

## Acceptance speech

20 June 2023

### Ferenc Krausz, awardee in the Basic Sciences category (15th edition)

I'm deeply humbled and honored to have been selected as a co-winner of the prestigious BBVA Frontiers of Knowledge Award in the category of Basic Sciences. It is a great pleasure to share this award with my esteemed colleagues, Anne L'Huillier and Paul Corkum. Mutually inspiring each other, we have embarked on a scientific journey that has been providing new insight into sub-atomic processes.

First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the BBVA Foundation for recognizing our work. This award serves as encouragement to scientists around the world who strive to push the boundaries of knowledge.

I would certainly not be here without the support of my family, particularly of my wife. There is not enough time to cite the names of all persons in my life who helped me grow, learn, and achieve. I'm deeply indebted to all of them, including my fellow collaborators, who have contributed so much to our collective effort.

Our scientific journey began with a fundamental question: How can we observe and understand the intricacies of electronic motions on atomic and sub-atomic scales? Motions that underlie information processing in nanoscale circuits as well as molecular phenomena fundamental to our life. They occur over timescales that had been beyond the reach of any measurement technique until the turn of the millennium. Harnessing novel concepts and the power of ultrafast lasers enabled us to peer into a world previously hidden from human observation. This award is a testament to collective efforts and a reflection of the power of teamwork.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this award to the countless scientists and researchers whose pioneering work has provided the foundation upon which we stand today. Let us remember that – in the same way - it is our responsibility

to inspire future generations of scientists to embark on their own quests for knowledge.

It is also our responsibility to create a better world for generations to come. To this end, in the spirit of the noble humanitarian goals of the BBVA Foundation, I am donating half of the monetary part of the award via our initiative, [science4people.org](http://science4people.org), to a Ukrainian youth organization, to mitigate the suffering of children, teenagers, and students deprived of normal life. Our actions are only drops in the ocean, yet every individual whom we can assist makes it worth every effort.

Thank you all for this tremendous honor.