



Curriculum Vitae

Personal information **Una Riekstina**

Work experience

1. Employer: University of Latvia
 - Start date: 122023
 - Present
 - Position: Full Professor
 - Activities: Head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Life Sciences. Lectures on Human biological medicines, Pharmacogenetics, NAMs technologies- iPSC, organoids and organs on chip in Pharmacy study program, Biotechnology study program and doctoral program. Preclinical translational research projects on rare diseases and tumor microenvironment studies, using NAM approach. Supervision of MSc and PhD student thesis.
 - Country: Latvia
2. Employer: Children Clinical University Hospital
 - Start date: 012026
 - Present
 - Position: senior expert
 - Activities: feasibility study on gene therapy medicinal products
 - Country: Latvia
3. Employer: University of Latvia
 - Start date: 012018
 - End date: 112023
 - Position: Professor
 - Activities: Director of the Pharmacy Bachelor study programme at the Faculty of Medicine; Lectures on Human biological medicines, Drug metabolism, Medical microbiology and immunology. Preclinical research projects on aptamers, biosensors, human primary cell cultures, organoids, induced pluripotent stem cells. Supervision of BSc, MSc and PhD student thesis.
 - Country: Latvia
4. Employer: University of Latvia
 - Start date: 062012
 - End date: 012018
 - Position: Associate professor
 - Activities: Lectures in Drug metabolism, Molecular pharmacy, Pharmaceutical cell biology, Medical microbiology and immunology Research on mesenchymal stem cells, nanoparticles, extracellular vesicles Supervision of BSc, MSc and PhD student thesis work
 - Country: Latvia

Education and training

1. Subject:
 - Start date: 031998
 - End date: 052002
 - Qualification: Ph.D.
 - Organisation: Karolinska Institutet
 - Country: Sweden
2. Subject:
 - Start date: 091995
 - End date: 061997
 - Qualification: M.Sc.
 - Organisation: University of Latvia
 - Country: Latvia

Additional information

Publications

SCI publications total 49, Scopus H index 21

Researcher's unique identifier(s), https://orcid.org/0000_0003_2217_7053

1. Goluba, K., Parfejevs, V., Neimane, A., Tvoronovica A., Lace B., Ghazvini M., Inashkina, I., Riekstina, U. Generation of induced pluripotent stem cell lines from three LGMD R1 patients carrying CAPN3 hypomorphic intronic variant c.1746-20C > G, Stem Cell Research, 2025, 87, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scr.2025.103803>
2. Goluba, K., Parfejevs, V., Rostoka et. al. (2024). Personalized PDAC chip with functional endothelial barrier for tumour biomarker detection: A platform for precision medicine applications. Materials today. Bio, 29, 101262. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mtbio.2024.101262>
3. Gundega Stelfa, Anna Miteniece, Baiba Svalbe, Edijs Vavers, Marina Makrecka-Kuka, Einars Kupats, Liga Kunrade, Vadims Parfejevs, Una Riekstina, Maija Dambrova, Liga Zvejniece. Age-dependent changes in visceral adiposity are associated with decreased plasma levels of DHEA-S in sigma-1 receptor knockout male mice, Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA) - Molecular and Cell Biology of Lipids, Volume 1870, Issue 1, 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbalip.2024.159571>.
4. Pleiko K, Haugas M, Parfejevs V, Pantelejevs T, Parisini E, Teesalu T, Riekstina U. Targeting triple-negative breast cancer cells with a β 1-integrin binding aptamer. Molecular Therapy - Nucleic Acids, Vol. 33, 2023, pp. 871-884, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.omtn.2023.08.015>.

5. Sjakste, N., & Riekstina, U. (2021). DNA damage and repair in differentiation of stem cells and cells of connective cell lineages: A trigger or a complication? *European Journal of Histochemistry : EJH*, 65(2), 3236. <https://doi.org/10.4081/ejh.2021.3236>
6. Pleiko K, Saulite L, Parfejevs V, Miculis K, Vjaters E, Riekstina U. Differential binding cell_SELEX method to identify cell_specific aptamers using high_throughput sequencing. *Sci Rep*. 2019 May 31;9(1):8142. doi: 10.1038/s41598_019_44654_w.

Projects

1. ERDERA project "Towards synergistic treatments for Leigh Syndrome Spectrum disorders (SynLeigh)", University of Latvia partner, principal investigator (2026-2029)
2. EU4Health project "Joint action Network of expertise on cancer (JANE-2)"; investigator (01.11.2024.-01.11.2028).
3. COST action CA24114 EUROPEAN NETWORK OF SoHO ESTABLISHMENTS FOR RAPID AND SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO ATMPs, Management Committee member.
4. COST action CA20140 CorEuStem: The European Network for Stem Cell Core Facilities, Management Committee member, 2021-2025, Training and education Working group co-leader.
5. COST action CA21151 - GENERATION OF HUMAN INDUCED PLURIPOTENT STEM CELLS FROM HAPLO-SELECTED CORD BLOOD SAMPLES (HAPLO-iPS), 2022-2026, Management Committee member.
6. TransCan3 Project "Targeting acute myeloid Leukemia immunosuppressive microEnvironment by combined IDO1 inhibition and PD-1 blockadE (TALETE)", 2023-2026, consortium partner, principal investigator
7. Euronanomed III project "Quantitative and storage_stable point_of_care diagnostic device", 2022-2025, Principal investigator, activity leader.
8. Project "Smart Materials, Photonics, Technologies and Engineering Ecosystem", No. VPP-EM-FOTONIKA-2022/1-0001, 2022-2024, Principal investigator, activity leader.
9. Project "State Research programme project in biomedical, medical technologies and pharmaceuticals", No. VPP-EM-BIOMEDICĪNA-2022/1-0001, 2022-2024, Principal investigator, activity leader.

Memberships

Memberships

1. Full member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences (2024-present)
2. Latvian Science Council expert (2006-present) – providing expertise in project evaluation in Basic medical sciences including pharmacy field.
3. Member of board, Pharmacology Society, Latvia (2016-present)– participation and organization of the society meetings
4. Honorary member of the Society of Latvian Pharmacists, 2021

Scientific awards

1. L'OREAL scholarship „For women in science” in collaboration with UNESCO Latvia National Committee and Latvian Academy of Sciences, 2010
2. Latvian Academy of Sciences Nomination of the top 12 research achievements, 2018
3. Latvian Academy of Sciences Acknowledgement for the research achievements, 2023
4. Latvian Academy of Sciences Nomination of the top 12 research achievements, 2024

Other Relevant Information