

'ABARCA PRIZE' ANNOUNCES THE JURY FOR ITS FIRST EDITION

***DR. RICHARD HORTON, PROFESSOR SILVIA PRIORI,
PROFESSOR JUAN LUIS ARSUAGA AND PROFESSOR
FEDERICO DE MONTALVO WILL CHOOSE THE WINNER OF
'ABARCA PRIZE' UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF PROFESSOR
ALBERTO MUÑOZ***

- The jury comprises a variety of professional profiles (scientific, clinical and other fields) and nationalities, to guarantee a global and critical vision for the best choice of the winning candidate.
- The Jury's decision will be known on October 25.

Madrid, September 30, 2021.–The organization of the *Doctor Juan Abarca* International Award for Medical Sciences, officially announces its jury panel for its first edition, composed of four researchers and scientists who, together with Professor Alberto Muñoz Terol as its president, will choose the winner of this award.

This prize, endowed with 100,000 euros and a diploma, is awarded to a scientist of international renown who throughout their scientific or medical career has made a transcendental contribution to the protection, improvement or rehabilitation of individuals' and populations' health. The Jury's decision will be known on October 25.

Dr. Richard Horton, editor-in-chief of the medical journal *The Lancet*, Prof. Silvia G. Priori, Italian cardiologist and researcher; Prof. Juan Luis Arsuaga, Spanish scientist, professor and paleontologist; and Prof. Federico de Montalvo, Doctor of Law and president of the Bioethics Committee of Spain since 2019, are the four renowned personalities that make up this jury, under the presidency of Prof. Alberto Muñoz.

The members of the jury to award ABARCA PRIZE have been appointed based on both their accredited academic and professional prestige and the international impact of their scientific contributions. They must also exemplify the 'Abarca Prize's values.

In addition to the national and international scientific recognitions that all have, their personal performance in a life dedicated to research, scientific dissemination or ethical debate on issues of great social impact is joined, reasons that have allowed to advance deeply in the benefit of the health.

‘ABARCA PRIZE’ Jury members

Dr. Richard Horton

Editor-in-chief of The Lancet, a United Kingdom-based medical journal, Dr Horton is an honorary professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University College London, and the University of Oslo.

After studying medicine at the University of Birmingham, he joined the liver unit at London's Royal Free Hospital. In 1990, he became assistant editor of The Lancet and five years later became its editor-in-chief in the UK. He was the first president of the World Association of Medical Publishers and was president of the Council of Scientific Publishers of the USA. He writes regularly for The New York Review of Books and TLS.

Dr Horton has been a medical writer for The Observer, The Times Literary Supplement and The New York Review of Books. In 2003, he published *Second Opinion: Doctors, Diseases and Decisions in Modern Medicine*, a book about controversies in modern medicine. In 2005 he wrote "Doctors in society: medical professionalism in a changing world", an inquiry into the future of medical professionalism, for the Royal College of Physicians. He has served in various roles with the World Health Organization (WHO).

In addition, he has received the Edinburgh Medal in 2007 and the Dean's Medal of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in 2009.

Professor Silvia Priori

Prof. Silvia G. Priori is a 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 Juan Luis Arsuaga

Juan Luis Arsuaga is a doctor in Biological Sciences at the Complutense University of Madrid. At the same university he is also a Professor of Paleontology in the Faculty of Geological Sciences.

He directs the UCM-Carlos III Health Institute Joint Center for Human Evolution and Behavior. He is also a co-director of the Sierra de Atapuerca deposits, a project which won the Prince of Asturias Award for Scientific and Technical Research in 1997. Juan Luis Arsuaga also co-directs the excavations of the Valley of the Neanderthals (Madrid). He is a Scientific Director at the Museum of Human Evolution in Burgos as well. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States and a Doctor Honoris Causa at the University of Burgos, the Polytechnic of Valencia, and the University of Zaragoza.

Juan Luis Arsuaga is the sole author and collaborating author of numerous popular science books translated into many languages. These include: “The Chosen Species”, “The Neanderthal's Necklace”, “Amalur. From the Atom to the Mind”, “Darwin’s Watch”, “The First Trip of Our Life”, “The Indelible Seal”, “Life. The Great Story”, and “Life Told by a Sapien to a Neanderthal”.

Professor Federico de Montalvo

Professor Federico de Montalvo is a doctor of law and aggregate associate professor of Constitutional Law in the Faculty of Law (ICADE) at Pontificia Comillas University. From 2017 to February 2021, he was the director of the Centre for Innovation in Law (CID-ICADE) in the same faculty, where he was a member of the dean team.

Having previously held the position of vice-president from 2013 to 2018, Professor Federico de Montalvo has been President of the Bioethics Committee of Spain since 2019.

Since 2014, the professor has been a member of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) of UNESCO. He also holds the position of Corresponding Member of the Royal Academy of Medicine and the Royal Academy of Pharmacy in Murcia. He has been a member of the Healthcare Ethics Committee of the Twelfth of October Hospital (where he currently works as an external advisor). He has also been a member of the CEIC-R of the Community of Madrid and of the CEIC of the Hospital de la Princesa.

In addition, the professor is a member of the Board of Directors at the Ibero-American Association of Health Law, at the Spanish Association of Health Risk Management, and at the Association of Health Lawyers. Besides this, he is a member of the Spanish Association of Health Law. He is also a member and researcher at the Santander Chair in the Rights of the Child at the Pontificia Comillas University.

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 Alberto Muñoz has written 170 articles in international journals. He has 11,500 citations and an h factor of 56.

About 'ABARCA PRIZE'

Doctor Juan Abarca International Award for Medical Sciences '**ABARCA PRIZE**' is born in 2021 with the purpose of highlighting to international society the impact of medical and scientific advances and innovations. This award will be 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 further information:

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