



**PROFESSOR ANDREW HATTERSLEY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF EXETER (UK) RECEIVES
THE BAILLET LATOUR HEALTH PRIZE 2020
FOR HIS FUNDAMENTAL DISCOVERIES ABOUT
THE GENETIC FORMS OF DIABETES**

The Baillet Latour Fund has awarded the Health Prize 2020 to Professor Andrew T. Hattersley, Professor of Molecular Medicine at the University of Exeter, United Kingdom and consultant in diabetology at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. This prize is the most important international scientific prize awarded in Belgium. Professor Hattersley was awarded for his fundamental discoveries about diabetes that have changed the understanding, diagnosis and treatment of the genetic forms of this disease.

■ **THE MOST IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC PRIZE AWARDED IN BELGIUM: €250,000.**

The Baillet Latour Fund was created to support outstanding scientific, academic and artistic achievements. Since 1979, the Fund has awarded the Baillet Latour Health Prize to a scientist for his or her contribution to medical research. This prize, worth €250,000, has been awarded annually since 2000 and is intended not only to stimulate fundamental research, but also to promote its applications for the benefit of human health.

The prize rewards medical research in one of the following areas: cancer (2018), cardiovascular diseases (2019), metabolic diseases (2020), infectious diseases (2021), neurological diseases (2022). Each year, a scientific committee - chaired by Professor Geert Leroux-Roels - appoints an international jury composed of seven experts in the chosen field.

■ **PROFESSOR HATTERSLEY, WINNER OF THE BAILLET LATOUR HEALTH PRIZE 2020**

Professor Andrew Hattersley received his medical training at the universities of Cambridge and Oxford, which he then extended to postgraduate courses in London, Oxford and Birmingham. Since moving to Exeter in 1995 he has published more than 600 papers, given over 300 national and international lectures and received numerous international awards for his research. Together with Sian Ellard, he founded a genetic laboratory, which is now recognised as the world leader in the diagnosis and research of monogenic diabetes. They have described, alone or with others, 24 new genetic causes of diabetes and more than half of all genetic subtypes. Hattersley led most of the studies that carefully described diabetes and patients' clinical symptoms. His research has been crucial in improving the diagnosis, management and treatment of patients with monogenic diabetes worldwide.

His major breakthrough was the integration of beta cell science into patient treatment. After proving that mutations in the potassium channel of beta cells were the most common cause of neonatal diabetes, he

demonstrated that these patients could replace their insulin injections with sulfonylurea tablets and thus improve blood sugar control. Being sure of his case, he offered free genetic tests to all diabetics in the world diagnosed before the age of 6 months.

He continues to identify new genes that are important for the development, function and destruction of beta cells by studying patients with neonatal diabetes. The discovery of genes in pancreatic patients has shown that the early development of human beta cells is very different from that of mice; this is essential information for creating a human beta cell replacement therapy from stem cells. For Professor Andrew Hattersley, the patient is always at the heart of his scientific research

THE JURY FOR THE BAILLET LATOUR HEALTH PRIZE 2020

Prof. Pascal Ferré - Centre de Recherches des Cordeliers- Sorbonne Université

Prof. Ellen E. Blaak - Chair Department of Human Biology - Maastricht University Medical Centre

Prof. Fiona M. Gribble - Cambridge Institute of Metabolic Science - University of Cambridge

Prof. Gökhan S. Hotamisligil - Director, Sabri Ülker Center for Metabolic Research - Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health.

Prof. Bart Staels - Director, UMR 1011 Inserm - University of Lille - EGID, CHU Lille.

Prof. Ron A. Wevers - Emeritus Professor in Clinical Chemistry - Radboud University Medical Centre - Nijmegen.

Prof. Juleen Zierath - Department of Physiology and Pharmacology - Karolinska Institutet Biomedicum - Stockholm.

■ FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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