

Acceptance speech

16 June 2022

Charles Fefferman, awardee in the Basic Sciences category (14th edition)

It is a sincere pleasure to accept the Frontiers of Knowledge Award for Basic Science, given this year to Jean-Francois Le Gall and me. Professor Le Gall has given an excellent nontechnical description of his scientific work and mine.

In this brief speech I'd like to add a few personal remarks.

I wish to convey how sorry I am that illness prevented me from attending the award ceremony in person. Let me express how deeply honored I am to have been chosen to receive this award and to be among this group of eminent laureates. To my fellow laureates-congratulations!

I thank the BBVA Foundation for establishing this highly prestigious award, acknowledging the work of those who strive to advance knowledge and create beauty for the benefit of the entire world. Such recognition serves to inspire young people to strive for achievements of the highest order.

I want to add a few words about the privilege I have felt over the years in advising and then collaborating with Spanish mathematicians who came to study with me in the U.S. Several of those former students have become my colleagues and dear friends. Among them are Antonio and Diego Cordoba-father and son!-who returned to Spain and played a major role in the remarkable development of Spanish mathematics.

I take great pride in the achievements of my many Spanish students and colleagues, and I greatly enjoy my continuing collaborations with them.

I will always feel a special connection to Spain.

Once again-thank you!