

Curriculum Vitae

Personal information **Miikka Vikkula**

Work experience

Since 1 Oct 2013 Full Professor of Human Genetics at Université catholique de Louvain

Since 1 Oct 2008 Honorary Maître de recherche, FNRS, Belgium

Since 15 Sept 2004 Member of the Directorate of de Duve Institute, Brussels, Belgium

Since 14 Jan 2004 Member of de Duve Institute, Brussels, Belgium

Oct'11 – Sept'13 Coordinator of the Centre for Human Genetics, CUSL, Brussels, Belgium

Oct'08 – Sept'13 Professor of Human Genetics, Department of biochemistry and cellular biology, Faculté de médecine, Université catholique de Louvain

Oct'04-Sept'08 Maître de Recherche, FNRS, Brussels, Belgium (Associate professor)

Oct'05-Sept'08 Chargé de cours définitif à temps partiel, Department of biochemistry and cellular biology, Faculté de médecine, Université catholique de Louvain

Oct'00-Sept'05 Chargé de cours temporaire à temps partiel, UCL, Fac. de médecine, Dept. of biochemistry and cellular biology

Oct'00-Sep'04 Chercheur qualifié, FNRS (Assistant professor)

Apr'97-Jan'04 Associate Member of de Duve Institute, Brussels, Belgium.

Feb'97-Sept'00 Guest Investigator, de Duve Institute, Brussels, Belgium.

Sep'93-Jan'97 Research Associate, Department of Cell Biology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA. (PI: Professor Bjorn R Olsen)

Jun'93-Aug'93 Research Associate, National Public Health Institute, Helsinki, Finland. (PI: Professor Leena Peltonen)

Mar'93-May'93 Internship in internal medicine, District Hospital of Porvoo, Finland.

May'87-Feb'93 MD/PhD student in Department of Human Molecular Genetics, National Public Health Institute, Helsinki, Finland. (Supervisor: Professor Leena Peltonen)

May'89-Aug'89+ Visiting MD/PhD student in Department of Biochemistry and

Jun'88-Jul'88 Molecular Biology, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, USA.

Education and training

2019-Ministry of Health, Brussels, Belgium
Specialist in clinical genetics

2000-Université catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium Agrégé de l'Enseignement Supérieur (Molecular Genetics)(Ph.D.)

1993-University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
Licensed M.D. (General Medicine)

1993-University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
Ph.D. (Molecular Genetics)

1992-University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland
M.D. (Medicine)

1984-Pohjois-Tapiola High School, Helsinki, Finland
Baccalaureate

Additional information

Publications

Vikkula M, Peltonen L. Structural analyses of the polymorphic area in type II collagen gene. *FEBS Lett.* Jul 3 1989;250(2):171-4. IF=3.361

Vikkula M, Metsaranta M, Syvanen AC, Ala-Kokko L, Vuorio E, Peltonen L. Structural analysis of the regulatory elements of the type-II procollagen gene. Conservation of promoter and first intron sequences between human and mouse. *Biochem J.* Jul 1 1992;285 (Pt 1):287-94. IF=3.716

Vikkula M, Palotie A, Ritvaniemi P, Ott J, Ala-Kokko L, Sievers U, Aho K, Peltonen L. Early-onset osteoarthritis linked to the type II procollagen gene. Detailed clinical phenotype and further analyses of the gene. *Arthritis Rheum.* Mar 1993;36(3):401-9. IF=5.502

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Vikkula M, Ritvaniemi P, Vuorio AF, Kaitila I, Ala-Kokko L, Peltonen L. A mutation in the amino-terminal end of the triple helix of type II collagen causing severe osteochondrodysplasia. *Genomics* 1993, 16(1) :282-285. IF=5.433

Vikkula M, Metsaranta m, Ala-Kokko L. Type II collagen mutations in rare and common cartilage diseases. *Ann Med* 1994, 26(2) :107-114. IF=1.129

Vikkula M, Mariman EC, Lui VCH, Zhidkova NI, Tiller GE, Goldring M, van Beersum SEC, de Waal Malefijt MC, van den Hoogen FHJ, Ropers HH, Mayne R, Cheah KSE, Olsen BR, Warman ML, Brunner HG. Autosomal dominant and recessive osteochondrodysplasias associated with the COL11A2 locus. *Cell.* Feb 10 1995;80(3):431-7. IF=40.481

