

**A JURY WITH GREAT INTERNATIONAL PERSONALITIES
IN THE SCIENTIFIC MEDICAL FIELD FOR 'ABARCA
PRIZE' IN ITS THIRD EDITION**

Professors Silvia Priori, Federico de Montalvo and Juan Luis Arsuaga are joined this year by professors Yasmine Belkaid and Pura Muñoz-Cánoves, Dr Sandra Myrna Díaz and Professor Philippe J. Sansonetti

- The winner of this edition will be chosen under the presidency of Professor Silvia Priori
- The International Prize is honored to have the winner of the Nobel Prize and Princess of Asturias Award Sandra Myrna Díaz
- The decision of 'ABARCA PRIZE', endowed with 100,000 euros, will be known in the first week of next October

Madrid, May 10, 2023.- 'ABARCA PRIZE' officially presents its jury panel for its third edition, in which professors **Silvia Priori, Federico de Montalvo and Juan Luis Arsuaga** will be accompanied by renowned international figures in the medical-scientific field to choose the winner this year. The new additions are professors **Yasmine Belkaid and Pura Muñoz-Cánoves, Dr Sandra Myrna Díaz and professor Philippe J. Sansonetti**, winner of the II edition of the award.

The decision of the jury of the International Award for Medical Sciences Dr Juan Abarca will be announced in the first week of next October, with the reading of the corresponding minutes by the **president of the jury, Professor Silvia Priori**. This prize, endowed with 100,000 euros and a diploma, recognizes a person in the field of research and science from anywhere in the world, whose work has contributed in a transcendental way to the improvement of the health of individuals and populations.

**Members of the jury of 'ABARCA PRIZE' in its III
Edition**

Professor Silvia G. Priori. President of the jury

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

Since 2012, Priori is the scientific director of the ICS Maugeri network, made up of 15 hospitals. She has also held several positions within scientific societies: she has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Heart Rhythm Societies (USA); member of the Board of the European Society of Cardiology; and president of the European Heart Rhythm Society.

Dr. Priori has dedicated her clinical and research activity to understanding the molecular mechanisms that lead to hereditary arrhythmias, and since 2013 she has focused on the development of molecular therapies on these pathologies.

She has been a member of the jury of 'ABARCA PRIZE' in its two previous editions.

Professor Philippe J. Sansonetti. Winner of 'ABARCA PRIZE' in its II Edition

Philippe J. Sansonetti is a graduate in Biology (Marie Curie University of Paris, 1992); M.D. (University of Paris Descartes, 1995); fellowship of the National Research Council of the United States (1979-1981); and completed his postdoctoral training at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (Washington DC, USA).

He currently works as a professor at the Pasteur Institute and since 2008, he was elected to the Chair of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at the Collège de France. He is the author of more than 500 publications in scientific journals and for several years has been editor of numerous professional publications. His prestige in the field of science has been recognized with numerous awards, including Officer of the National Order of the Legion of Honor and Commander of the National Order of Merit, Louis Jeantet Prize for Medicine and Grand Prix de l'Inserm.

Winner of the second edition of "ABARCA PRIZE", Professor Sansonetti is considered one of the founders of cell microbiology and a pioneer in scientific publications in this area, thanks to his revolutionary research on shigellosis, a disease caused by the pathogen that causes bacillary dysentery, a diarrheal disease responsible for more than 700,000 deaths annually.

Professor Yasmine Belkaid

Professor Belkaid is renowned for her work in studying host-microbe interactions in tissues and the role the microbiota plays in promoting immunity against infection from other harmful pathogens.

After his PhD in 1996 in Immunology at the Pasteur Institute, she settled in the United States to do a postdoctoral fellowship at the Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases. In 2002 she joined the faculty of the Division of Molecular Immunology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Subsequently, in 2005, she returned to NIAID as a researcher and in 2008 was appointed Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

Professor Belkaid is also a contributor to the Allen Institute for AI, a research institute founded by the late Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen in 2003, which seeks to achieve scientific breakthroughs by building artificial intelligence systems.

In addition to the Robert Koch Award, Yasmine Belkaid has been recognized for her research with the Gold Medal of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (2013), the Sanofi-Pasteur International Mid-career Award (2016) and the Emil von Behring Award (2017). In addition, she is a member of the American Academy of Microbiology (2016) and the National Academy of Sciences (2017).

