to address the lack of understanding of the complex interrelationship between brain structure and brain function, as well as limited knowledge of the precise pathogenic pathways that impair or destroy neurons and their connections, using big data and AI approaches, and serves as Chairman of its Executive Board. Dr. Tolar also serves on the Alzheimer's Disease Discovery Foundation's Scientific Review Board and has received the Czech Laurels Award from the Czech Chamber of Commerce in recognition of his leadership in Alzheimer's disease therapeutics. Prior to Alzheon, Dr. Tolar held leadership positions in multiple life sciences companies, and served as an Assistant Professor of Neurology at the Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Tolar trained in Neurology at the Boston Medical Center, received a Ph.D. in Neuroscience for his work on the role of apolipoprotein E in pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease and his M.D. from Charles University in Prague.



2022

Prof. PharmDr. Ondřej Soukup, Ph.D.

Ondřej Soukup is a recognized expert in the field of toxicology. After completing his master's degree at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Charles University in Hradec Kralove, he completed his doctoral studies at the Faculty of Military Health of the University of Defence in 2011, where he has been working until now and where he habilitated in the field of toxicology in 2018. Since 2018, he is also the head of the Biomedical Research Centre at the University Hospital Hradec Králové.

He specializes in Alzheimer's disease (AD) research since approximately 2010. Serving as the principal investigator at the Biomedical Research Centre, University Hospital Hradec Kralove, overseeing around 40 researchers, Soukup's work revolves around developing novel compounds for AD treatment, stemming from his expertise in acetylcholinesterase inhibitors. His research group, which is internationally acclaimed, has notably published in renowned journals like Trends in Pharmacological Sciences. With a bibliometric track record of over 100 impactful publications, Soukup emphasizes collaboration with esteemed global teams and his commitment to educating Czech students. He actively contributes to AD-related conferences, holds key roles in research grants, and recently received a substantial international grant for genotyping Czech AD patients. In 2023, he became a professor in toxicology.



2021

MUDr. Kateřina Sheardová, Ph.D.

Kateřina Sheardová is a neurologist at the First Neurological Clinic of St. Anne's University Hospital in Brno and the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University of Brno and head of the Brno section of the Dementia Research Team of the International Clinical Research Centre of the FNUSA. She specializes in neurodegenerative diseases and memory disorders and co-founded the first Czech Brain Aging Study. Her main research interest is preventive measures, healthy lifestyle and techniques that affect brain maintenance and help prevent chronic stress, such as yoga, meditation and mindfulness techniques.



2020

Doc. MVDr. Norbert Žilka, DrSc.

Norbert Žilka is a director of the Institute of Neuroimmunology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Scientific Director of the biotechnology company AXON Neuroscience. He has been researching Alzheimer's disease for more than twenty years. He has been involved in the development of the first vaccine against Alzheimer's disease and in the development of diagnostic tests. He founded the Slovak Brain Bank and author of the national programme Slovakia Against Dementia. He has published in top international scientific journals and is also involved in popular science activities; for example, he is the author of the book ALZHEIMER - A Little Guide to Alzheimer's Disease.



2019 – the prize was divided between two candidates:

Ing. Bc. Hana Marie Broulíková, Ph.D., MSc.

Hana Marie Broulíková is a health economist with a long-standing interest in the cost-effectiveness of early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. As a Fulbright Scholar, she worked at Columbia University New York with the Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's Disease and the Aging Brain. She is the alumna of several fellowships at universities abroad and is currently a researcher at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and at the National Institute of Mental Health. As coordinator, she is involved in the creation of the National Action Plan for Alzheimer's disease and related diseases for 2020-2030.



PharmDr. Jan Korábečný, Ph.D.

Jan Korábečný is pharmacist involved in designing and synthesising new compounds for treating Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases. Author of many scientific publications, including texts addressed to the Czech professional audience. He is co-author of a patent on multipotent compounds considered for treating Alzheimer's disease, which are the subject of further research.



2018

MUDr. Karel Ježek, Ph.D.

Karel Ježek is a neurophysiologist working on the organization of memory in the brain's neural networks and its pathophysiology in Alzheimer's disease. He works at the Biomedical Centre at the Faculty of Medicine of Charles University in Pilsen as head of the Laboratory of Experimental Neurophysiology.



2017

Mgr. Eugenie Nepovimová, Ph.D.

Eugenie Nepovimová is a pharmacist involved in the design of new potential therapeutics for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease and military toxicology, among others. She is a university teacher and research and development worker at several institutions in the Czech Republic.

