Lyon, October 13, 2022

AWARDING OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRIZE IN PLANETARY HEALTH

The International Prize in Planetary Health was awarded this Wednesday, October 12, 2022 in Lyon (France) to Dr. Guilherme Dias de Melo of the Institut Pasteur for his work on neurotropic viral infections and their transmission from animals to humans. The award was created in 2022 by the Franco-German University (UFA) in cooperation with Institut Mérieux and Boehringer Ingelheim.

"The global pandemics are a reminder of how concerned we all are about planetary health issues. In this context, it is important to recognize and honor excellent research that contributes to overcoming these challenges with global implications," said Philippe Gréciano, President of the UFA and initiator of this new prize, at the opening of the official ceremony at the Université Lumière Lyon 2, in the presence of Thomas Pröpstl, Consul General of Germany, and numerous personalities from the academic world.

Endowed with 20,000 euros, the International Prize in Planetary Health is funded by Institut Mérieux and Boehringer Ingelheim. By rewarding a young researcher who has carried out recognized work in the field of Planetary Health, the prize aims to strengthen the cross-professional dialogue on human, veterinary and environmental health issues from a Franco-German, European and international perspective.

About the laureate's project

Dr. Guilherme Dias de Melo of the "Lyssavirus, Epidemiology and Neuropathology" Unit at the Institut Pasteur, has distinguished himself by the excellence of his scientific career. His research work focuses on infectious diseases that manifest themselves with brain damage. He is currently studying the rabies virus, a neglected pathogen that is strictly neurotropic, and SARS-CoV-2, an emerging virus whose neurotropism is still being debated. His objective is to understand the mechanisms involved in the spatio-temporal dynamics of infection by these neurotropic viruses in order to better appreciate the interactions of a pathogen within a neuronal network, as well as the neurobehavioral effects, both acute and long term. Finally, his research work also aims at developing effective and easy-to-use therapeutic approaches against these diseases.

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