

**Press Release**

2 October 2017 - N° 27

**Thibault Damour, member of the Scientific Board  
of the SCOR Corporate Foundation for Science,  
wins the CNRS 2017 gold medal**

The SCOR Corporate Foundation for Science is delighted that one of the eminent members of its Scientific Board, the physicist Thibault Damour, won France's highest scientific distinction, the CNRS 2017, on September 27, 2017.

An internationally renowned theorist for his breakthrough research on black holes, pulsars, gravitational waves and quantum physics, Thibault Damour played a role in the indirect detection of gravitational waves in the 1980s, and more recently in their direct detection. Much of his work has created new links between Einstein's theory of general relativity and observations.

Born in 1951, Thibault Damour joined the École normale supérieure in Paris in 1970. After obtaining his PhD from the University of Paris VI in 1974, he worked for two years as a post-doc at Princeton University (USA). Between 1977 and 1989, he worked as a CNRS researcher and was recruited as a permanent professor in theoretical physics at the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques (IHES) in 1989. Thibault Damour has been a member of the Scientific Committee of the SCOR Foundation since 2012.

**André Levy-Lang, Chairman of the SCOR Corporate Foundation for Science, comments:** *"The SCOR Foundation offers its warmest congratulations to Thibault Damour on this award, which recognizes his exceptional contribution to contemporary physics and bears witness to the extraordinary vitality of theoretical research in this field, in France and throughout the world".*

**Denis Kessler, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of the SCOR group and member of the French Institute's Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, comments:** *"I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Thibault Damour on this award, which rewards his exceptional contribution to the dynamism and reach of French research. His remarkable work in theoretical physics, which in particular has made a crucial contribution to the understanding of gravitational waves, is feeding research with exceptional potential."*

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**The SCOR Corporate Foundation for Science**, created in 2011, is a concrete example of SCOR's long-term commitment to supporting risk research and the dissemination of risk-related knowledge. It promotes and finances research through funding, awards and conferences. The Scientific Board of the SCOR Corporate Foundation for Science, which is composed of recognized scientists from various disciplines, is responsible for directing the Foundation towards suitable areas of intervention from the main projects submitted for consideration, in line with its long-term strategy.

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