

JURY OF ITS SECOND EDITION

PROFESSORS JEAN-LAURENT CASANOVA, SILVIA PRIORI, FEDERICO DE MONTALVO AND JUAN LUIS ARSUAGA, UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF ALBERTO MUÑOZ, WILL CHOOSE THE WINNER OF THE SECOND EDITION OF 'ABARCA PRIZE'.

- Professor Jean-Laurent Casanova, winner of the 'ABARCA PRIZE' in 2021, joins the jury in this II edition.
- The winner of the *Doctor Juan Abarca* International Award for Medical Sciences, endowed with 100,000 euros, will be announced in October.

Madrid May 3rd, 2022.- 'ABARCA PRIZE' officially presents its jury panel for its second edition, which will be presided by Professor Alberto Muñoz, Research Professor of the Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) at the Institute of Biomedical Research of Madrid (IIB). Professor Jean-Laurent Casanova, winner of the first 'ABARCA PRIZE' edition and researcher at Rockefeller University Hospital in New York, joins the jury, composed also by Juan Luis Arsuaga, Spanish scientist, professor and palaeontologist; Silvia G. Priori, Italian cardiologist and researcher, Scientific Director of the ICS Maugeri Hospital; and Federico de Montalvo, PhD in Law and president of the Spanish Bioethics Committee. This jury will be in charge of choosing the winner of the 'ABARCA PRIZE' in 2022.

In addition to the incorporation of Professor Casanova, the organisation of 'ABARCA PRIZE' has decided to count again with the majority of the juries of the previous edition, for their recognised prestige and their excellent commitment to the project, in total harmony with the values of the award, and for their personal performance of a life dedicated to research and scientific dissemination or the ethical debate of issues of great social impact, reasons that have allowed profound advances in the field of health benefit.

The decision of the jury of the *Doctor Juan Abarca* International Award for Medical Sciences will be announced on 25 October 2022, with the reading of the corresponding act by the president of the jury, Professor Alberto Muñoz. This award, endowed with 100,000 euros and a diploma, recognises a person in the field of research and science from anywhere in the world whose work has made a significant contribution to improving the health of individuals and populations.

The Jury

Professor Alberto Muñoz, president of the jury

Professor Alberto Muñoz is Research Professor of the Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) at the Institute of Biomedical Research of Madrid (IIB). He is also Doctor of Science at the Autonomous University of Madrid (1983), and he has worked at the *European Molecular Biology Laboratory* (Heidelberg, 1986-1988) and at the *Institute for Molecular Pathology* (Genentech-Boehringer Ingelheim, Vienna, 1990-1991), where his work on *erbA* genes has contributed to the characterization of the c-*erbA* protein as the receptor for thyroid hormones.

On the doctor's return to Madrid in 1991, he investigated the effects of thyroid hormones and the *erbA* genes in the brain and mammary gland at the IIB. Since 1999 he has studied the action of vitamin D and its VDR receptor, including work on the Wnt / beta-catenin in colon cancer.

Professor Alberto Muñoz has been Coordinator of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the National Agency for Evaluation and Prospective (1997-2000) and at the Secretary of State for Universities and Research (2001-2006) of the Ministry of Education and Science. He has worked as a member and co-ordinator in the Biology and Biomedicine Area of the CSIC (2000-2008), President of the Scientific Commission of the IIB (2015-2018), and Patron of the Scientific Foundation of the Spanish Association against Cancer (2007-2014).

He has received a number of awards for his work on nuclear receptors and cancer. He has won the Rey Jaime I Prize for Basic Research (1993), the first Prize from the Francisco Cobos Foundation for Biomedical Research (2000), the Harington-De Visscher Prize from the *European Thyroid Association* (1999), and first prize from the Vilardell Gastroenterology Foundation (2006).

