

British scientist wins top French prize

September 18 2013

Margaret Buckingham, a Scottish-born biologist, has been awarded one of France's top science prizes, the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) announced on Wednesday.

It said it was awarding her its gold medal—a prize that in the past has singled out several scientists who later won the Nobel—for pioneering work in gene regulation.

Buckingham, 68, is a professor emeritus at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, where she heads research into how genes drive the development of muscle and [heart tissue](#).

The work has given insights into the biology of [stem cells](#) and [congenital heart defects](#), the CNRS said.

Oxford-educated, Buckingham has been working in France since 1971.

Her achievements include the CNRS's silver medal, awarded in 1999, and election to the Academy of Sciences in France, Britain and the United States.

Previous recipients of the CNRS' gold medal include biologist Jules Hoffmann, the 2011 Nobel Medicine co-laureate, and Serge Haroche, who co-won the 2012 Nobel Physics prize.

Buckingham has dual British and French nationalities, according to the French Academy of Sciences website.

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Citation: British scientist wins top French prize (2013, September 18) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-09-british-scientist-french-prize.html>

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