

Bio: Gerhard A. Holzapfel is Professor of Biomechanics and Head of the Institute of Biomechanics at Graz University of Technology (TUG), Austria, since 2007. He is also Adjunct Professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway, and Visiting Professor at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. Until 2013 he was Professor of Biomechanics at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm, Sweden, for 9 years (7 years as an Adjunct Professor). After his PhD in Mechanical Engineering in Graz he received an Erwin-Schrödinger Scholarship for foreign countries to be a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University (1993-95). He achieved his Habilitation at TU Vienna in 1996 and received a START-Award in 1997, which is the most prestigious research award in Austria for young scientists. In the following years (1998-2004) he was the Head of a research group on "Computational Biomechanics" at TUG. Among several awards and honors in the past years he is listed in "The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds: 2014" (Thomas Reuters), he received the Erwin Schrödinger Prize 2011 from the Austrian Academy of Sciences for his lifetime achievements, was awarded the 2021 William Prager Medal and the 2021 Warner T. Koiter Medal. He received an Honoris Causa Doctorate from the École des Mines de Saint-Étienne, France, in 2024 and an Honorary Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Parma, Italy, in 2025. In 2025, he received the Huiskes Medal for Biomechanics from the European Society of Biomechanics and the EUROMECH Solid Mechanics Prize. He was elected a Fellow of the European Academy of Sciences: Engineering Division in 2024 and an International Member of the United States National Academy of Engineering (NAE) in 2025. In 2024, he received a Synergy Grant from the European Research Council (ERC).