



Paraskevi Heldin – my privileged life as scientist

My scientific life started in 1981, when I started as a graduate student at the Department of Medical and Physiological Chemistry, Uppsala University, Sweden, studying regulatory phosphorylation of proteins. As a postdoctoral fellow I awarded The Göran Gustafsson Foundation position (Research of Excellence position at Uppsala University) and focused on the growth factor-mediated induced hyaluronan-CD44 signaling during inflammation, cancer and infection. My subsequent career involved employment as Head of the Matrix Biology Group at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Uppsala. In 2017, I became a guest professor at the Department of Medical Biochemistry and Microbiology (IMBIM), Uppsala University, and continued to elucidate the underlying mechanisms of CD44 signaling in response to TGF β and develop ways to inhibit hyaluronan-CD44 signaling. More recently, we demonstrated that aberrant hyaluronan-CD44 signaling perturbs vascular integrity, and high serum hyaluronan levels is an early predictor of warning signs during dengue virus infection.