

Prof. Dr Mait Metspalu



Director of the Institute of Genomics at the University of Tartu in Estonia since 2014, a foreign member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (2025).

Prof. Dr Mait Metspalu was born on 24 August 1975 in Estonia. He received his bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Biology and Geography at the University of Tartu in 1999, his master's degree in 2001, and his doctorate in 2005 from the same university. Prof. Metspalu has made a significant contribution to the development of genomics, human population genetics, evolutionary biology, and personalised medicine in Estonia and worldwide. His research interests include population genetics, evolutionary genomics, and ancient DNA.

For over ten years he has maintained close scientific and professional relations with Lithuanian scientists – geneticists, biochemists, medical doctors, and the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

Since 2003, he has been an investigator or leader of 28 national and international research projects. Currently, he is a leader of seven projects. Some of the projects have involved Lithuanian scientists – medical geneticists and doctors – in internships and joint research at the University of Tartu. Academician Vaidutis Kučinskas and other Lithuanian scientists have also presented papers and gave lectures at international conferences and seminars at this university.

Prof. Mait Metspalu is a world-renowned scientist who has published over 100 research articles in the journals indexed in the Web of Science database. His articles have been cited more than 12,000 times, and his personal citation index is high: h-50.

In recent years, he has published three research papers with the members of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences in such prestigious journals such as *Nature*, *European Journal of Human Genetics*, and others, thus contributing to the international recognition of the work of Lithuanian scientists and to the implementation of joint research programmes.

In 2019, Prof. Mait Metspalu presented a paper at the 16th Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation 'Genes: From the Past to the Future' and in 2022 – at the international scientific conference 'Population Genetics from the Baltic Perspective: Microevolutionary Processes of the Lithuanian Genomes', which was organised by Vilnius University and the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (Vilnius, 20-21 May).

Prof. Dr Metspalu has advised five doctoral dissertations defended in Lithuania.

He is the main organiser of the international conference 'Gene Forum' held annually at the University of Tartu. Lithuanian scientists and members of the Young Academy of the Academy of Sciences are also present their papers at this conference.

Prepared by Dr Jadvyga Olechnovičienė