Alim-Louis Benabid, Pioneer in Treatment of Parkinson’s Disease, Receives 2014 Lasker Award

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Los Angeles – Sept. 8, 2014 – Professor Alim-Louis Benabid, Chairman of the Board of the French biomedical research center, CLINATEC (Grenoble, France), is the recipient of the 2014 Lasker DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award by the Lasker Foundation. Thus, the American Foundation pays tribute to a world-renowned French scientist and highlights French excellence in a cutting-edge field.

Since 1946, the Foundation has presented prestigious honors that recognize major scientific work in the field of basic and clinical medical research. The distinction is often considered the antechamber of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. The last French citizen to be awarded was the surgeon, Alain Carpentier, in 2007. The Awards Ceremony will take place in New York, on Friday, September 19, 2014.

Benabid and co-winner, Mahlon R. DeLong of Emory University, were honored for their separate contributions to developing deep brain stimulation of the sub thalamic nucleus, a surgical technique that reduces tremors and restores motor function in patients with advanced Parkinson’s disease. It offers promising prospects for an effective non-drug treatment for this disease.

Professor Emeritus of biophysics at Université Joseph Fourier, member of the French Academy of Sciences, Professor Alim Benabid focused his research activities on neurosurgery, particularly brain tumors and movement disorders. From 1989 to 2007, he was head of the Neurosurgery Department at the University Hospital of Grenoble. In 2009, he helped found CLINATEC, the multidisciplinary biomedical research center at the Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) in Grenoble.

Professor Alim-Louis Benabid maintained strong ties with scientists in Southern California, following his sabbatical in Professor Roger Guillemin’s laboratory (Nobel Prize in Medicine 1977) at the Scripps Research Institute in 1972. He will also receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the North American Neuromodulation Society (NANS) at their annual conference to be held from December 11 to 14, 2014 in Las Vegas, NV.

- 2014 Lasker DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award: www.laskerfoundation.org/awards/2014clinical.htm
- The Lasker Foundation: www.laskerfoundation.org
- CLINATEC: www.clinatec.fr
- Inserm press release