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Director of Center for Energy and Advanced Materials Science of National Laboratory Astana, Vice-Dean for Research of School of Engineering and Digital Sciences, Nazarbayev University. Prior joining Nazarbayev University he worked at Tokyo Institute of Technology (Japan) and the University of Waterloo (Canada). Prof. Bakenov accomplished a large number of Governmental, industrial and commercial research projects and programs in field of advanced materials for energy storage and conversion.

Awards: 2020 – Web of Science Award “Leader of Science”, 2019 – Scopus Award “Researcher of the Year”, 2017 Award of Springer Nature “Springer Nature Top Authors”, State Medal of Kazakhstan "For Excellence in Labour" (2017), National Award for the Best Patent of the Year “Shapagat” (2016), Marie Curie Fellow, Medal of the Government of Kazakhstan “For Contribution to Development of Science in Kazakhstan” (2014), the 2015 Award “Science Leader” by the Thomson Reuters – National Center for Scientific and Technical Information.