

## **Almirall and the Spanish Society of Pharmacology present the 8th Pharmacology Award 2009 in Seville**

- The award was presented during the Spanish Society of Pharmacology's Annual Congress to Dr Mercedes Salaices for her project entitled "*Cyclooxygenase 2; microsomal prostaglandin E synthase-1 and vascular alterations associated with Hypertension*"
- The award carries a prize of 9,000 Euros for promoting research in the Pharmacology area

**Barcelona, 18 September 2009.-** The Pharmacology Award 2009 was presented today during the 31st Spanish Society of Pharmacology Congress, held in Seville from 16 to 18 September. It is the eighth year of this award, which is sponsored jointly by Almirall and the Spanish Society of Pharmacology (SEF) and is the only one to recognise the quality of a research project within the Pharmacology field in Spain rather than an already completed work.

This year's prize, of 9,000 Euros, has been given to Dr. Mercedes Salaices, from the Autonomous University of Madrid, for the project "*Cyclooxygenase 2; microsomal prostaglandin E synthase-1 and vascular alterations associated with Hypertension*", which seeks to further progress in finding out about mechanisms involved in the genesis and evolution of hypertension. Dr. Salaices's team will study the intervention of endothelial prostanoids and the COX-2/mPGES-1 pathway in functional and structural alterations of resistance vessels.

The jury, made up of Doctor Francisco Zaragoza (President of the SEF) and members of Almirall, evaluated the works through an independent scoring process and subsequent agreement. Dr. Gavalda from Almirall commented "*to select the winning project the jury took into account that it is well-structured and anticipates promising results at a time when the population of hypertensive patients is increasing, despite being one of the diseases with the greatest therapeutic possibilities*". Arterial hypertension affects around 12 million people in Spain, 35% of the adult population, and claims 45,000 lives a year.

### **About Almirall**

Almirall is an international pharmaceutical company based on innovation and committed to health. Headquartered in Barcelona, Spain, Almirall researches, develops, manufactures and commercialises its own R&D and licensed drugs with the aim of improving people's health and wellbeing.

The therapeutic areas on which Almirall focuses its research resources are related to the treatment of asthma, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis and other dermatology indications.

Almirall is currently present in over 70 countries with direct presence in Europe and Latin America through 11 affiliates.

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