

INVITATION TO THE 2023 A.I. VIRTANEN PRIZE AWARD CEREMONY

DECEMBER 15, 2023, AT 15-17, UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI, SMALL HALL

The 2023 A. I. Virtanen Prize has been awarded to Professor Sara Wickström from the German Max Planck Institute in recognition of her pioneering cell biology research, which honors the ambitious goals inspired by A. I. Virtanen's work in both basic research and applied work.

Professor Wickström is one of the most successful young Finnish researchers and an absolute international leader in her field. She works as a director at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine and also has a research group at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Helsinki. Professor Wickström studies the mechanisms by which the stem cells in tissues, such as the skin, communicate with each other and with their surrounding environment, and how this controls cellular functions and tissue formation. These ground-breaking studies have also revealed the mechanisms by which tissues regulate gene expression and thereby regulate stem cell differentiation. At the same time, Professor Wickström has developed cell biology methods and has been active in making these methods and her research results widely available.

The prize, awarded by *the Societas Biochemica, Biophysica et Microbiologica Fenniae* (Biobio Society), *the Foundation for Nutrition Research and the Finnish Chemical Society*, consists of a certificate of honor, a cash prize of 6000 euros and a silver A. I. Virtanen medal designed by sculptor **Aimo Tukiainen**.

Award ceremony and Professor Wickström's lecture "*How to build and maintain tissues?*" will be organized in cooperation with *the University of Helsinki Alumni Association* and the *HiLife seminar series* on Friday December 15th, 2023, from 15 to 17 in the Small Hall of the main building of the University of Helsinki (4th floor, Fabianinkatu 33, Helsinki). Entry to the event, which is in English, is free and open for everyone. Also remote access is possible. In both cases, advance registration (deadline December 7th) is required:
https://www.lyyti.in/AI_Virtanen_palkinnonjakotilaisuus_pe_15122023_7329

More information

Hannu Koistinen, chair (hannu.k.koistinen@helsinki.fi)

Ruus-Maaria Merivirta, secretary (secretary@biobio.org)

Societas Biochemica, Biophysica et Microbiologica Fenniae

www.biobio.org