

ABRCA PRIZE RECOGNIZES MEDICAL-SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN ITS SECOND EDITION

- **Professor Philippe J. Sansonetti is considered one of the founders of cellular microbiology and is developing revolutionary research on shigellosis, focused on improving the health of children in the most impoverished areas of the planet.**
- **The award ceremony of the II Edition of this international prize brought together more than 130 personalities from public society, science, research and health management in Spain.**

Madrid, October 27, 2022.- The Secretary of State for Health, Ms. Silvia Calzón Fernández, headed the award ceremony of the II Edition of the Dr. Juan Abarca International Award for Medical Sciences, 'ABARCA PRIZE', granted this year to Professor Philippe J. Sansonetti, microbiologist, professor and director of the Microbial Molecular Pathogenesis Unit of the renowned French research center Institut Pasteur, with a brilliant professional career of more than 40 years.

In her speech, the Secretary of State for Health congratulated Professor Sansonetti for the award and the Abarca family for the initiative of this award, which "fulfills the dual objective of making science and research visible, as well as highlighting the values of Dr. Juan Abarca throughout his professional career". Calzón also highlighted the importance of public-private collaboration, highlighting this joint work that "acted as an overflowed basin in the worst moments of the pandemic".

On his behalf, Professor Sansonetti stated that, "it is important to recognize the work of individuals, but it is also vital to recognize the work of science, especially in those areas where there is no academic funding. Foundations are essential to support these aspects". The award-winner said that in this way research is boosted, "since medicine is a multidisciplinary exercise that is presented to the public as the driving force of modern societies".

The 'ABARCA PRIZE' award ceremony was attended by more than 130 guests, including numerous public figures such as Raquel Yotti, Secretary General for Research of the Ministry of Science and Innovation, Javier Fernández-Lasqueti, Minister of Finance of the Community of Madrid, the Deputy Mayor of Madrid, Begoña Villacís, the journalist and writer Luis María Ansón, the director of El Español, Pedro J. Ramírez, the president of Iberdrola, Ignacio Galán, and Antonio Huertas, president of Mapfre, among others. Ramírez, the Chairman of Iberdrola, Ignacio Galán and Antonio Huertas, Chairman of Mapfre, among others.

The award that consisted on 100,000 euros and a diploma, was presented to an international jury made up of Professor Silvia G. Priori, Italian cardiologist and researcher at the National Center for Cardiovascular Research (CNIC) and former president of the European Heart Rhythm Society. Priori, Italian cardiologist and researcher at the National Center for Cardiovascular Research (CNIC) and former president of the European Heart Rhythm Society; Spanish paleontologist Juan Luis Arsuaga, director of the Joint UCM-Carlos III Institute of Health Center for Human Evolution and Behavior and co-director of the Atapuerca sites; Professor Federico de Montalvo, PhD in Law and president of the Spanish Bioethics Committee since 2019; and the winner of its first edition, Professor Jean-Laurent Casanova, researcher at Rockefeller University Hospital in New York and director of the St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics and Infectious Diseases. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics and Infectious Diseases. Professor Alberto Muñoz, a renowned researcher at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) at the Institute for Biomedical Research in Madrid (IIB), has once again served as president of the jury.

Professor Philippe J. Sansonetti is considered one of the founders of cell microbiology.

Professor Sansonetti's line of research focuses on understanding the different aspects of the pathogenesis of Shigella, an enteric pathogen responsible for severe diarrheal forms. His works covers multiple disciplinary areas ranging from biology to medicine, from molecular genetics to cell biology, from immunology to the development of vaccines against dysentery.

His studies are also important, aimed at identifying a set of agents or structures of shigella involved in the control of both innate and adaptive immune responses. Shigellosis affects 164.7 million people worldwide, 163.2 million in developing countries and 1.5 million in industrialized countries.

Philippe Sansonetti is currently actively involved in research for the development of candidate vaccines against major shigellae. The World Health Organization (WHO) has given priority to programs for the development of effective vaccines against this disease, since the implementation of hygienic-sanitary prevention measures is very difficult, in addition to the high prevalence of multi-resistant strains to antibiotics.

Professor Sansonetti is the author of more than 300 publications in scientific journals and for several years has been editor of numerous professional publications

About 'ABARCA PRIZE'

The International Award for Medical Sciences 'ABARCA PRIZE' was born in 2021 with the purpose of highlighting the impact of medical scientific advances and innovations to the international society. To this end, this award is given to a person from the world of research and science anywhere in the world, whose work has contributed in a transcendental way to the improvement of the health of individuals and populations.

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

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