THE ANTONI DE GIMBERNAT FOUNDATION takes its name from the illustrious physician who was born in Cambrils in 1734. It is based at Instituto Médico Vilafortuny, which is located in the same borough. The Foundation was constituted in 1990 with an aim to research into, promote, foster, develop, disseminate and therapeutically apply, new technologies in medicine paying great attention to criteria of safety, efficacy and effectiveness.

As the Foundation enjoys non profit making status, it is highly oriented to achieving scientific welfare. The Board of the Foundation comprises such distinguished bodies as the:
- Cambrils Town Council
- Tarragona County Council
- Tarragona branch of the Medical Sciences, Academy of Catalonia
- Department of Morphological Sciences’ at the School of Medicine, University of Valencia.

The importance of laser applications in medicine has taken on a new dimension in the last decade. In the most relevant medical specialities, laser systems have become the instrument of choice in order to perform successful interventions for the treatment of lesions which could not be treated satisfactorily.

THE ANTONI DE GIMBERNAT FOUNDATION holds an annual practical course around the surgical table on lasers in medicine and surgery. This course is now in its 25th anniversary and this year, the programme will review the current concepts of treatment of aging skin, cutaneous skin rejuvenation, advances in laser systems and how they interact with biological tissue, laser safety, the achievement of laser surgery in plastic, cosmetic and dermatological treatments will be approached in addition to techniques for treating vascular lesions.

The courses teach both the theory and the practice, and lectures are given by experts of world renown. In addition, round table and panel discussions take place. These are complemented by a series of practical, live demonstrations which participants can follow by a closed circuit TV link-up. These sessions facilitate the student-faculty exchange of knowledge as well as some hands-on training with different techniques to gain first-hand practical knowledge and experience.

The ANTONI DE GIMBERNAT FOUNDATION announces a grant, in order to acknowledge work into the breakthroughs achieved, both in clinics and in the laboratory, in the application of Lasers in Medicine and Surgery.

The winning submission will be awarded a total of 20,000 Euros. The decision as to the winner is taken in November coinciding with the International hands-on Course on Laser Applications in Medicine and Surgery, which is held at the Instituto Médico Vilafortuny, organised by the Foundation.

**Addressee for Correspondence:**
Mario A. Trelles, MD PhD
INSTITUTO MEDICO VILAORTUNY
SEDE: ANTONI DE GIMBERNAT FOUNDATION
Av. Vilafortuny, 31
E43850, Cambrils, Tarragona, SPAIN
Phone:+34977361320
Fax:+34977791024
Email: imv@laser-spain.com
Web: www.laser-spain.com