



## **Andres Aguilera, of the University of Seville, receives the 13th Javier Benjumea Puigcerver Prize for his contribution to the identification of tumour suppressors**

- **The jury chose the work by professor Aguilera “for its highly scientific nature as well as the social and medical relevance of his work”.**

Seville, April 4, 2016. The professor of genetics, Andrés Aguilera, head of the Molecular Biology Department of Cabimer and Department of Genetics of the University of Seville, received the 13th Javier Benjumea Puigcerver Research Prize for the extraordinary scientific value of his work entitled *DNA-RNA hybrids as cause of genetic instability associated with tumours*.

The jury selected Professor Aguilera’s work “for the highly scientific nature of the submitted work and the social and medical relevance of the use of DNA-RNA hybrids as a pre-tumour marker in individuals with a greater tendency to have cancer, with a consequently progress in diagnosis. The developed methodology allows to start serial assays to identify drugs that suppress the formation of hybrids and, therefore, can be of potential utility in cancer treatments”.

It also recognised “the stature and prestige of the other participants”. 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 Aguilera holds a PhD in Biology and is a professor at the University of Seville. He has outstanding research experience with more than 145 publications in journals and reviews in ISI journals, as well as 14 chapters in books and more than 7.000 quotations. His curriculum includes numerous awards such as the FAMA Award for the Best Research of the University of Seville in 2013. He also has directed and completed 22 doctoral thesis. All these activities, which are focused on basic research and extremely high impact transfer, demonstrate a prestigious national and international career.

The prize, which is jointly organised by the Social Council of the University, the Focus-Abengoa Foundation and the University of Seville, receives 18,000 euros, a diploma and have their work published, 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 Concha Yoldi; the Vice-chancellor of Research, Julian Martinez Fernandez; Pilar Malet and Juan Manuel Barrios Blázquez, members of the Social Council; Manuel Doblare Castellano and Juan Luis Ramos Martín, representing the Focus-Abengoa Foundation; 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 e Iconografía de Sevilla* (Themes of Seville and 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. Following the acquisition of Velázquez's Santa Rufina by the Foundation in 2007, 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.

Attention to this crucial moment of the Golden Age is completed with the legacy of Professor Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez, received by the Foundation in 2011. Consisting of his library, photo library, archive and collection of artworks, its cataloging is enabling to create a library specializing in Baroque art and culture. This entire heritage is spread



by Focus Educa, our area of education, by means of which we raise awareness and bring culture closer to society. <http://focus.abengoa.es/>

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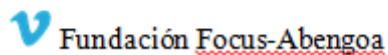
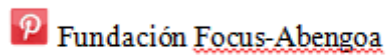
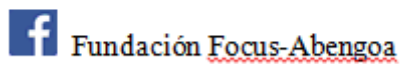
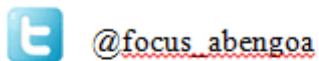
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