

International Awards

2004-2005

CNIO

March 2005

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to basic oncological research, the prestigious Charles Rodolphe Brupbacher Foundation bestowed its biennial prize upon Prof. Dr. Mariano Barbacid, Director of the CNIO.



2004-2006

Dr. Miguel Angel Piris, Director of the CNIO's Molecular Pathology Programme, is appointed as President of the European Association of Haematopathology for the presidential term 2004-2006.



121



September 2005

Oxford University Press announced the concession of the Carcinogenesis Award to Dr. Manel Esteller, Head of the CNIO's Cancer Epigenetics Group, for being the best cancer researcher below forty-years old as reflected by his list of relevant publications and curriculum vitae.



October 2005

Granted annually by the European Organization for Cancer Research Swiss Bridge seated in Switzerland, the 2005 Swiss Bridge Award is presented to Óscar Fernández Capetillo, Head of the CNIO's Genomic Instability Group. The prize recognizes specifically his pioneering work on the role of the epigenetic modifications of histones in safeguarding genomic stability and in tumour suppression.





November 2005

Dr. Maria A. Blasco, Director of the CNIO's Molecular Oncology Programme, receives the Carmen and Severo Ochoa Prize for Molecular Biology for her research of excellence within the field.



July 2004

The winner of the Oxford University Press biennial Carcinogenesis Award is announced. For her significant contribution to carcinogenesis research as an investigator under the age of 40, Dr. Maria A. Blasco, Director of the CNIO's Molecular Oncology Programme, claims the 2004 prize.



122

EMBO
encounters

A U T U M N 2 0 0 4



EMBO Gold Medal goes to spanish scientist

In praise of her exceptional and landmark work in the field of telomeres, Dr. Maria A. Blasco, Director of the CNIO's Molecular Oncology Programme, is awarded the EMBO Gold Medal. Highlighting the high standards being reached in molecular biology in Europe, the EMBO Gold Medal is awarded to outstanding young scientists for extraordinary research.

Nobel Prize for EMBO members

Two Israeli members win Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2004

EMBO members Avram Osherov and Avram Hershko of the Technion Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel have been honoured with the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2004. Osherov is director of an important family of biokinetic and research institutions. Hershko, originally from Hungary, is a professor in the earth industry unit at the Technion. The two scientists share the prize with American, Paul Greengard.

They were chosen for their research on the precise regulation of their discovery of ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation. Over the past few decades much attention and research has been devoted to understanding how cells to turn on the synthesis of certain proteins. However, the degradation or breaking down of proteins has been less explored. Avram Osherov, Avram Hershko and their first went against the stream and at the beginning of the 1980s discovered one of the cell's most important cyclic processes, ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation – how the human body "singles out" unneeded proteins for destruction to reduce their harmful effects (the so-called "ubiquitin molecular labels").

"The protein-degrading process, the scientists discovered, was completely unregulated, because scientists had thought that such destruction was 'well-regulated'", said Jan Melander, a member of the Nobel Committee. "In chemistry, there are 100 researchers who hope they will be able to manipulate the protein degradation system in two different ways: either to prevent it from destroying proteins that keep the immune system or to eliminate proteins that lead to various diseases."

Avram Osherov says in the title, the two studies and they hope their work will lead to new advances in the treatment of cancer. Dr Avram Osherov is currently on the US national, Osherov noted, and there are many "exciting" things possible. "It does not mean that a simple drug to beat cancer is on the way. But I do believe there will be advances in the treatment of cancer based on our work. This is my belief."

<http://modelportae.org/chemistry/laureates2004/index.html>

Felicidades María Blascol

EMBO Gold Medal goes to Spanish scientist



María Blascol

Spanish scientist, María Blascol of the Centre Nacional de Investigaciones Oncológicas (CNIO) in Madrid, wins the EMBO Gold Medal 2004. María receives the award in recognition of her and mark work in the

area of stem cells. Her scientific research has had a groundbreaking impact on cancer research and gained wide recognition in the field.

The EMBO Gold Medal is awarded annually to a European scientist under 30 years of age with the aim of bringing the very best young researchers in Europe to the attention of a global audience. As a recipient of the medal, María is honoured as being a role model for other young scientists in Europe. EMBO Executive Director Frank Gannon emphasised

this point in his words of congratulations: "María's contribution to cancer research is unquestionable and her unassuming dedication makes her the kind role model for other young researchers." On hearing the news of her success, María commented: "I'm honoured to accept this prestigious award. I hope my achievement will inspire other women in science to persevere in their career."

The EMBO Gold Medal was presented at the Ministry of Science in Vienna, Austria on October 15, 2004 as part of the EMBO Members Meeting "Frontiers of Molecular Biology".

www.embo.org/jpress/gold_medal2004.html

For news of other EMBO members' successes, see the Awards Column (p.10)

A systemic approach

EMBO and MPG launch Molecular Systems Biology Journal

March 2005 will see the launch of a new open-access, online publication from EMBO and MPG. *Molecular Systems Biology* will be the first online journal dedicated solely to the emerging field of systems biology at the molecular level – and also make the first direct involvement of EMBO with the open access publication model.

molecular systems biology

Available early as an online journal, *Molecular Systems Biology* will use an author-pays open-access pricing model. This means that all readers will be able to access research papers free of charge. Subscription costs will be met in part by a charge to authors for each article published.

Puzzlingly, of a number of the kind, recognises the importance of systems biology as an emerging field and the need to make research in this area available to as wide an audience as possible in an appropriate format. The journal will publish relevant, high quality research in the existing fields of bioinformatics, genomics and proteomics, microbial systems, cell signalling and computational networks while working with the systems biology community to present standards and trends for global comparison.

Molecular Systems Biology will publish high quality, peer reviewed research using pioneering technologies, innovative formats and world-class editing. The senior editors of the journal are proven leaders in the field – Koen Aerts, a founding member of the Institute for Systems Biology in Leuven, Belgium, coordinator of the Structural and Computational Biology Programme at Ghent University; George Church, Professor of Genetics at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Centre for Computational Genomics, Los Angeles; and Gordon and Frederick of the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle and Edwin Oja, Executive Director of the Institute for Systems Biology in Singapore. They will work together with a dedicated team of EMBO editors based at the EMBO offices in Heidelberg.

For more information or to submit a paper, go to:

www.molecular-systemsbiology.com