
PRO ACADEMIA
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IN SCIENCE AND
ACADEMIC LIFE
PRIZE 2019



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Pro Academia Prize 2019

19 July 2019

The **Executive Board of the Pro Academia Prize** has decided to confer the **Pro Academia Prize 2019** on **Leonor Beleza** of Lisbon, Portugal, in recognition of her efforts in furthering interdisciplinary academic exchange and of bringing together scientists, scholars, researchers and politicians. Since 2004, she is the mainstay of the boards, councils, teams and all collaborators of the Champalimaud Foundation and the Champalimaud Center for the Unknown in Lisbon. She is an outstanding and exemplary central person and linchpin promoting academic collaboration and “cross-pollination” as well as scientific cooperation and integration of academic research, exchange, and presentation, not only among scientists and researchers, but also to the public.

The Prize is for a group or network of scholars or scientists who have collaborated in an exemplary academic manner. More details about the Prize and its recipients are available at www.pro-academia.org. The Prize was established by *The Round Table Foundation (TRTF)*.

Professor Peter A. Rinck, president of the Board of The Round Table Foundation, explains:

“In today’s competitive, hectic, often erratic, short-lived, and money-oriented science and research, places of quiet discussion free from strife are rare, and – though generally preached – broad-based interdisciplinary exchange usually remains minor-league. The Pro Academia Prize is bestowed on one or several academic groups that serve as an example. Their members must have worked together and succeeded in reaching their goals over a period of at least eight years – and thus created “nurseries” of scientific eminence. The Prize is also meant as an incentive, a motivation for young scientists to pursue new avenues of research and teaching. We want them to go on and follow an honest and ethical academic way.”

The Prize itself is a crystal owl, symbolizing Athena, the goddess of crafts and skilled peacetime pursuits. She personifies wisdom and righteousness. Thus, the Prize stands for scientific and academic perseverance, knowledge, and exchange. These virtues and successes should be lauded. The crystal owl as representation of the Prize, and small olive trees and certificates for all group members will be the sole gifts.

The date of the Prize Ceremony will be announced later.
Additional information is available by e-mail from office@pro-academia.org.