After a welcome speech by Mr. Christophe Lemoine, Consul general of France in Los Angeles, Pr. Alim-Louis Benabid presented the awards to his two colleagues.

Neurosurgeon and physicist from Algeria, Pr. Benabid developed in 1987 the technique of deep brain stimulation. Acknowledged as a major discovery by the international medical community, this technology has become one of the world standard treatments to relieve symptoms in Parkinson’s disease patients.

His work has been notably awarded by the Lasker Award for Clinical Research in 2014, as well as the French Légion of Honor (France’s highest decoration) in 2012.

He honored the two doctors for their work and involvement in the international scientific and medical community.

Dr. Yvette Taché, eminent scientific at UCLA and director of many Research Centers, is specialized in digestive diseases and gastroenterology. Her research focuses on brain-gut interactions and neurogastroenterology. She reported some of the pioneer work for the understanding of these mechanisms, which provided decisive information for the development of treatment for numerous disorders linked to gastrointestinal stress.

Before the Legion of Honor, she was notably honored with the UCLA Woman of Science Award, as well as the William S. Middleton Award in 2014.

Dr. Marie-Françoise Chesselet, distinguished doctor at UCLA, is specialized in neurology and neurobiology. Her laboratory conducts research on the molecular mechanisms of disorders of the basal ganglia and new treatments for Parkinson’s and Huntington’s disease. In 1998, she created the Center for the Study of Parkinson’s Disease at UCLA.

She is serving on the scientific advisory boards of many Foundations, such as the Hereditary Disease Foundation, and a fellow of the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science), and was chair of its Neuroscience section.

After the presentation of the awards, the ceremony continued with a few musical notes played by Ambroise Aubrun.

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