SALUD

SECRETARÍA DE SALUD

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Mexico City, January 23rd, 2015

CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEXICAN SCIENTISTS ARE RECOGNIZED

- ***A scientific team of the National Institute of Respiratory Diseases has made important contributions in the treatment of pulmonary fibrosis.***
- ***The results of this research allowed the international community to have new medicines.***

Mexican scientists of the National Institute of Respiratory Diseases "Ismael Cosío Villegas" (INER)* received an award from the American Thoracic Society (ATS), in recognition of the contributions made by their research on the treatment of pulmonary fibrosis, the most lethal and aggressive illness affecting lungs.

Specialists led by Dr. Moisés Selman Lama became the first non-American scientists to receive this award, positioning themselves among the most outstanding groups in the world to study this medical condition.

Among their most important contributions is a study developed in association with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) on idiopathic cystic fibrosis. The findings allowed to conclude that it is not a chronic inflammatory illness, as it had been assured half a century ago.

The research paper published under the title "Idiopathic Lung Fibrosis: Prevailing and in Evolution. Hypothesis in Pathogenesis and Therapy

Implications" made possible to know some mechanisms that led to a better understanding of the disease.

As a result, the treatment was modified. It used to be based on strong anti-inflammatories and immunosuppressant medication that did not prove to be efficient in stopping the disease and provoked severe secondary effects on patients.

Dr. Selman Lama said that these studies led to treatment modifications as well as to the allocation of resources from Health Institutes of the United States, given that they did not finance research projects that considered the disease an inflammatory process.

Based on this work, clinical tests were made with other types of substances to treat this disease, which yield the authorization of the Food and Drug Administration of the United States.

* It was founded in 1936, during the Administration of Lázaro Cárdenas, under the name of Huipulco Sanatorium for Tuberculosis Patients, and in year 1982 became the National Institute of Respiratory Diseases. Among its tasks are medical assistance and education, as well as scientific and technical research specialized in pneumology.

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