



The University of Seville, the University Social Council and the Focus-Abengoa Foundation award the 10th “Javier Benjumea Puigcerver” Research Prize to Ernesto Carmona Guzmán and Jesús Campos Manzano

- The jury highlighted that the techniques used “are potentially useful in the field of synthesising chemical compounds of pharmaceutical interest, as demonstrated with letters supporting the candidature from the pharmaceutical industry”.

Seville, 8 April 2013. Ernesto Carmona Guzmán, professor of inorganic chemistry at the University of Seville, and Jesús Campos Manzano, post-doctorate researcher at the university, today received the 10th “Javier Benjumea Puigcerver” Research Prize for their work entitled, “*Catalytic incorporation of deuterium and tritium in hydrosilanes. Isotopic marking of organic molecules of biochemical and pharmacological interest*”, of enormous importance in the field of applied research.

The jury for the 10th edition acknowledged the extraordinary scientific value of the work, calling it “a work of clear social importance, extremely well structured from a scientific perspective, which tackles the problem of marking organic molecules with hydrogen isotopes. The project strikes the perfect balance between basic research and the possible transfer of the research results obtained”.

The jury also thought that the contributions by Ernesto Carmona Guzmán and Jesús Campos Manzano were of, “evident scientific and social interest, which combined with the extraordinary professional careers of the researchers, make them very worthy winners of the 10th edition of the Javier Benjumea Puigcerver Research Prize”.

The award-winners received the prize today at a ceremony held in the auditorium of the University of Seville, attended by a large group of academics and researchers and presided over by Isabel Aguilera Navarro, president of the Social Council of the University of Seville; Antonio Ramírez de Arellano López, Vice-chancellor of the University, and Felipe Benjumea Llorente, chairman of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation.

Ernesto Carmona Guzmán, professor of inorganic chemistry at the University of Seville and a member of the Institute of Chemistry Research, is a renowned chemistry researcher with significant scientific output in this field. His intensive research work has featured in more than 200 articles and in various European patents. He has also addressed plenary sessions and groups at conferences at numerous international



scientific meetings. His research experience focuses on organometallic compounds of transition elements and the principal groups, and homogeneous catalysis.

Jesús Campos Manzano is a post-doctorate researcher in the Organometallic Chemistry and Homogeneous Catalysis group headed up by Professor Ernesto Carmona Guzmán at the University of Seville. His research work focuses on organometallic chemistry, green chemistry and homogeneous catalysis. His profuse research work has led him to participate in various international conferences and to publish his knowledge in various scientific articles.

This award, involving the Social Council of the University, the Focus Abengoa Foundation and the University of Seville, in which the winner receives €18,000, a diploma and the winning work is published, aims to recognise the work carried out by researchers within the university community (doctors, graduates or diploma holders) who participate in research projects that meet the needs of companies and entities in terms of research and development.

The jury for the 10th edition of the award was comprised of Isabel Aguilera Navarro, President of the Social Council; Manuel García León, Vice-chancellor of Research; Pilar Malet Manner and Luis Uruñuela Fernández, members of the Social Council; José Domínguez Abascal, representing the Focus-Abengoa Foundation; and Miguel García Guerrero, winner of the 7th edition of the “Javier Benjumea Puigcerver” Prize, with Jesús Jiménez Cano as secretary of the jury and Secretary of the Social Council.

Social Council

The Council is the body representing civil society in the University, with functions that include promoting the relevance of the range of courses and activities among Andalusian society. According to its regulations, the functions of the Council are classified into three areas: Economic-financial, which includes powers to approve and pay the university’s budgets, rates and public prices, etc.; Academic, which encompasses the approval of new qualifications and the rules of attendance for students, among others; and Social Relations, with functions to promote agreements and the sponsorship and collaboration of society in the financing of the University.

The Social Council of the University of Seville decided to promote the “Javier Benjumea Puigcerver” Research Prize in order to commemorate this illustrious figure from Seville society who was awarded an *Honoris Causa* Doctorate from the University of Seville.



Focus-Abengoa Foundation

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation was created in 1982 as a result of the cultural work begun in 1972 by Abengoa with the publication of the works *Temas Sevillanos* (Themes of Seville) and *Iconografía de Sevilla* (Iconography of Seville). A collection of documents, books and engravings on the Kingdom of Seville and by Sevillian authors was created during the same period. This initial cultural work showed Abengoa's directors the importance of the company's involvement in activities that directly benefit society, beyond the firm's core technology work, which led to the creation of the Seville Cultural Fund Foundation. The Hospital de los Venerables, a 17th century monument and the headquarters of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation in Seville, has housed the Diego Velázquez Research Centre, a leading institution for studying and disseminating the Baroque era and the Sevillian period of this universally renowned artist, since the acquisition of Velázquez's Santa Rufina by the Foundation in 2007.

For more information and for interviews:

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