

## BASIC RESEARCH AND COVID-19

Nature ([Sept. 10, 2021](#)) reports that COVID advances win \$3 million Breakthrough prizes. One of the winners is Katalin Karikó, Hungarian, who now works in the United States and Germany.

Injected RNA is broken down very quickly. She discovered a few years ago that replacing the uridine with a similar molecule called pseudouridine bypassed the immune reaction. This discovery has been crucial for RNA vaccines.

In her speech during the awards ceremony, she recalled the skepticism that surrounded her work in the 1990s, which led to numerous rejections of grant proposals and papers (including the 2005 paper for which she is now being recognized), and forced her to suffer a demotion and a salary reduction.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-02449-y>

See Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katalin\\_Karikó](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katalin_Karikó)