

RESEARCH AWARD IN PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION



With the support of Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd, the ERS offers a €10,000 award each year to an investigator in recognition of advances and successful research in pulmonary arterial hypertension. The award is reserved for ERS members, and is to be used for further research.

The winner of the 2011 Research Award in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension is **Professor Gérald Simonneau**, director of the French Pulmonary Hypertension Referral Centre since 2004 and Head of the Department of Pneumology at the Antoine Bécclère Hospital (Paris, France).

The sheer volume of Professor Simonneau's research output is breathtaking. Since his first publication in 1976, he was third author on a letter to the *Lancet*, entitled "Artificial ventilation and pulmonary capillary wedge pressure in acute respiratory failure", Professor Simonneau has barely paused, racking up over 300 articles in Medline-indexed journals. Nor is this a triumph of quantity over quality: as well as publishing in the major respiratory journals, Professor Simonneau's work has appeared numerous times in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Lancet* and the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Professor Simonneau's research interests have ranged from asthma, through lung transplantation and pulmonary embolism to pulmonary arterial hypertension. In his almost 30 years researching pulmonary hypertension, he has been part of several major studies – including a large registry study of almost 700 patients. He has also helped to

formulate the ACCP guidelines on surgical treatments and interventions for pulmonary arterial hypertension and, later, the ERS/European Society of Cardiology guidelines on the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension, and has been president of the ESC's working group on pulmonary circulation.

Professor Simonneau is highly regarded, professionally and personally, by his peers. A 2007 profile contains the following quote from Lewis Rubin, Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Diego, USA: "Gérald is a uniquely French *chef d'œuvre*: made up of equal parts intellectual creativity and rigour, objectivity, wit, charm and compassion – best served warm, and avoid overheating at all costs!"

Professor Simonneau continues to research the mechanisms of pulmonary arterial hypertension, as well as possible surgical and nonsurgical treatments. His work has made a huge difference to our understanding of the disease, and our prospects for treating it.

Supported by Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd



The Research Award in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension ceremony will be followed by Pulmonary Hypertension in the Clinic Grand Round- an interactive session. It will take place in room 7.1, on Tuesday, 27 September, from 14:45.