Vikkula M, Boon LM, Carraway III KL, Calvert JT, Diamonti AJ, Goumnerov B, Pasyk KA, Marchuk DA, Warman ML, Cantley LC, Mulliken JB, Olsen BR. Vascular dysmorphogenesis caused by an activating mutation in the receptor tyrosine kinase TIE2. *Cell.* Dec 27 1996;87(7):1181-90. IF=40.997

Jüppner H, Schipani E, Bastepe M, Cole DE, Lawson ML, Mannstadt M, Hendy GN, Plotkin H, Koshiyama h, Koh T, Crawford JD, Olsen BR, Vikkula M. The gene responsible for pseudohypoparathyroidism type Ib is paternally imprinted and maps in four unrelated kindreds to chromosome 20q13.3. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA.* Sep 29 1998;95(20):11798-803. IF=10.426

Boon LM, Brouillard P, Irrthum A, Karttunen L, Warman ML, Rudolph R, Mulliken JB, Olsen BR, Vikkula M. A gene for inherited cutaneous venous anomalies ("glomangiomas") localizes to chromosome 1p21-22. *Am J Hum Genet.* Jul 1999;65(1):125-133. IF=10.426

Brouillard P, Olsen BR, Vikkula M. High-resolution physical and transcript map of the locus for venous malformations with glomus cells (VMGLOM) on chromosome 1p21-p22. *Genomics.* Jul 1 2000;67(1):96-101. IF=3.425

Eerola I, Plate KH, Spiegel R, Boon LM, Mulliken JB, Vikkula M. KRIT1 is mutated in hyperkeratotic cutaneous capillary-venous malformation associated with cerebral capillary malformation. *Hum Mol Genet.* May 22 2000;9(9):1351-5. IF=9.048

Irrthum A, Karkkainen MJ, Devriendt K, Alitalo K, Vikkula M. Congenital hereditary lymphedema caused by a mutation that inactivates VEGFR3 tyrosine kinase. *Am J Hum Genet.* Aug 2000;67(2):295-301. IF=10.351

Irrthum A, Brouillard P, Enjolras O, Gibbs NF, Eichenfeld LF, Olsen BR, Mulliken JB, Boon LM, Vikkula M. Linkage disequilibrium narrows locus for venous malformation with glomus cells (VMGLOM) to a single 1.48 Mbp YAC. *Eur J Hum Genet.* Jan 2001;9(1):34-8. IF=3.173

Eerola I, McIntyre B, Vikkula M. Identification of eight novel 5'-exons in cerebral capillary malformation gene-1 (CCM1) encoding KRIT1. *Biochim Biophys Acta – Gene Struct Expr* Feb 16 2001;1517(3):464-7. IF=3.536

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Irrthum A, Devriendt K, Chitayat D, Matthijs G, Glade C, Steijlen PM, Fryns J-P, Van Steensen MAM, Vikkula M. Mutations in the transcription factor gene SOX18 underlie recessive and dominant forms of hypotrichosis-lymphedema-telangiectasia. *Am J Hum Genet.* Jun 2003;72(6):1470-78. IF=11.602

Godfraind C, Rousseau E, Ruchoux MM, Scaravilli F, Vikkula M. Tumour necrosis and microvascular proliferation are associated with 9p deletion and CDKN2A alterations in 1p/19q-deleted oligodendrogliomas. *Neuropathol Appl Neurobiol.* Oct 2003;29(5):462-71. IF=3.022

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Godfraind C and Vikkula M. Nervous system: Trisomy 19 ependymoma. *Atlas Genet Cytogenet Oncol Haematol* 2009, 13(1):90-92.

