

# 1998 NAEF FOUNDATION PRIZE

In Geneva, Switzerland, on 10 March 1999, Professor Michael Balls (Chairman of the FRAME Trustees, Head of ECVAM, Ispra, Italy, and Editor of *ATLA*) and Professor Horst Spielmann (Director of ZEBET, Berlin, Germany, and European Associate Editor of *ATLA*) jointly received the 1998 Prize of the Foundation E. Naef pour la Recherche *In Vitro*.

Mr Egon Naef is a retired druggist and nutritionist, who set up the Foundation early in 1998. This was the Foundation's first award. The ceremony was held in the Plaza Cinema on the rue de Chantepoulet in the centre of Geneva, and was attended by supporters of the Foundation, and representatives of other Swiss alternatives research organisations and of the University of Geneva. It was held in the cinema because its owner is an active campaigner on a number of animal welfare issues.

Professor Balls and Professor Spielmann were awarded the prize in recognition of their many contributions to Three Rs research and, in particular, for the part they played in the successful vali-

dation of the 3T3 neutral red uptake phototoxicity (NRU PT) test for phototoxic potential.

Also, in his remarks as Scientific Adviser to the Naef Foundation, Dr Franz Gruber (Fonds für Versuchstierfreie Forschung, Zurich, Switzerland, and Editor of *ALTEX*) said:

In addition to all this, we are honouring two colleagues, Horst Spielmann and Michael Balls, who share one additional characteristic. Although they are both what we call officers, in Spielmann's case even a Prussian one, both of them are totally different from the picture we are accustomed to paint in thinking of an officer. They are extremely industrious, and they are men of courage who don't hesitate to contradict those above them. If we had only more officers of this sort, the world would be a different place.

Also, they are both the first heads of their organisations, ZEBET in Berlin and ECVAM in Ispra, respectively. They could not fall back on established procedures, but had to create and define structures of these institutions from the beginning. We all know the importance of these institutions for alternatives to animal testing.