

# PRESS RELEASE

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Press release about the project **Amerikai magyar kutatók ösztöndíjának támogatása** 2020-2.1.1.-ED-2021-00183 by The Hungarian NRDI.

The Association of Hungarian American Academicians (AHAA, (Amerikai Magyar Akadémikusok Társasága, AMAT, in Hungarian) is comprised of the External Members of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS, Magyar Tudományos Akadémia, MTA, in Hungarian) with the aims to provide a forum for North American Hungarian Academicians who are still active scientists can interact and to foster and promote the great traditions and accomplishments of Hungarian science worldwide. The AHAA was established in 2016 and from the beginning it worked not only with the North American External members of the MTA but also members of the larger North American community of Hungarian scientists or “Külső Köztudományi Tagság”. One of the main aims of AHAA is to support Hungarian PhD candidates, Postdoctoral fellows and young scientists by providing awards and fellowships to further their scientific progress and career. The AHAA secures the necessary financial help through donations and grant applications. A jury of active AHAA scientists reviews the applications for the various awards. The names of the award winners are announced at the annual scientific meetings of the AHAA and the winner of the Young Investigator Award is celebrated at the General Meeting of HAS.

In May 5 to 7, 2022, the sixth AHAA Conference was held, for the first time since its establishment, in the beautiful and well-recognized building of the MTA on the shores of the Danube river in Budapest. For this year, the main sponsors of the annual AHAA Conference and fellowships were the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Innovation and Technology and the Department of National Research Development and Innovation in the amount of 10 million forints. A panel of AHAA scientists selected eight Hungarian PhD students for the award from the 21 applications received based on their submitted abstracts. These awards were to support the attendance at a scientific meeting in the US. The Young Investigator award went to Rajmund Fekete, a fellow at the Nemzeti Közszolgálati Egyetem Amerika Kutatóintézet. The first day of the AHAA Conference was held at the Felolvasó Terem of the main building of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Nineteen presentations, over four sessions, were given by the External and public association members of the MTA. In addition to the large number of in person participants, many other scientists followed the meeting by Zoom online. The highlights of the Conference were the keynote lectures by Márka Szabolcs, a Professor in the Department of Physics at Columbia University New York and by Roska Botond, the Director of the Institute of Molecular and Clinical Ophthalmology Basel, Basel, Switzerland. On the second day of the meeting, the participants visited the ZalaZone Automobile Test Park with very realistic stretches of road surfaces, widths, inclines and curves of different types, incorporating shopping areas, highways and residential areas. The ITM team guided the participants through some of the different challenges in the course, including very steep inclines, by driving through the course. This course is very popular for car and truck manufacturers to test their innovations in car designs. The participants also had the opportunity to visit the Museum of Zsidó Kiválóságok Háza in Balatonfüred, where they learned about the wide and very impressive range of cultural programs offered by the museum. The visitors praised the facilities and its management.

The detailed program and some photos from the Conference can be accessed on the AHAA website at <https://ahaa-amat.org/2022/05/6th-annual-conference-2022/>.



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