

## OEI Oncology Prize 2013

For the first time ever, the OEI Board handed out the OEI Cancer Prize. The Prize has been assigned to a person that contributed in a significant way to the development and improvement of the European Cancer field. A Committee including Chris Harrison, Dominique De Valeriola, Jean Pierre Armand, Vasyl Chekhun, Gunnar Folprecht and Aurelia Martins had to select within a group of candidates previously nominated by the OEI members following these criteria:

- a person who has made a major scientific discovery in basic cancer research OR a person who has made significant contributions to translational cancer research;
- a person still active in cancer research and with a record of recent, noteworthy publications;
- a person who demonstrates a particular political commitment at international level and significantly involved in the increasing of public awareness on the cancer problem and on the practical achievement of specific actions supporting, both at public and private levels, the fight against cancer.



The OEI Treasurer grants the 20,000 Euros check



Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid delivers the Prize



The Winner with the sculpture



The OEI Directors at the Brussels City Hall.

The Committee selected and presented the top 3 candidates to the OEI Board which, finally, decided to follow its advice and hand over the OEI Oncology Prize to professor Ulrik Ringborg from Karolinska Institute Cancer Center, thanks to his several merits in the European Cancer field. The Award, which comprises a sculpture, designed and produced by Renée Otter, and a prize of € 20,000 was handed over in the ancient City Hall of Brussels by Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium. Moreover, there was a representative of the European Parliament, Mrs. Patrizia Toia, who was very positive and proud about the assignment of the prize and also invited the OEI Board to present the OEI Activities to the European Parliament during the next months.

The Board congratulated Professor Ringborg for the award and the winner informed the presents that the prize will be employed on scholarships for young scientists so to enable them to attend a training in translational cancer research. Furthermore, this positive experience underlines the growing importance of relations between the OEI and the European Commission and the visible presence of the Organisation in Brussels. For this reason, the OEI Board is considering to have at least one meeting in Brussels every Presidency in which the award could be handed over.

### The sculpture: "POINT & COMMA"

Renée Otter, former Director of the Groningen Cancer Centre, is the author of the sculpture "Point & Comma". The OEI thanks the artist for her kind support and hopes to have again in the future her extraordinary collaboration.

Following, a brief explanation of the sculpture.

*"Research is only recognized when published, so when written down in a journal. All texts are made up by sentences, separated and putted together by points and commas. The place of the points and commas, double points and semicolons are essential to make the message clear, comprehensive and punctual.*

*Researchers need sometimes to make some steps backwards to better proceed. «Reculer pour mieux sauter», to set a point, to go backwards for going forwards after. In fact, researchers neither articles can do without points and commas.*

*In addition, for the winner this price set a point to his recognition, but for the OEI, it will just be a comma or semicolon (point-comma) as research will never end and the OEI will always goes on. So the sculpture POINT & COMMA is as inextricably bound up to research as the OEI is".*

**Renée Otter**