Professor Jean-Laurent Casanova

Jean-Laurent Casanova is the Levy Family Professor at the Rockefeller University in New York, where he is also Head of the St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases and Investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and Professor at the University of Paris Cité, where he is Head of the Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases, at the Imagine Institute; He received his MD from the University of Paris Descartes and his Ph.D. from the Pierre-et-Marie-Curie University after being trained at the Pasteur Institute in Paris and the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in Lausanne.

Currently, he is also the chairman of the COVID Human Genetic Effort international consortium and an editor of *The Journal of Experimental Medicine*. He is a Foreign Member of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA. Over more nearly 30 years, his work has revolutionized

the study of infectious diseases, by identifying genetic variations that affect people's ability to fight infectious agents.

In 2021, Prof. Casanova was the winner of the first edition of 'ABARCA PRIZE' for having solved the so-called "infection enigma". The biological and medical impact of Prof. Casanova's scientific research is important. His work is progressively transforming the understanding and management of infectious diseases worldwide.

Professor Juan Luis Arsuaga

Juan Luis Arsuaga is a Spanish researcher, professor and palaeontologist. He holds a PhD in Biological Sciences from the Complutense University of Madrid and is Professor of Palaeontology in the Faculty of Geological Sciences at the same university. Since July 2013 he has been scientific director of the Museum of Human Evolution in Burgos and is a visiting professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University College of London.

Since 1982 he has been a member of the Research Team at the Pleistocene sites in the Sierra de Atapuerca (Burgos, Spain), under the direction of Emiliano Aguirre Enríquez, and co-director, together with José María Bermúdez de Castro and Eudald Carbonell Roura, of the team that has been awarded the Prince of Asturias Award for Technical and Scientific Research and the Castilla y León Award for Social Sciences and Humanities, both in 1997. In 1999, he founded the Atapuerca Foundation.

Professor Silvia G. Priori

Cardiologist and researcher who has combined clinical practice with basic and translational research. In Italy, she works at the Department of Molecular Medicine at the University of Pavia and at the ICS Maugeri Hospital.

Since 2012, Prof. Priori has been the Scientific Director of the ICS Maugeri network which consists of up to 15 hospitals. She has also held various positions within scientific societies: She has served as a member of the Board of Trustees at the Heart Rhythm Society in the United States, as a Member of the Board of the European Society of Cardiology, and as President of the European Heart Rhythm Society.

Prof. Priori has dedicated her clinical and research activities to understanding the molecular mechanisms that lead to inherited arrhythmias, and, since 2013, she has focused on developing molecular therapies for these diseases. One of the greatest challenges in the field is the scarcity of experimental models to recapitulate arrhythmogenic syndromes, and an important part of the doctor's research is directed towards changing this.

Professor Federico de Montalvo

Doctor in Law and Associate Professor of Constitutional Law at the Faculty of Law (ICADE) of the Universidad Pontificia Comillas,

Professor de Montalvo has held the position of Director of the Centre for Innovation in Law (CID-ICADE) at said Faculty from 2017 to February 2021, being a member of its dean's team. He has been President of the Spanish Bioethics Committee since 2019, having previously served as Vice-President of that government advisory body from 2013 to 2018.

Since 2014, Professor de Montalvo has been a member of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) of UNESCO and also holds the status of Corresponding Academician of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Murcia and Corresponding Academician of the Royal Academy of Pharmacy of the Region of Murcia. He has been a member of the Health Care Ethics Committee of the Hospital 12 de Octubre, where he is currently an external advisor, of the CEIC-R of the Community of Madrid and of the CEIC of the Hospital de la Princesa.

About 'ABARCA PRIZE'

The *Doctor Juan Abarca* International Award for Medical Sciences, '**ABARCA PRIZE**', was born in 2020 with the purpose of highlighting to international society the impact of medical and scientific advances and innovations. To this end, this award is given to a person from the world of research and science from anywhere in the world, whose work has contributed in a transcendental way to the improvement of the health of people and populations.

'**ABARCA PRIZE**' is inspired by the foundations of the permanent commitment to the progress and health of people, intrinsic values of *Dr. Juan Abarca* throughout his professional career.

For more information:

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