



«THE MESSENGER : A Story of mRNA»

Documentary Film 53 min

Produced by

Yelena Ganshof van der Meersch

In Co-production with RTS

Production : **INSIDE TOMORROW (CH)**

In Co-production : **Radio Télévision Suisse (CH)**

2 Hérons production (FR)

Support of : Cinéforum, Loterie Romande (CH)

Producer : **Yelena Ganshof van der Meersch**

Co-directors : Yelena Ganshof van der Meersch (CH)

Tareq Daoud (CH)

Ev Durán (US)

Duration : 53 min

English version : original

French version : dubbed

Italian version : dubbed

Contact : +41 79 906 8425

yelena.ganshof@insidetomorrow.media

<https://insidetomorrow.media>

Featuring : **Katalin Karikó**/ University of Pennsylvania, Nobel Prize winner 2023

Steve Pascolo/ Professor, University Hospital Zurich

Robert Langer/ Professor MIT, co-founder of Moderna

Ugur Sahin/ Co-founder of BioNTech

Özlem Türeci/ Co-founder of BioNTech

Pieter Cullis/ Professor, University of British Columbia

Robert Malone/ Physician and scientist

Fyodor Urnov/ Professor, University of California, Berkeley

Hans-Georg Rammensee/ Professor, University of Tübingen

Elie Dolgin/ Science journalist

**«THE MESSENGER»
documentary film uncovers a fascinating story
of messenger RNA discovery,
freshly crowned by the Nobel Prize in medicine 2023**

In co-production with the national Swiss Television channel RTS, "THE MESSENGER" uncovers a fascinating history of messenger RNA technology applied in the recent Covid-19 vaccines. In a remarkable turn of events, the film features a selected group mRNA pioneers who stayed at the roots of this technology, with KATALIN KARIKÓ and DREW WEISSMAN freshly crowned with the prestigious Nobel Prize in Medicine on October 2, 2023.

Long before the pandemic of 2020, researchers were initially looking for the best gene therapy methods to fight cancer, AIDS and other deadly diseases, which several decades later became a foundation of mRNA technology we know today.

A prominent science journalist ELIE DOLGIN walks viewers through a tangled history of discoveries and inventions that have marked this little-known story. Through interviews with biggest names in research, the film opens "back stage" doors to technology founders: STEVE PASCOLO, the first human to receive an mRNA vaccine as part of his own lab experiment in Tübingen, ROBERT MALONE, who first attempted to bring mRNA into cultured cells to produce proteins in California, KATALIN KARIKÓ, who discovered at the University of Pennsylvania how specific chemical modifications allow mRNA to be better accepted by the human body, PIETER CULLIS, best known as the inventor of a revolutionary mRNA transport system in Vancouver, UGUR SAHIN & OZLEM TURECI, the visionary couple who founded the BioNTech company in Mainz, and others.

Graphic animations made as cartoons, help the audience understand the role of RNA and DNA in our body, a normal life cycle of mRNA - and how scientists tried to divert this process to teach the immune system to overcome disease.

Now, after the pandemic brought the humanity to this crucial momentum in technological advancement, the leading biotech companies are enacting clinical trials to reveal a new generation of revolutionary cures, all through mRNA technology.

This film reveals the personal human battles these scientists endured to bring their contributions to the mainstream. It delves into an incredible page in the history of science, exploring the non-linear, even sometimes chaotic ways in which research is often carried out. This is a story that needs to be told, and one that will be celebrated and remembered for the rest of time.

For more information about "THE MESSENGER"
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