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Amyere M, Vogt Th, Hoo J, Brandrup F, Boon LM, Vikkula M. KITLG mutations cause familial progressive hyper- and hypo-pigmentation. *J Invest Dermatol*, 2011, 131(6) :1234-9. IF=6.314

Persu A and Vikkula M. A genome-wide association study-derived candidate gene seeks replication : STK39. *J Hypertens* 2011, 29(3) :484-91. IF=4.021

Persu A, Lannoy N, Maiter D, Mendola A, Montigny P, Oriot P, Vinck W, Garin P, Hamoir M, Vikkula M. Prevalence and spectrum of SDHx mutations in pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma in patients from Belgium: an update. *Horm Metab Res* 2012, 44(5):349-53. IF=2.188

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Projects

Professor Miikka Vikkula, MD, PhD, is an internationally recognized leader in human and medical genetics, with a career spanning more than three decades at the interface of molecular genetics, vascular biology, and rare disease research. He received his medical and doctoral training at the University of Helsinki, completing an MD–PhD program in molecular genetics (MD 1992, PhD 1993), followed by licensure as a medical doctor in 1993. His early scientific training included international post-doctoral research fellowship in the United States, notably at Harvard Medical School (1993-1997), where he made seminal contributions to the genetic understanding of vascular anomalies. He later obtained the Agrégé de l'Enseignement Supérieur at the Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain, 2000) and was recognized as a specialist in clinical genetics by the Belgian Ministry of Health (2019).

Prof. Vikkula established his independent research group at the de Duve Institute in Brussels in 1997, where he has been a Full Member of the institute since 2004 and part of its Directorate since the same year. Academically, Prof. Vikkula has held successive professorial appointments at UCLouvain and has served as Full Professor of Human Genetics since 2013. He has also played major leadership roles, including Coordinator of the Centre for Human Genetics at Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc (2011-2013). In parallel, he has contributed extensively to the scientific community through leadership in national and international societies (BeSHG, ESHG, NAVBO), peer review, and conference organization (BESHG, ESHG, NAVBO, ISSVA, VAC), and through training the next generation of basic scientists and clinician-scientists.

His career has been distinguished by numerous prestigious honours and awards, including the INBEV–Baillet Latour Clinical Research Prize (2013), the first Generet Prize (2018), the Earl P. Benditt Award (NAVBO 2023), the LE&RN Lifetime Achievement Award (2024), the Gagna & Van Heck Prize for Incurable Diseases (2024), and the Black Pearl Scientific Award from EURORDIS (2025). He appeared on the Stanford List of top 2% of scientists in 2021 and is ranked as a Highly Ranked Scholar among the top 0.05% of scholars worldwide in birth defects research by Scholar GPS. In recognition of his exceptional scientific and societal contributions, Prof. Vikkula was appointed Commander of the Order of Leopold by His Majesty King Philippe of Belgium in 2018.

Memberships

ISSVA, Vice President (10/05/2024)

LGDA (Lymphangiomatosis and Gorham's Disease Alliance) Medical and Clinical Advisory Council (27/10/2021-ongoing).

Cure-HHT Genetics Workstream (September 2021- April 2022)

PTEN foundation advisory board (2021 onwards)

ISSVA, Board Member at large (15/05/2020 – 10/05/2024)

NAVBO Meritorious Awards Committee (2015-2018)

Member of the Scientific Council of the International Society of Lymphology (ISL) (2023 -).

Member of the North American Vascular Biology Organisation (NAVBO) (2021-)

Full Member of the Académie Royale de Médecine de Belgique (04/07/2016 -).

Associate Member of the Académie Royale de Médecine de Belgique (24/11/2012 - 03/07/2016)

Member of the International Society for the Study of Vascular Anomalies (ISSVA) (1995 -).

Member of the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) (1997 -).

Member of the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG) (1998 -).

Member of the Doctoral School of Biochemistry, Cellular Biology and Fundamental Microbiology, (BCM), Université catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium (1999 -).

Member of the Doctoral School of Immunology and Genetics (GIM), Université catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium (1999 -).

Member of the Belgian Society of Human Genetics (BeSHG) (2000 -).

Member of the American Heart Association Council on Basic Cardiovascular Research (2001 -).

Member of the Finnish Medical Association (Lääkäriliitto) (1987 -).

Member of the Finnish Medical Association Duodecim (Lääkäriseura Duodecim), Finlande (1987 - 2009).

Member of the Association of Young Physicians of Finland (1987 - 1999).

A PhD student member at "the Comity for Planning the M.D.-Ph.D. program", University of Helsinki, School of Medicine, 1993.

