



**Paraskevi Heldin**, PhD., received her Ph.D., in Medical and Physiological Chemistry from the Faculty of Medicine, Uppsala University in 1987. During 1987-1990, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Medical and Physiological Chemistry, Uppsala University under the supervision of Professor T.C. Laurent and during 1991-1997, a research assistant at the same university. Since 2001, she is Associate Investigator and Head of the Matrix Biology Group at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in

Uppsala University. She has authored or co-authored more than 60 research articles and over 10 invited reviews and book chapters. Dr P. Heldin's interests are focused on understanding how the stromal microenvironment influences cellular behavior. She aims to dissect the signaling pathways by which cells sense microenvironmental cues. In different research approaches she investigates hyaluronan-CD44 complexes, as molecular switches, that in a co-receptor fashion crosstalk with growth factor receptors including PDGF- and TGF  $\beta$ -receptor and convey signals into the cells.