



ICFO receives 2017 Nature Mentoring Award

Nature recognises outstanding scientific mentors in different regions around the world

December 05, 2017

Four Spanish scientists have been recognized by *Nature*, the international weekly journal of science, for exemplary personal mentoring of other scientists. *Nature* has hosted these annual awards since 2005 to champion the importance of mentoring and inspiring a generation of young scientists. The 2017 awards have for the first time taken place in Spain.

At the ceremony held at the Spanish Royal Academy of Sciences in Madrid, Sir Philip Campbell PhD, the Editor-in-Chief of *Nature*, presented the awards and congratulated the recipients on their laudable contributions.

The joint-recipients of the lifetime achievement award are:

Professor Carlos Belmonte, founding Director of the Institute of Neuroscience of Alicante
Professor Margarita Salas, former Director of the CSIC Centre for Molecular Biology Severo Ochoa in Madrid

The joint-recipients of the mid-career achievement prize are:

Professor Carlos Lopez-Otin, a molecular biologist from the University of Oviedo
Professor Lluís Torner, a physicist and founding Director of ICFO- The Institute of Photonic Sciences, in Barcelona.

Carmen Vela, the Spanish Secretary of State for Research, Development and Innovation commented on the importance of the awards: "*Nature* is an internationally renowned science journal in which researchers from around the world seek to publish their studies, so it is very important for us to receive the *Nature* Mentoring Awards here this year. Spain is a country full of talented scientists, and many of them have been guided by Margarita Salas, Carlos Belmonte, Carlos Lopez-Otin and Lluís Torner, four great Spanish researchers. I would like to express my gratitude for their work over these years".

Sir Philip Campbell, who established the awards, said: "these awards have taken place in 13 countries or regions, including the western United States, Nordic countries, South Africa, Japan and China. These are very varied cultures, and yet the key characteristics of outstanding mentors are remarkably similar. Spain's great examples are no exception - they are extraordinary in their ability to nurture emerging scientists of great diversity."

Through the [Nature Awards for Mentoring in Science](#) *Nature* recognises outstanding scientific mentors in different regions around the world.

Congratulations Lluís!



Lluís Torner