

THE INBEV-BAILLET LATOUR FUND AWARDS THE PRIZES FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH 2011 TO PROFESSOR DIDIER CATALDO (UNIVERSITY OF LIEGE) AND GERT VAN ASSCHE (UNIVERSITY OF LOUVAIN)

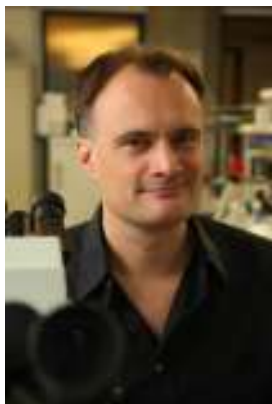
Since 2006, the InBev-Baillet Latour Fund has awarded the Prize for Clinical Research to two young Belgian researchers, one from Flanders and one from Wallonia, in order to promote clinical research in Belgium. This year's Prizes were awarded to Professor Didier Cataldo from the University of Liège and to Professor Gert Van Assche from the University of Louvain. Both prizewinners were honoured by the juries for their groundbreaking and high-quality scientific research in the fields of pneumology and gastro-enterology respectively.

A Prize to promote clinical research in Belgium

The InBev-Baillet Latour Prize for Clinical Research, intended for excellent researchers under the age of 45, wants to reward clinical research carried out by medical doctors who are connected to a university institution, in both the Dutch as well as French speaking communities. The laureates, who are selected by juries composed by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS (F.R.S.-FNRS) and by the Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen (FWO) respectively, will each be awarded an amount of € 75,000 from the InBev-Baillet Latour Fund. Because clinical researchers in Belgium receive very little support, the aim of this Prize in the long run is to stimulate medical students and clinical assistants with research ambitions in our country, to continue their work here.

This year, the French-language jury, consisting of members from scientific commissions of the F.R.S.-FNRS (jury chairman: Jacques Boniver of the University of Liège), awarded the InBev-Baillet Latour Prize for Clinical Research 2011 to **Didier Cataldo** (University of Liège). The Flemish scientific jury, chaired by Prof. Anne De Paepe of the University of Ghent and constituted by the FWO, awarded the Prize to **Gert Van Assche** (University of Louvain).

Professor Didier Cataldo, recipient of the InBev-Baillet Latour Prize for Clinical Research 2011 for the French-speaking community



Professor Didier Cataldo of the University of Liège was selected by the jury for his scientific research in **pneumology for better insight into the pathogenesis of various respiratory tract disorders, in particular asthma**. The acute inflammatory disorder asthma, often the result of an allergy, considerably distorts the bronchial walls. There is also the risk that these bronchopulmonary lesions are irreversible.

This is why Professor Cataldo studied the role of various enzymes, activated during the inflammation by asthma, in the pathogenesis of these bronchopulmonary lesions. His studies paved the way to new therapeutic treatments for asthma.

Didier Cataldo completed his studies of Medicine in 1995 with the greatest distinction at the University of Liège (ULg). In 1997 he obtained the Diplôme d'Etudes de Spécialités in acute medicine (ULg), in 2001 in internal medicine (ULg), and in 2001 he was recognized as medical specialist in pneumology. He obtained a doctorate in biomedical sciences (ULg) in 2002 and five years later, the aggregate of higher education in medical sciences. Since 2009, he is full-time reader at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Liège where he teaches general biology, biochemistry and physiology.

Professor Gert Van Assche, recipient of the InBev-Baillet Latour Prize for Clinical Research 2011 for the Flemish community



Professor Gert Van Assche was honoured by the jury for his pioneering research in **biological and immune suppressive therapies for intestinal disorders**. These are chronic debilitating disorders with a long-term course which specifically target young adults. Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis affect approximately one in every 400 Belgians and are treated increasingly more with substances that repress the immune system. Considering the normal life expectancy of patients with this intestinal disease it is essential to restrict the side effects of the treatment while retaining their therapeutic efficiency. For this reason, a treatment of ulcerative colitis with cyclosporine in reduced doses was developed. Studies have also been conducted with biological treatments where a maximal therapeutic efficiency on the intestinal mucosa was achieved, with minimal side effects for the other organs. The impact of this research is significant, as proven by the many international publications.

Gert Van Assche was awarded the degree of Doctor in Medicine at the University of Leuven magna cum laude in 1992. In 1998, he was promoted to Doctor in Medical Sciences. One year later, he obtained the certificate of specialist in gastro-enterology. Presently, he is professor at the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Leuven.

