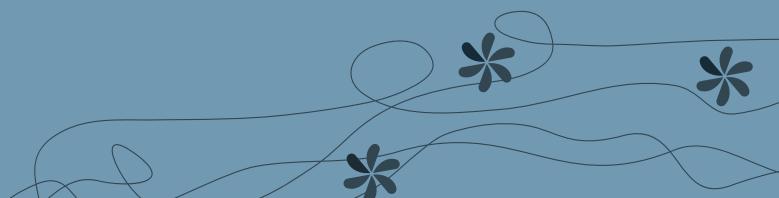


# STEM CELL INNOVATORS

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## MALIN PARMAR

“With our protocol, we increased the yield almost 40-fold.”



 **MALIN PARMAR, Ph.D.**

PROFESSOR IN CELLULAR NEUROSCIENCE AT LUND UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN

**ABOUT:** Professor Malin Parmar's research focuses on developmental and regenerative neurobiology. The main aim of her research is to bring new cell-based therapies for Parkinson's disease to the clinic. Malin has a Ph.D. degree in developmental biology in 2003 from Lund University which was followed by a PostDoc Position at the Institute of Stem Cell Research at Edinburgh University, financed by Swedish Research Council. After her postdoc she moved back to Lund to set up her own lab at the Department of Experimental Medical Science. Prof. Parmar is a leading authority within Parkinson's research and Regenerative medicine and she has leading roles in several European and global network and consortiums which are working toward doing the first-in-human clinical trials with stem cell-derived neurons for Parkinson's disease. She is also the founder and owner of Parmar Cells AB, a research and development company with consultancy services in biomedicine and biotechnology.



I became interested in science already at young age and the questions that inspire me and that drove me into science in the first place are: how does a cell know what to become and what factors regulate it? I have always been interested in developmental biology and this took me into the field of stem cells and later also regenerative medicine. The overall focus of my research group is to take experimental studies all the way to the patients, with focus on translational stem cell biology. In my group, we study cell fate specification in the developing brain and in human neural progenitor cells, to learn how to direct and efficiently drive controlled differentiation of human stem cells into subtype-specific neurons. I have worked a lot with dopaminergic neurons and over the years my research focus has shifted more and more towards developing new stem cell-based therapies for Parkinson's disease.

**W**hen going from a research grade protocol to a GMP grade protocol, one important step is to source the right ingredients that can be used in the manufacturing of cells to be used

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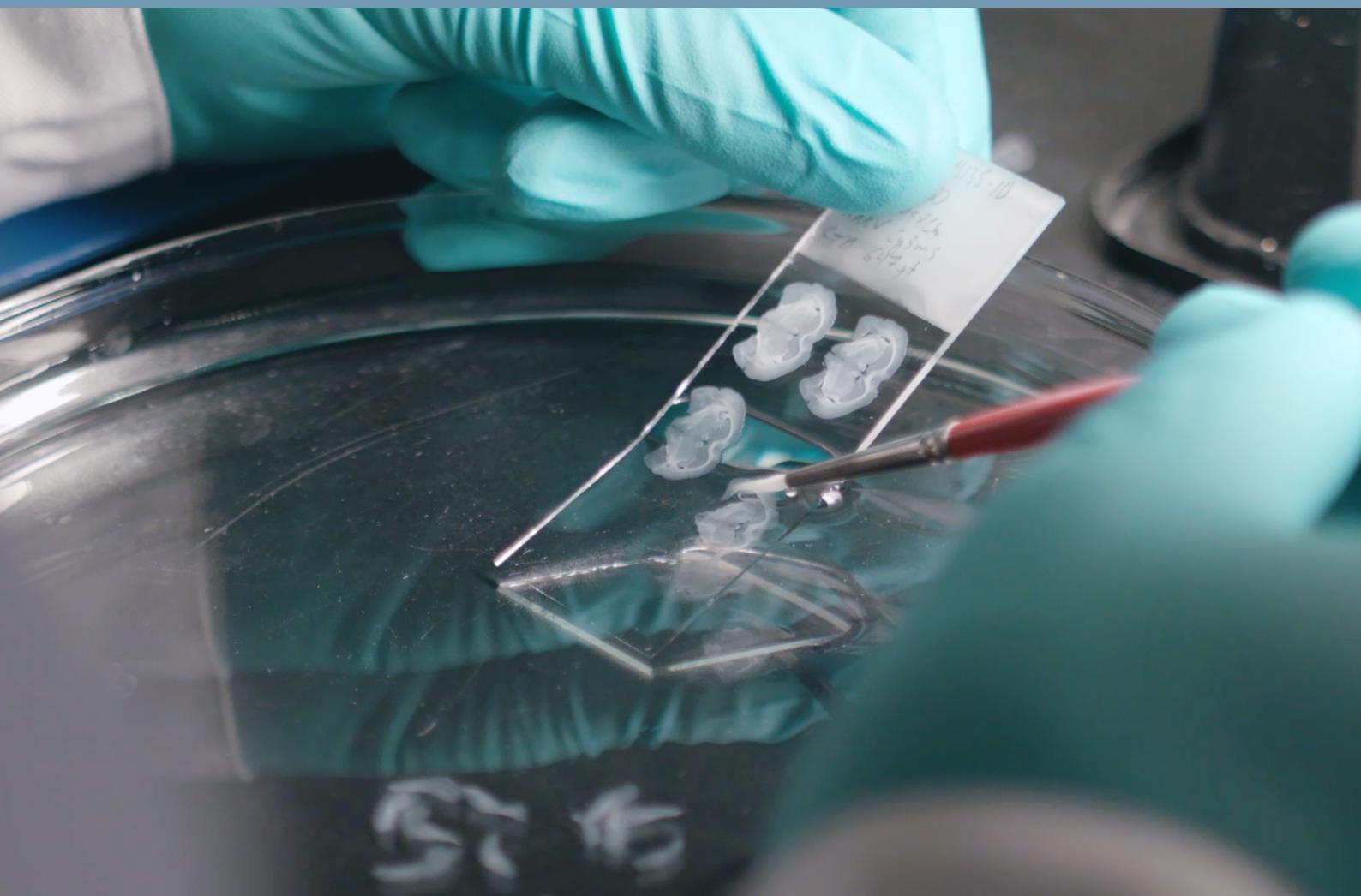


Photo: Malin Parmar

in patients. It was within this context we started working with BioLamina. The defined laminin substrates from Biolamina worked really well in our protocol. The cells became better and the protocol became more robust and we increased the yield almost 40-fold, meaning that we can now make a large batch of cells for hundreds of Parkinson's disease patients in just one manual manufacturing round. This work was carried out in a European research consortium with the main objective to develop an efficacious and safe cell-based treatment for Parkinson's disease and at the same time we are part of a new clinical trial using fetal cells (the TRANSEURO trial). In this trial, Lund is one of the two transplantation sites and I'm coordinated the tissue preparation team. I am also one of the founding members in G-Force-PD which is a global initiative for coordinating and developing stem cell-derived neural transplantation for Parkinson's."

"It is super interesting to be part of this field right now. I can combine my passion for developmental biology with the translational aspects, and we have gone all the way from very basic research, taking these cells through the translational process and are just about to hit the clinic with these stem cell-derived cells." •

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