

## Brno City Award

The *Brno City Award* has been presented since 1993 to individuals (or groups) whose work is closely connected to the statutory city of Brno. The city's political leadership grants this award for outstanding contributions or works that enrich one or more areas of public life and help enhance Brno's reputation. Both experts and the general public can nominate individuals, and the Brno City Council prepares a shortlist, which is then approved by the City Assembly.

In 2015, the City of Brno awarded Professor Ivana Márová from the Faculty of Chemistry at Brno University of Technology a prestigious prize for her contribution to technical sciences. She received the *Brno City Award* for developing a technology for the microbial production of bioplastics from used frying oil.

Since 1997, Professor Márová has been working at the Faculty of Chemistry at Brno University of Technology, currently serving as the Director of the Institute of Food Science and Biotechnology. In addition to biochemistry, she is active in teaching and research in the field of microbial biotechnology and the use of waste substrates to produce high value-added compounds. She also focuses on emerging trends in food chemistry and technology, including nanotechnology applications.

Professor Márová was honored for developing a microbial technology that transforms waste frying oil—no longer usable for other purposes—into an eco-friendly polymer. This material has properties similar to polypropylene, yet is fully biodegradable and biocompatible, meaning it is well tolerated in biological environments. A license for this technology was sold to an industrial company, which introduced it to international markets under the trade name *Hydal*. This discovery remains the only Czech technology to have received a prestigious award from the global agency *Frost & Sullivan*, which evaluates the impact of innovations on human progress.

