

Dr Valentin Fuster honored with Grand Prix award

JUNE 9, 2011 | [Vincent Bargoin](#)

Paris, France - The **Lefoulon-Delalande Foundation of the Institute of France** has awarded **Dr Valentin Fuster** the **2011 Grand Prix Scientifique**. **Dr Alain Carpentier**, president of the Institute's Academy of Science and its Scientific Council, presented the award to Fuster, under the Quai de Conti dome, during a ceremony celebrating the prizes awarded by the various foundations administered by the institute. The award, worth €500 000, was created by the Laboratories Delalande and is awarded to someone deemed to have made a significant scientific contribution to physiology, biology, or cardiovascular medicine.



Dr Alain Carpentier presents the 2011 Grand Prix Scientifique to Dr Valentin Fuster [Source: Institute de France]

Fuster was selected as the winner by the Scientific Council of the foundation's board of directors.

This award follows a number of others Fuster has garnered over his career, said Carpentier. Fuster, originally from Barcelona, Spain, has directed Mount Sinai Heart in New York since 1997 and, since 2005, the Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares (CNIC), in Madrid, Spain. He also chairs the committee for the global prevention of cardiovascular diseases at the **Institute of Medicine of the American Academy of Sciences**.

According to Carpentier, Fuster is best known as a researcher who has contributed profoundly to the understanding of atherothrombosis and its prevention. "Using an animal model—a pig infected with von Willebrand disease—Prof Fuster was the first to have highlighted the role of platelets [in acute coronary syndromes]," recalled Carpentier during yesterday's ceremony. "He is also the first to have used aspirin in the cardiovascular field, initially to prevent graft occlusion during CABG." In addition to being an academic and theorist, Fuster is also "a fervent proponent of translational research," Carpentier added.

Fuster is also renowned for his work on coronary plaques and for showing that, in the coronaries, the risk of plaque rupture relates paradoxically to small plaque size, often angiographically "silent." In the past 10 years, Fuster has been devoted to researching the use of statins for plaque regression. "This work owes much to the evolution of MRI that Prof Fuster uses widely, most notably in the **High Risk Plaques [HRP]** study, conducted among 7000 asymptomatic subjects in Chicago and Florida—a breakthrough study," Carpentier noted.

Today, Fuster is particularly involved in training the next generation of researchers, particularly in Spain, through the CNIC. But he's also invested in the health of the general population, especially youth and children, including a project involving children as young as three to six years of age. As such, with a long and distinguished career behind him, Fuster is also helping to prepare for the future.

"Dr Fuster is convinced that this will affect their attitudes as adults," said Carpentier.

A press release issued by Mount Sinai states that Fuster is the only cardiologist to receive the two highest gold-medal awards and all four major research awards from the four major cardiovascular organizations: the **Distinguished Researcher Award (Interamerican Society of Cardiology, 2005 and 2009)**, **Andreas Grüntzig Scientific Award and Gold Medal Award (European Society of Cardiology, 1992 and 2007 respectively)**, **Gold Medal Award and Distinguished Scientist (American Heart Association, 2001 and 2003 respectively)**, and the **Distinguished Scientist Award (American College of Cardiology, 1993)**.



Dr Valentin Fuster with distinguished guest Placido Domingo

Fuster is the host and moderator for [theheart.org's Cardiology Show](#). This story was translated and adapted from [theheart.org, French edition](#).

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