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Born and grown-up in Helsinki, Finland, did her training in neurology at the Helsinki Central University Hospital and received a neurological certification and defended her PhD thesis from the University of Helsinki. She did her postdoctoral training at the Neuroimmunology Branch, NINDS, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda in 1991-1993, and was a visiting scientist at the Microbiology and Tumorbiology Center at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm 1996-1997. She joined Department of Neurology, Tampere University Hospital, Finland, in 1991 and University of Tampere in 1993 as an assistant Professor of Neuroimmunology. She is currently Professor of Neurology and Chief Neurologist at the Department of Neurology, Tampere University Hospital and University of Tampere.

Her field of interest is mainly focused on immunology, use of magnetic resonance imaging in monitoring of multiple sclerosis and its therapies. She has authored and co-authored 180 scientific articles and book chapters. She has served as a Chair of Finnish Neurological Association, a member of Scientific Committee of European Federation of Neurology (EFNS), and is a board member of European School of Neuroimmunology (ESNI). She has been involved in many international clinical trials in the field of multiple sclerosis.