

**VAN GYSEL FOUNDATION**  
*for biomedical research in Europe*

**Foundation of public utility**

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**REGULATIONS OF THE PRIZE - 2009**

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**100.000 EUR**

(one hundred thousand Euros)

**Article 1.**

A triennial Prize of 100.000 Euros has been constituted, to be known as the "van GYSEL Prize for biomedical research in Europe".

This Prize, aimed at promoting the development of higher teaching and research in the biomedical field, can be awarded to one or more researcher(s), working in a team (maximum 3) - or exceptionally to a body corporate - member(s) of a country of the European Union, having made an important contribution to the Biomedical Sciences. The candidate(s) should not be over the age of 55 on December 15, 2008.

The "van GYSEL Prize" is awarded for the first time in 1990 and from 1994 every three years, i.e. 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006 etc...

**Article 2.**

Candidatures for the "van GYSEL Prize for biomedical research" must necessarily be presented by :

- two personalities, members of Academies of Medicine or Science or similar institutions in Member States of the European Union,

or

- a holder of the "van GYSEL Prize for biomedical research in Europe".

**Article 3.**

A holder of the "van GYSEL Prize for biomedical research in Europe" may not be presented a second time as candidate. Nor may the holder of a scientific Prize equal to or more than 100.000 Euros be presented as candidate.

#### **Article 4.**

Presentations shall be constituted by the following documents written in English:

- application form,
- curriculum vitae,
- complete list of publications,
- reprints of the five most representative publications of the candidate (7 copies).

Candidatures shall be sent, at the latest by **December 15, 2008**, to the Secretary general of the "Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS", 5 rue d'Egmont, BE - 1000 Brussels (Belgium), phone : 00.32.2.504.92.11, fax : 00.32.2.504.92.92, e-mail : [secr.gen@frs-fnrs.be](mailto:secr.gen@frs-fnrs.be) , website : [www.frs-fnrs.be](http://www.frs-fnrs.be), phone Prize : 00.32.2.504.92.40, e-mail Prize : [mairese@frs-fnrs.be](mailto:mairese@frs-fnrs.be)

#### **Article 5.**

The "van GYSEL Prize for biomedical research in Europe" shall be awarded by the Board which shall use such means of information as it considers appropriate to determine the value of the works presented and which can constitute, among other things, a selection board directed to report to it. The selection board shall be composed of a member of the "Académie royale de Médecine de Belgique", a member of the "Koninklijke Academie voor Geneeskunde van België" and five foreign scientific personalities.

The selection board shall be chaired by the most senior among the foreign personalities.

#### **Article 6.**

For the selection board to be able to deliberate validly, at least five members must be present. Voting is secret. A candidate obtaining the absolute majority of votes in one of the first three rounds of voting, i.e. more than half the votes of members present, shall be considered as regularly present. If no candidate obtains such a majority in the third round, a fourth and final ballot shall be held; the relative majority of members present will then be regarded as sufficient for the presentation to be regular. In case of a tied vote, the younger candidate shall be considered as the first candidate.

The deliberations of the selection board shall be recorded in a report signed by all the members present.

**Article 7.**

The proposal from the selection board shall be submitted as soon as possible to the Board of the Foundation, and shall not be divulged before the Board of the Foundation has decided on the award of the Prize.

**Article 8.**

The "van GYSEL Prize for biomedical research in Europe" shall be handed over during a solemn joint meeting of both the Belgian Royal Academies of Medicine, chaired alternately by one of the two Presidents.

**Article 9.**

The presentations, reports and proposals relating to the "van GYSEL Prize for biomedical research in Europe" are confidential and may not be revealed or published. They remain the property of the Foundation.

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March 2008.

# VAN GYSEL FOUNDATION

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## Foundation of public utility

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### BACKGROUND

The "van GYSEL Foundation for biomedical research in Europe", a Foundation of public utility, was created in Belgium in 1989 on the initiative of the industrialist Baron van GYSEL de Meise, for the purpose of promoting the development of higher teaching and research in the biomedical field.

When instituting a Prize, Baron van GYSEL de Meise had also wanted to protect the intellectual heritage of the European Economic Union by restricting its award to researchers coming from the current European Union.

Since 1990, the Foundation has awarded a Prize of 50.000 Euros called the "van GYSEL Prize for biomedical research in Europe". The "van GYSEL Foundation for biomedical research in Europe" has decided, from the year 2000, to increase the amount of the Prize to 100.000 Euros.

### PRIZE-WINNERS

In 1990, following the proposal of an international Jury chaired by the 1988 Nobel prize-winner Sir James BLACK, the Prize was awarded to **Professor Pierre LADURON**, from Belgium, for his work regarding biochemistry and pharmacology of the nervous system.

In 1992, following the proposal of an international Jury chaired by Sir Michael STOKER, President of the Royal Academy of Medicine in London, the Prize was awarded to **Professor Philip COHEN**, of Dundee University, for his pioneering role in the development of biochemistry and cellular biology.

In 1994, following the proposal of an international Jury chaired by Professor Santiago GRISOLIA of Valencia University, the Prize was awarded to **Professor Jens F. REHFELD**, from Denmark, for his discovery and identification of new peptides, as well as for his development of new methods for measuring these peptides.

In 1997, following the proposal of an international Jury chaired by Professor Garcia BELLIDO of Madrid University, the Prize was awarded jointly to two researchers, **Professor Christine DAMBLY-CHAUDIERE and Professor Alain GHYSEN**, both from Belgium, for the originality of their fundamental research into the genetic, molecular and cellular analysis of the development of the central nervous system.

In 2000, following the proposal of an international Jury chaired by Professor Raymond DEVORET of the "Institut Curie" in Paris, the Prize was awarded to **Professor Gilbert VASSART**, from Belgium, for his work in advanced biochemistry and the clinical applications that depend thereon. The pioneer with his team of molecular endocrinologists, he contributed to research into the AIDS virus and to the development of new vaccines.

In 2003, following the proposal of an international Jury chaired by Professor Jean-Charles SCHWARTZ of the "INSERM" in Paris, the Prize was awarded to **Professor Emile VAN SCHAFTINGEN**, from Belgium, for his outstanding and internationally well-recognised contributions to the field of carbohydrate metabolism and glycobiology.

His early discovery of fructose 2,6 bisphosphate as the regulator of the flux of the pathways of glycolysis and gluconeogenesis represented a landmark in the field and has found its way into the textbooks of biochemistry.

His fundamental contributions to metabolism are having a direct impact on the understanding of diabetes and its management as well as on genetic disorders of glycosylation and their treatment.

In 2006, following the proposal of an international Jury chaired by Professor Max L. BIRNSTIEL, Emeritus Professor of the Zurich University, the Prize was awarded to **Professor Leena PELTONEN-PALOTIE**, from Finland, for her work on genetic mechanisms in many human inherited diseases. She has pioneered genetic analyses based on isolated human populations. Thereby, she made possible early diagnoses of inherited diseases and this may enable future development of strategies for therapeutic interventions.

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March 2008.