4. Honors and Awards

2025 The Black Pearl Scientific Award to recognise the major achievements and outstanding commitment of scientists who strive to make a difference for the rare disease community, EURORDIS-Rare diseases Europe (award ceremony 24/2/2025)

2024 Highly Ranked Scholar – Lifetime in the speciality of Birth Defects in recognition of exceptional productivity, noteworthy impact and quality of scholarly work in the top 0.05% of scholars in the Speciality worldwide. Conferred by Scholar GPS.

2024 The Gustav R. Born Honorary Award for Research in Angiology/Vascular Medicine, European Independent Foundation in Angiology / Vascular Medicine (with Prof. L. Boon)

2024 The triennial international Gagna and Van Heck Prize for incurable diseases, for their contribution to a better understanding of orphan vascular diseases, and for the significant therapeutic advances they have made (with Prof. L.M. Boon)

2024 Lifetime Achievement Award 2024 by the Lymphatic Education & Research Network (LE&RN) at Gordon Research Conference on Lymphatics

2023 – 2024 University of Louvain was ranked #1 in the ScholarGPS Academic Institution Rankings for 'Vascular Malformations' in the 'Prior 5 Years'

2023 The Earl P. Benditt Award, recognizing an individual who has made an outstanding discovery or developed a concept that has been seminal to our understanding of vascular biology or pathology, North American Vascular Biology Organisation (NAVBO), USA

2022 – 2026 European Co-ordinator of the Leducq Network of Excellence Grant: Recalibrating Mechanotransduction in Vascular Malformations

2019-2024 EU MSCA-ITN-2018, Co-ordinator of the VACure project grant

2011-2026 WELBIO, Walloon Excellence in Lifesciences and Biotechnology, Belgium

2018-2022 The First Generet Prize for the study of Rare Diseases (Fonds Roi Baudouin, Belgium)

2021 Appearance on the Stanford List of top 2% of scientists by citation metrics
(doi: 10.17632/btchxktyw.3)

2018 Awarded the rank of Commander of the Order of Leopold by His Majesty the King Philippe of Belgium.

2016 Prix du Concours ordinaire de la 1ère Section (Sciences Biomédicales), Académie Royale de Médecine, Belgium

2013 INBEV-BAILLET LATOUR Clinical Research Prize, Belgium (with Prof. L. Boon)

2010 The Lambertine-Lacroix Fundamental Sciences Prize in Cardiology for the characterization of the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying vascular anomalies, FNRS, Belgium

2006 Eugène de Sommer Scientific Award, University catholique de Louvain, Belgium

2006 Pfizer Scientific Award, Belgium

Nov 2004 11th Manchester Birth Defects Conference, Manchester, UK. Keynote lecture: "Genetic causes of vascular malformations »

Feb 2004 15th International Workshop on Vascular Anomalies, Wellington, New Zealand. Keynote Lecture: "Molecular Basis of Vascular Anomalies".

June 2003 The Society for Pediatric Dermatology Annual Meeting, Seattle, USA. Sidney Hurwitz keynote lecture: "Molecular genetics of vascular anomalies".

June 2002 14th International Workshop on Vascular Anomalies, Nijmegen, Holland. Keynote Lecture: "Towards understanding the ethiopathogenesis of vascular malformations".

2002 Pharmacia Scientific Award, Belgium

1998-2000 Marie-Curie fellowship award of the European Union

1997 HFSP Long-Term Fellowship Award (2-years)

1994-1996 Fogarty International Fellowship Award, NIH, USA

Invited congress presentations (total >300)

2025 Invited congress presentations:

7/3/2025, Filière Santé Maladies Rares TeteCou, Journée Recherche et Innovation, Paris, France, Invited presentation: Vascular malformations: from genetic causes, to preclinical models and clinical trials

7-11/4/2025, 15th World Congress of Pediatric Dermatology (WCPD), Buenos Aires, Argentina, Invited Presentation (with Prof. L. Boon): Genetic Basis and Therapies for Vascular Anomalies

25/4/2025, European Lymphatic Symposium (ELS), Toulouse, France, Invited presentation: Novel insights into the pathophysiology of lymphedema

26/4/2025, Wroclaw Polish Lymphatic meeting, Wroclaw, Poland, Invited presentation: Genetics aspects of primary lymphedema and lymphatic malformations

9/6/2025, WRI symposium, Helsinki, Finland: Lymphatic anomalies: From genes and pathophysiology towards therapeutic trials.

