

In recognition of the contribution of epigenetics to colon tumorigenesis

**MANEL ESTELLER, WINNER OF THE "DR. JACINT VILARDELL"
FOUNDATION AWARD IN COLON CANCER RESEARCH**

Madrid, December 20 2007.- Manel Esteller, Group Leader of Cancer Epigenetics at the Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO) has obtained the "Dr. Jacint Vilardell" Award in colon cancer research. The award is a recognition from the "Fundación Privada de Gastroenterología Dr. Francisco Vilardell". The Foundation was established in 1992 with the aim to stimulate the basic and clinical research in digestive diseases, particularly focusing in their causes. The "Dr. Jacint Vilardell" Award honors the memory of Dr. Vilardell, a distinguished gastroenterologist at the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau de Barcelona. The goal of the award is to recognize and distinguish the author of the best research work in colon cancer. According to the jury committee, the prize is awarded to Dr. Esteller for the discovery of mutations in epigenetic genes, such as histone deacetylases, that contribute to the origin and progression of human colorectal tumors. The results of this research were published in *Nature Genetics* in 2006. The prize, awarded every two years, was obtained in its first edition in 2005 to Dr. Alberto Muñoz Terol, CSIC researcher and member of the Department of Molecular Endocrinology of the *Instituto de Investigaciones Biomédicas "Alberto Sols"* of Madrid. The award will be presented at the Royal Academy of Medicine of Catalonia on April 28th at 19.00 h.