



**Champalimaud
Foundation**

June 2009

- **Champalimaud Cancer Research Symposium**
- **Scientific Committee and General Council Meetings**
- **Annual ARVO/Champalimaud Lecture in Florida**



James D. Watson, Nobel Laureate and Chairman of the CF Scientific Committee

Champalimaud Cancer Research Symposium, May 20th, 2009

On May 20th a number of the world's leading figures in cancer research gathered in Lisbon to take part in the inaugural Champalimaud Cancer Research Symposium. Chaired by the Nobel laureate, and co-discoverer of the structure of DNA,

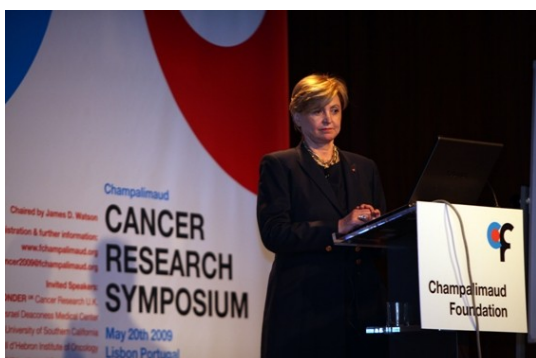
James D. Watson, the Champalimaud Foundation welcomed eleven of the world's most prominent cancer specialists for a day of reflection on the current state of this field of research. Instead of focusing on one specific area, the symposium sought an overview of the field from some of its most important contemporary figures. Presentations covered cancer therapy, progression, treatment, genetics and other pressing research issues. By giving young

researchers and experienced science and medicine practitioners the opportunity to join the speakers in scientific discussion the Foundation looked to stimulate the current field of cancer research and inspire the next generation of scientists in Portugal.



José Baselga, from Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology, addresses the Symposium

The symposium began with an introductory speech from Dr. Paul Marks, President Emeritus of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, the world's oldest and largest private cancer centre. In opening the meeting, Dr Marks welcomed the invited speakers and praised the Champalimaud Foundation's commitment to cancer research. Following these opening remarks the scientific programme was officially begun by Sir Prof. Bruce Ponder.



Hedvig Hricak, from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

The full scientific programme for May 20th was:

Bruce Ponder, Cancer Research U.K.: "The role of genes in shaping our risk of disease: lessons from cancer"

Raghu Kalluri, Harvard Medical School &

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center: "The rate of cancer progression and metastasis is controlled by tumor microenvironment"

Peter Jones, University of Southern California: "Epigenetic Therapy"

José Baselga, Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology: "Emerging Molecular Targets in Breast Cancer: HER2 and beyond"

Alan Ashworth, Institute of Cancer Research: "Synthetic lethal approaches to the development of new therapies targeting DNA repair deficiencies in cancer"

Hedvig Hricak, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC): "New horizons in oncologic imaging"

Charles Sawyers, MSKCC: "Novel approaches to anti-androgen therapy"

Paul Marks, MSKCC: "Histone deacetylase inhibitors – from bench to bedside"

Yoel Kloog, Tel Aviv University: "Design of new Ras inhibitor salirasib: from concept to mechanism of action and phase 1 trials"

Maria Blasco, Spanish National Cancer Research Centre: "Role of telomeres in cancer and aging"

Giovanni Morrone, University of Catanzaro: "Turning stem cells bad: dissection of leukaemogenesis through gene transfer in human haematopoietic stem cells"



Alan Ashworth (left), Raghu Kalluri (centre) and Sir Bruce Ponder (right)

The Symposium marks the continuation of the Champalimaud Foundation's commitment to cancer research, which has

already included hosting a thinktank at Cold Spring Harbor's prestigious Banbury Center in October 2007. More recently, in 2008, the Foundation joined in collaboration with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation to support oncological specialists in a programme of advanced medical training. In addition, plans are already well underway for the Champalimaud Cancer Research Programme which will support translational research of excellence. In addition, the Foundation's commitment to research into metastasis has already begun with the announcement of the Champalimaud Metastasis Programme. This programme will conduct metastasis research in collaboration with three of the world's top institutions. The programme will support leading metastasis laboratories at Harvard Medical School, Weill-Cornell Medical College, and Princeton University, with one lab. based at each institution.