12-14/6/2025, Lymphatic Forum 2025, Chicago, USA: Lymphatic anomalies: From genes and pathophysiology towards therapeutic trials

10-12/09/2025, BeNeVBO meeting, Leuven, Belgium: Vascular malformations: from genetic causes, to preclinical models and clinical trials

14-16/09/2025, DEF 2025, Paris, France: Genetics of polymalformative syndromes involving the orbit and nose

19/09/2025, 4th Annual Lymphatic conference, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, USA: Beyond the Periphery: Searching for Clues for Central Conduction Defects in Lymphedema

3/10/2025, Annual Czech-Slovak pediatric hematology oncology conference, Brno, Czech Republic: VASCERN, the European Reference Network (ERN) for Rare Multisystemic Vascular Diseases VASCA (Vascular Anomaly) Working Group

15-19/10/2025, 30th ISL World Congress of Lymphology, Antalya, Türkiye: "Sex-specific penetrance of pathogenic variants in primary lymphedema" and "Novel genetic findings on heterogeneity of primary lymphedema" Best oral presentation award

27-29/10/2025, World Orphan Drug Congress, Amsterdam, The Netherlands: From Malignancy to Malformation: Navigating the Hurdles of Cancer Drug Repositioning for Vascular Anomalies.

02-03/11/2025, European Course in Neuroradiology, Valencia, Spain: Vessels, genes and pathways: are we targeting the correct physiopathology

07-10/11/2025, AHA Scientific Sessions, New Orleans, United States: Human Lymphedema: Expanding Complex Genetics and Disrupting Pathophysiological Pathways

30/11-03/12/2025, BRAIN conference, London, United Kingdom: Genetics of AVMs

04-06/12/2025, Congrès de la société française de lymphologie, Toulouse, France: Lymphatic malformations

03-04/02/2026, Académie Nationale de Médecine, Paris, France : Données récentes sur la pathophysiologie des malformations vasculaires périphériques

Other Relevant Information

Prof. Vikkula is internationally recognized as a leading authority on the molecular basis of vascular anomalies and a pioneer in the development of targeted therapies. He has published more than 250 peer-reviewed original research

articles and over 80 reviews and book chapters in major medical textbooks. His work has been cited over 31,000 times, resulting in an H-index of 89 (Google Scholar).

Prof. Vikkula's research group has developed and applied state-of-the-art genomics and transcriptomics approaches, including high-throughput next-generation sequencing (NGS), in numerous national and international collaborative projects. The group has also established a major vascular anomalies tissue biobank, which has become a key resource for molecular and pathological characterization of these disorders. In parallel, extensive *in vivo* studies using genetically engineered mouse models have been conducted to investigate disease mechanisms and therapeutic strategies.

His work has led to the discovery of the genetic defects underlying multiple vascular anomalies and has substantially advanced the field, enabling revision of disease classification (Wassef et al., 2015) and the identification of novel clinical entities (Eerola et al., 2003; Amyere et al., 2017). Using high-throughput NGS, his team identified several novel genes implicated in vascular anomalies, including EPHB4 (Amyere et al., 2017) and PIK3CA (Limaye et al., 2015). They also expanded the phenotypic spectrum associated with mutations in known genes, such as TIE2, which they demonstrated to be mutated in a large proportion of sporadic venous malformations, as well as in blue rubber bleb nevus syndrome and multifocal sporadic venous malformations (Soblet et al., 2017).

Notably, Prof. Vikkula's group generated the first mouse model of venous malformation (Boscolo et al., 2015) and demonstrated therapeutic efficacy using the mTOR inhibitor rapamycin. These findings directly led to phase 2A (Boscolo et al., 2015) and phase 2B (Hammer et al., 2018) clinical trials. A phase 3 trial is currently ongoing, with approximately 100 patients enrolled to date (VASE, EudraCT 2015-001703-32).

Supported by highly competitive national and international funding, including FNRS, EU Marie Curie, Leducq Network of Excellence, MSCA-ITN, and WELBIO programs, Prof. Vikkula has built a world-leading research group that pioneered the discovery of germline and somatic mutations underlying vascular malformations and elucidated key pathophysiological mechanisms, including second-hit events and mechanotransduction. His work has had a transformative impact on the diagnosis and treatment of rare vascular diseases.