

## The BBVA Foundation moves its Frontiers of Knowledge Awards ceremony and gala concert to Bilbao

- The presentation of the international awards recognizing world-class research and cultural creation, now into their 11th edition, will from this year on be held in the Vizcaya capital, original home of BBVA
- The annual award ceremony will be held on June 18 in the Euskalduna Conference Centre, and the previous evening's concert in honor of laureates will be performed by the Orquesta Sinfónica de Euskadi
- Over their first ten years, the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Awards, funded with 400,000 euros in each category, have earned a place among the world's foremost award schemes, distinguishing pathbreaking achievements in the main knowledge areas of the 21st century
- "Bilbao represents BBVA's roots, and shares with us a spirit of openness and a global outlook anchored on a strong culture of knowledge, art and innovation. With the siting of the Frontiers Awards events in Bilbao, the city will be host to a celebration of knowledge that features leading world figures in diverse areas of science, technology and the arts," declared the Foundation's President, Carlos Torres Vila

**Madrid, 28 February, 2019.-** The annual ceremony of the Frontiers of Knowledge Awards – bestowed annually by the BBVA Foundation, with the collaboration of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), to recognize world-class research and cultural creation – will change venue this year, with the 11th and future editions sited in Bilbao. The presentation events, held until now in the Madrid headquarters of the BBVA Foundation, will take place on 18 June in the Euskalduna Conference Centre, which will also host the previous evening's concert in honor of laureates. The program at this gala concert will be performed by the Orquesta Sinfónica de Euskadi, from now on the principal orchestra associated with the Frontiers Awards.

Established in 2008, the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Awards, funded with 400,000 euros in each of their eight categories, number among the world's foremost award families, distinguishing fundamental

contributions and the people behind them across a broad range of disciplines and fields characteristic of the knowledge map of the late 20th century and present day. One external indicator of the excellence of the awards is that seven Frontiers of Knowledge laureates have gone on to win the Nobel Prize: **Shinya Yamanaka** and **James P. Allison**, winners in the Biomedicine category of the awards, received the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 2012 and 2018 respectively, while **Robert J. Lefkowitz**, Frontiers laureate in Biomedicine, obtained the Chemistry Nobel in 2012. In Economics, Finance and Management, three Frontiers awardees have gone on to take the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences: **Lars Peter Hansen**, Nobel laureate in 2013; **Jean Tirol**, in 2014, **and Angus Deaton**, in 2015. Finally, **William Nordhaus** followed up his Frontiers Award in Climate Change with the Nobel in Economics, both in 2018.

After these first ten years, the BBVA Foundation wishes to give new impetus to the social projection of the Frontiers Awards, by giving the various formal and celebratory events a stable home in the Basque Country, concretely Bilbao. "Bilbao represents BBVA's roots, and shares with us a spirit of openness and a global outlook anchored on a strong culture of knowledge, art and innovation. With the siting of the Frontiers Awards events in Bilbao, the city will be host to a celebration of knowledge that features leading world figures in diverse areas of science, technology and the arts," declared the Foundation's President, Carlos Torres Vila.

Over a number of decades, BBVA and its Foundation have participated in the knowledge and cultural ecosystem of the Basque Country in general, and Bilbao in particular, through recurrent partnerships with some of the region's leading institutions: among them, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, the University of the Basque Country, the University of Deusto, the Museo de Belles Arts de Bilbao, the Bilbao Friends of the Opera Association (ABAD/LOBE) and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Euskadi. This ecosystem is therefore a natural space for the development and projection of the Frontiers of Knowledge Awards, one of the flagship programs of the BBVA Foundation.

"The attributes of the awards (knowledge, innovation, art, excellence, and openness to the global society) are also characteristics of the Basque society in which BBVA has its origins and markers of identity. We wish to permanently link the Frontiers Awards to Bilbao, symbolizing the city's status as a center of knowledge," added the BBVA Foundation President.

### **About the Frontiers of Knowledge Awards**

The goal of the Frontiers of Knowledge Awards is to recognize the fundamental contributions made by science and culture to the individual and collective wellbeing of all members of society. The name of the

scheme is intended to denote not only cutting-edge research that substantially enlarges the scope of our current knowledge – pushing forward the frontiers of the known world – but also the meeting and overlap of different disciplinary areas. These are also the awards whose architecture is most congruent with the knowledge map of the 21st century in the breadth and relevance of the areas addressed: alongside **Basic Sciences** categories are reserved for **Biomedicine, Information and Communication Technologies, Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences, Music**, and two central facets of the environment, **Ecology and Conservation Biology** and **Climate Change**. In these last two areas, they are also the awards of reference at global level.

The eight international committees deciding the awards are formed by internationally reputed experts, who deliberate independently applying the indicators and metrics of excellence proper to the subject area. Nominations are received each year from many of the world's most prestigious academic research and artistic institutions, and in most categories number from 50 to 60 per award edition.

From the outset, the BBVA Foundation has been accompanied in this enterprise by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), the country's premier research organization, which participates in both nominee pre-assessment and in appointing the award committees, whose chair it designates. This partnership will be reinforced as of the next edition through the involvement of the University of the Basque Country and other Basque research and cultural centers.

In the current edition, a total of four categories have been decided to date: **Anny Cazenave, John Church** and **Jonathan Gregory** took the award in **Climate Change** for detecting, understanding and projecting the response of global and regional sea level to anthropogenic climate change; the award in **Biomedicine** went to **Jeffrey Gordon** for discovering the importance of the gut microbial community to human health; **Gretchen Daily** and **Georgina Mace** won in the **Ecology and Conservation Biology** category for developing tools to quantify the value of nature that facilitate effective conservation strategies; and **Ivan Sutherland** received the award in **Information and Communication Technologies** for revolutionizing human-machine interaction through computer graphics and virtual reality. The remaining four categories will be decided in the coming weeks: **Basic Sciences** (5 March), **Economics** (26 March), **Music and Opera** (9 April) and **Humanities and Social Sciences** (16 April).

More information → [www.frontiersofknowledgeawards-fbbva.es](http://www.frontiersofknowledgeawards-fbbva.es)

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