CF Scientific Committee in Lisbon

On Tuesday, May 19th, a group of the world's leading figures in science and medicine arrived in Lisbon to participate in the annual meeting of the Champalimaud Foundation's Scientific Committee. The Foundation was honoured to once again welcome **James Watson** to Portugal in his capacity as Committee Chairman, and Dr. Watson was joined on the committee by **Alan Ashworth** (Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Centre, U.K.), **Maria Blasco** (Spanish National Cancer Research Centre), **Ronald Blasberg** (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre, USA - MSKCC), **Barry Dickson** (Institute of Molecular Pathology, Austria), **Paul Marks** (MSKCC), **J. Anthony Movshon** (New York University, USA), and **Martin Raff** (University College London, U.K.).



As the work of the Champalimaud Foundation continues to gather momentum, the Committee sought to address the main focal points of the Foundation's activities: cancer research, neuroscience research, and the construction of the Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown. Discussions on cancer research figured prominently and the committee sought to address the Foundation's requirements for a world-class cancer research programme. Likewise, when the focus turned to the Champalimaud Foundation's activities in neuroscience, the committee welcomed António Coutinho, member of the Foundation's General Council and Director of the Gulbenkian Institute of Science, where the Champalimaud Neuroscience Programme (CNP) is currently based, and Zachary Mainen, Coordinator of the CNP, to detail the progress being made in this area.



Leonor Beleza, President of the Champalimaud Foundation, with Martin Raff (left), Paul Marks (centre) and James Watson (right).

In order to show first-hand the development of the Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown, the committee members were given a guided tour of the construction site in Lisbon. Since the first stone was laid on October 5th 2008, work has developed rapidly and the committee members were able to see the area that will ultimately host the great majority of the Champalimaud Foundation's scientific work.

The Scientific Committee will continue to convene annually to advise and guide the Foundation on all scientific and medical matters.

CF General Council convenes

In addition to the cancer symposium and scientific committee meeting, May also saw this year's first meeting of the Champalimaud Foundation's General Council. In this context, the Foundation's Executive Committee joined **Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Simone Veil, António Almeida Santos, António Damásio, António Coutinho, João Raposo Magalhães, Pedro D'Abreu Loureiro** and **Daniel Proença de Carvalho**, President of the General Council, to discuss all aspects of the Foundation's work.



Six months had passed since the Council previously met, during which time the Champalimaud Foundation has made great strides in its activities. In particular, the construction of the Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown, in Lisbon, has progressed rapidly and the General Council was able to see first-hand the development of this cutting-edge facility.



Daniel Proença de Carvalho (left) with António Damásio (centre) and Fernando Henrique Cardoso (right)

The General Council meets bi-annually and is due to convene again the fourth quarter of 2009.

2009 ARVO/Champalimaud Lecture

Dr. Jeremy Nathans and Dr. King-Wai Yau, whose laboratories were jointly awarded the 2008 António Champalimaud Vision Award, were in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on May 6th to give the second ARVO / Champalimaud Award Lecture. The two researchers from Johns Hopkins University were honoured with the 2008 Vision Award in recognition of their fundamental work in understanding how light is converted into electrical signals by the brain in order to create vision. Jeremy Nathans determined the genetic code of the human visual pigments, helping to reveal how they function and discovering how mutations in their sequence can lead to some retinal diseases. King-Wai Yau showed how the absorption of light by these pigments generates the electrical signals that initiate vision and regulate our natural rhythms. These discoveries are basic to our current understanding of vision.

ARVO - The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology - is the world's biggest organisation in the field of vision, with over 12,000 members from 73 different countries. The ARVO/Champalimaud lecture marks a continuation of the strong relationship between the Champalimaud Foundation and ARVO, which began in 2006 when the António Champalimaud Vision Award was announced in the meeting's keynote speech by the then ARVO President, Larry Takamoto.



King-Wai Yau (centre) and Jeremy Nathans (right) receive the António Champalimaud Vision Award from Aníbal Cavaco Silva, President of the Portuguese Republic