



## **Professor from the University of Seville, Alfonso M. Gañán, receives the 12th Javier Benjumea Puigcerver Prize for his contribution to fluid mechanics**

- **The jury chose the work by professor Gañán “for its highly scientific nature as well as the stature and prestige of the other participants”**

13 April 2015. The professor of fluid mechanics, Alfonso M. Gañán, of the Department of Aerospace Engineering and Fluid Mechanics of the University of Seville, today received the 12th Javier Benjumea Puigcerver Research Prize for the extraordinary scientific value of his work entitled “When fluids are controlled at a microscopic level: a Spanish scientific-technical contribution”.

The jury selected Professor Gañán’s work “for the highly scientific nature of the submitted work, the basic and transferable research activities of enormous national and international relevance, and the author’s outstanding profile”.

It also recognised “the stature and prestige of the other participants, which further contributed to the importance of this prize”. Lastly, it highlighted “The quality of the works submitted to the prize and the level of candidates –all of them researchers operating at an extraordinary level– making the final decision extremely difficult”.

Professor Gañán is a doctor of fluid mechanics, a professor at the University of Seville and head of the fluid physics and microfluidics research group. Furthermore, he has outstanding research experience with more than 300 publications in journals and has had a prestigious national and international career.

In his speech, the Chancellor of the University of Seville, Antonio Ramírez de Arellano, congratulated Professor Gañán on winning the prize and for his extensive research career, saying “Professor Gañán Calvo’s work is a perfect example of research with enormous international relevance and a capacity to transfer knowledge to the industrial sector”.

He also recognised the sponsors of this prize. “Universities must be close to the world of business, in which major corporations such as Abengoa promote university research and in turn are sustained by the results, in order to grow together. There has to be a collaborative spirit, whereby our social councils help to attract new resources and effectively couple them with economic agents”, he said.

The president of the Social Council of the University of Seville, Isabel Aguilera, used the event to highlight the need to protect and promote quality research, saying “Now is



the time to be ambitious and to acknowledge the value that the work of the scientific community of the University of Seville has contributed to the world over many years”.

Lastly, the Chancellor also highlighted the role of Abengoa and the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, referring to them as “ideal travelling companions in the field of R&D+i. This company sees its collaboration with the University as something more than just sponsorship or social responsibility. It treats it as a strategic commitment to generate growth and development; as an investment that is profitable in the medium and long term”.

Winners of the prize, which is jointly organised by the Social Council of the University, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation and the University of Seville, receive 18,000 euros, a diploma and have their work published. It is designed 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 research and development needs of companies and other entities.

The jury consisted of the President of the Social Council, Isabel Aguilera Navarro; the Vice-chancellor of Research, Manuel García León; the Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry, Pilar Malet; José Domínguez Abascal, representing the Focus-Abengoa Foundation; Miguel García Guerrero, winner of the seventh edition of the Benjumea Prize; and Jesús Jiménez, Director of the Social Council, acting as secretary.

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation and the Social Council of the University of Seville decided to establish and promote the Javier Benjumea Puigcerver Research Prize in 2003 as a way of carrying on the memory of this illustrious member of Seville society who was awarded an Honoris Causa Doctorate from the University.

### **Social Council**

The Social Council is the participatory body representing society at the University and is responsible for ensuring that its range of courses and activities are relevant to Andalusian society, among other duties. According to its regulations, the Council’s functions are classified into three areas: economic-financial, which includes powers to fund and approve the university’s budgets, fees and public prices, etc; academic, which includes approving new qualifications and setting minimum course requirements for students, among others; and social relations, promoting agreements, sponsorship and the collaboration of society in the financing of the University.

### **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. The focus on this crucial era of the Golden Age is complemented with the legacy from Professor Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez, bequeathed to the Foundation in 2011. It comprises his library, photo library, personal archive and art collection and is being catalogued to help create a library specialising in the art and culture of the Baroque period. <http://focus.abengoa.es/>

**For more information:**

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