Professor Pura Muñoz-Cánoves

Degree in Pharmacy and PhD in Biological Sciences; researcher at Altos Labs at the Institute of Science in San Diego (USA); previously she was Professor of Cell Biology in the Department of Experimental and Health Sciences of the Pompeu Fabra University and professor at the Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA, as well as a researcher at the National Center for Cardiovascular Research (CNIC) and CIBERNED. Her research on cellular aging is particularly relevant.

After her PhD in 1990, at the Autonomous University of Madrid, she did his postdoctoral work at the University of California (San Diego). She led his own research group in 1997 at the Institute for Cancer Research (IRO) in Barcelona and, in 2002, she joined the Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG) in Barcelona. In 2009 she joined at Pompeu Fabra University as a Professor in the Department of Experimental and Health Sciences.

Professor Muñoz-Cánoves has received important awards for her research, such as the "Ciutat de Barcelona Prize for Life Sciences", in 2015, for her work published in the journal *Nature*, in which she identifies the mechanism involved in the irreversible aging process of muscle stem cells.

In 2019 he received the Rey Jaime I Award for Medical Research and the Lilly Award for Biomedical Research, and, in 2021, the Santiago Ramón y Cajal National Research Award in Biology. In all cases for her contributions to the study of the molecular mechanisms of aging and, specifically, to the progressive changes of stem cells in aged animals and the possibilities of regenerative medicine.

Dr Sandra Myrna Díaz

Dr. Sandra Díaz is a CONICET senior researcher at the Multidisciplinary Institute of Plant Biology (IMBIV), is a tenured professor of Ecology of Communities and Ecosystems at the Faculty of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences of the National University of

Córdoba and visiting professor at the University of Oxford (United Kingdom).

Dr Díaz has played a pioneering role in the conceptual and methodological development of plant functional diversity with its responses to environmental change and its effects on ecosystems, having described for the first time the global spectrum of plant form and function.

For more than a decade, she has combined this work with interdisciplinary studies on how different social factors value the positive and negative contributions of different elements of biodiversity and how, on that basis, they reconfigure biological communities and ecosystems.

She is the founding director of the Diversus Nucleus on Diversity and Sustainability and co-founder of the TRY Global Community Database on Plant Characters. She has been co-chair of the first World Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and is the author of numerous scientific articles in the field of ecology. In 2019, the journal Nature included her in its list "Nature's 10 people who mattered in science".

She is a member of several academies of sciences, including those of Argentina, the United States or France, the Royal Society and the American Philosophical Society. His awards include international recognitions such as the Nobel Peace Prize he received in 2007 with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Margalef Prize for Ecology (2017), the Gunnerus Sustainability Award (2019), the Princess of Asturias Award for Scientific and Technological Research (2019) and the Frontiers of Knowledge Award in Ecology and Conservation (2021).

Professor Juan Luis Arsuaga

Juan Luis Arsuaga is a Spanish scientist, professor and paleontologist. PhD in Biological Sciences from the Complutense University of Madrid and Professor of Paleontology at the Faculty of Geological Sciences of the same university. Since July 2013 he has been scientific director of the Museum of Human Evolution in Burgos and serves as Visiting Professor of the Department of Anthropology at University College London.

Since 1982 he is a member of the research team of the Pleistocene deposits of the Sierra de Atapuerca (Burgos), 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 Scientific and Technical Research, and the Castilla y León Prize for Social Sciences and Humanities, both in 1997. In 1999, he created the Atapuerca Foundation.

Professor Federico de Montalvo

Doctor of Law and Associate Professor of Constitutional Law at the Faculty of Law (ICADE) of the Comillas Pontifical University, Professor de Montalvo has occupied, from 2017 to February 2021, the direction of the Centro de Innovación del Derecho (CID-ICADE) in said Faculty, being a member of its dean team.

He has been president of the Bioethics Committee of Spain between 2019 and 2022, having previously held the vice-presidency of said advisory body of the Government, from 2013 to 2018.

Since 2014, he has been a member of UNESCO's International Bioethics Committee (IBC). He 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 also been a member of the Care Ethics Committee of the Hospital 12 de Octubre, where he currently serves as an external advisor, of the CEIC-R of the Community of Madrid and the CEIC of the Hospital de la Princesa (Madrid).

About 'ABARCA PRIZE'

The *Doctor Juan Abarca* International Award for Medical Sciences, '**ABARCA PRIZE**', was born in 2021 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 further information:

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