

Virginijus Šikšnys studied chemistry at Vilnius University and obtained his Ph.D. from Moscow State University before returning to Vilnius where he moved through different research ranks at the Institute of Applied Enzymology/Institute of Biotechnology. In 1994 he stayed as a visiting scientist in the lab of Prof. Robert Huber at Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry in Germany. Since 2002 he holds the position of Professor of Vilnius University and is the Chief scientist at the Institute of Biotechnology. Currently he holds a chair of distinguished professor at Vilnius University and serves as chairman of the board of Life Science Center of Vilnius University. His research on the CRISPR-Cas has had a major impact on the field. His studies of the Cas9 protein paved the way for development of novel tools for genome editing applications. He is a member of Academia Europaea, EMBO, Lithuania Academy of Sciences and Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters. His work has been recently recognized with numerous awards and prizes including the Kavli Prize.