The jury of the InBev-Baillet Latour Prize for Clinical Research 2011

Scientific jury appointed by the FWO:

The jury of the **InBev-Baillet Latour Prize for Clinical Research** was chaired by Prof. Anne DE PAEPE. Nominated as jury members by the FWO were: Prof. Zwi BERNEMAN, Prof. Jean-Michel FOIDART, Prof. Guy JOOS, Prof. Benoît NEMERY DE BELLEVAUX, Prof. Karin SIPIDO, Prof. Jan TAK, Prof. Jean-Louis THONNARD, Prof. Simon VAN BELLE, Prof. Karin VANDERKERKEN, and as representative of the IBL Fund, Prof. Rik CASTEELS.

Scientific jury appointed by the F.R.S.-FNRS:

The jury of the **InBev-Baillet Latour Prize for Clinical Research** was chaired by Prof. Pierre GIANELLO. Nominated as jury members by the F.R.S.-FNRS were: Prof. Pierre GIANELLO, Prof. Jacques MELIN, Prof. Gustave MOONEN, Prof. Marc PARMENTIER, Prof. Isabelle SALMON, and as representative of the IBL Fund, Prof. Rik CASTEELS.

Administrative and logistical support is provided by FWO.

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F.R.S.-FNRS

www.frs-fnrs.be

FWO

www.fwo.be



THE FUND INBEV - BAILLET LATOUR

The **INBEV-BAILLET LATOUR FUND** was founded in 1974 by Count Alfred de Baillet Latour, Member of the Board of Directors of Brasseries Artois from 1947 to 1980. Its objective is to encourage work of great value to humanity, of a mainly scientific, educational or artistic nature, and to reward such work by means of prizes or study grants, excluding any profit motive and regardless of political, trade union, philosophical or religious convictions. The InBev-Baillet Latour Fund is active in the following main areas: medical research, Belgian heritage, university education and the Olympic movement.

In the area of medical research, the InBev-Baillet Latour Fund has been awarding the **InBev-Baillet Latour Health Prize** since 1979. This prize, currently worth 250,000 euros is one of the most important science prizes awarded in Belgium. Since 2006, the InBev-Baillet Latour Fund also awards the **Clinical Research Prize**, which each year supports two young Belgian research scientists one from each community in the country. In addition, since 2008, the Fund is financing research into rare tropical diseases at the **Antwerp Institute for Tropical Medicine**.

In the field of education, the Fund finances the **University Chair at the UCL/KUL (Catholic University of Louvain)**, established in June 2000 to promote research into relations between the European Union and Russia. The fund also finances a **Euromarketing Chair at the Solvay Business School**.

As from 2008/2009 the Fund also finances a new **Chair with the KUL/UCL on the relationship Europe-China**, as well as a **Chair** on the same subject at the **College of Europe**.

In addition, the Fund awards **study grants** to doctoral students conducting scientific research into the field of brewing, to students conducting research into relations between Russia and the European Union, to Belgian students attending the **College of Europe** and the **Royal Institute for cultural Heritage**. Since 2008 the Fund yearly supports 5 young musicians at the **Queen Elisabeth College of Music**.

In 2002, the Fund launched a new initiative, the **InBev-Baillet Latour Programme for the Restoration of Belgian Cultural Heritage**, who yearly ensures the restoration of important cultural objects. The Fund also finances the realisation of 6 rooms Art Deco/Art Nouveau at the KMKG (Koninklijke Musea voor Kunst en Geschiedenis).

The Fund further intends to provide financial support to the Olympic movement and to Belgian athletes both through the **COIB-BOIC (Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee)** and with respect to the **Special Olympics** (mentally handicapped) and **Paralympics** (physically handicapped).

The Fund also finances an **Olympic Chair Henri de Baillet Latour - Jacques Rogge at the universities UGent and UCL**.

The Fund also demonstrates its concern for the environment and for sustainable development through the support of various initiatives in this field. It awards an **Environment Prize** to a private company manager for an ecological land management project in Belgium. It has also teamed up with the International Polar Foundation through the award of scientific research grants for the study of climate change, partly at the Princess Elisabeth Station, the **Antarctica InBev-Baillet Latour Fellowship Award**, as well as the funding of the scientific equipment for the station.

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