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PRESS RELEASE

French-Swedish Prize 2012 goes to two young female researchers

The fourth edition of the French-Swedish Prize for young researchers has distinguished two young women working in the field of “Green chemistry serving human health”. The Prize will be awarded at his Residence by the Ambassador of France to Sweden, SEM Jean-Pierre Lacroix, and Collège de France Professor Etienne Baulieu, on January 18, 2013 at 5 pm.

The first prize goes to Magali Proffit, a postdoctoral researcher at SLU (*Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet*), in the Division of Plant Protection Biology, for her work on the communication between insects and plants via chemical substances. This research has implications for human health: control of species interactions may for example reduce the use of noxious pesticides and lead to an improved food production.

The second prize goes to Irene Rodríguez Meizoso, a postdoctoral researcher at Lund University, in the Department of Chemistry, for her work in developing new, environmentally benign processes for various applications. Her interests particularly lie in developing green, supercritical fluids, for example applied to the extraction of natural products from biological sources. This development will have widespread impact on human health, as it reduces production risks and enables better control of the different processes.

Both laureates were selected by a jury chaired by Professor Baulieu (College de France), and composed of Kenneth Nilsson, Honorary Professor in Cellular Pathology and Chairman of *Cancerfonden*, Olof Ramström, Professor in Organic Chemistry at KTH School of Chemical Science and Engineering, Olle Stendahl, Professor of Medical Microbiology at the department of medical microbiology at Linköping University, and former Secretary General of the Swedish Research Council for Medical Research, and Erik Sandewall, Professor of Computer Science at the department of computer and information science at Linköping University, and President of the Swedish-French Association for Research.

The French-Swedish Prize for young researchers, placed under the high patronage of Collège de France, is awarded by the Embassy of France in Sweden / Institut français de Suède, and the Swedish-French Association for Research, with the financial support of generous sponsors. Its aim is to foster scientific cooperation between France and Sweden. L'Oréal Sverige AB sponsored the 2012 edition and has been supporting the prize for four consecutive years now. L'Oréal is considered to be the main industrial player in cosmetics in regards to green chemistry.

The laureates receive a personal allowance (50 000 SEK for the first prize, 15 000 SEK for the second), a grant of the Embassy for a research stay in France, and a one year subscription to the French scientific magazine *La Recherche*.

For more information:

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