PRESS RELEASE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
1988/1408 KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
FOR
SCIENCE

Topic: BIOLOGY

The Prize has been awarded jointly to **Professor Ricardo Miledi** and to **Professor Pierre Chambon**.

Professor Miledi is a leading neurobiologist who is as one the world's experts on the physiology of synapses are the gaps through which messages are transmitted between nerve cells). Born in Mexico in 1927, he qualified as a medical doctor doing research in the USA and Australia. He then joined the University of London where he worked for 30 years. In 1975 he was appointed Foulerton Research Professor of the Royal Society and 1978 Professor of Biophysics at University College.

Professor Miledi was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (of London) at the early age of 43. He is at present a Distinguished Professor at the Department of Psychobiology at the School of Biological Sciences of the University of California at Irvine. He has published about 300 scientific papers.

Professor Miledi is honored for his major contributions to the study of the processes by which nerve cells transfer information to muscles and to other nerve cells. Such, knowledge is essential to explain how the brain processes information and how drugs and toxic substances affect the nervous system. It forms the basis for understanding certain devastating neurological diseases, and for the development of treatment for disorders of the nervous system.

Professor Chambon, born in France in 1931, is Professor of Biochemistry in the Faculty of Medicine of the Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg. He is also the Director of the Laboratory of Eukaryotic Molecular Genetics of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNPS), Director of the

Unit of Molecular Biology of the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), and Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the European Molecular Biology Organization. Professor Chambon, who is a Member of the French Academie des Sciences, has published more than (250) scientific papers.

Professor Chambon, a leader of European Molecular Biology, heads a large and productive scientific team. He discovered that genes (the hereditary material) of higher organisms are "split", a striking discovery which has profoundly influenced our views on the structure, function and evolution of higher organisms. Professor Chambon has mane many other major contributions to the understanding of the regulation of gene activity, such as the discovery of "enhancers', which enhance the transcription of genes, and the elucidation of the way human cells interact with the steroid hormones.

Professor Chambon's work has thus profoundly influenced the advance of molecular medicine in ways which relate to the understanding of cancer and its possible treatment