



PRESS RELEASE

Doctor François Duforez

Named Winner of the 2012 EBIA Award

Edinburgh (United Kingdom) 13th September – The European Bedding Industries' Association (EBIA), the umbrella organisation of the bedding industry in Europe, announced Dr. François Duforez as the winner of the 2012 EBIA Award. Being a prominent and widely respected researcher in the sleep research field, Doctor Duforez currently works as a consultant at the physiology and sleep research department of the Hôtel Dieu Hospital in Paris, France. In 2007 he founded the European Sleep Center (ESC), an institute that conducts research for individuals as well as collectivities in order to diagnose the relationship between sleeping difficulties and concentration levels. With this award, EBIA recognizes Doctor Duforez' tireless dedication to sleep research and his bridge-building efforts with the bedding industry. EBIA will therefore further strengthen its ties with Doctor Duforez, to pave the way for future research to improve the sleeping experience of consumers all over Europe.

The EBIA Award

Being the European representative of an industry producing quality products aimed at the wellness and comfort of its customers, EBIA created the EBIA Award to promote creativity and innovation within this sector. Next to becoming an honorary member of EBIA, the winner is also rewarded a 5,000 euro grant to support his ongoing research.

Award Winner

This year, EBIA's members overwhelmingly voted in favour of Doctor François Duforez.

From 2005 to 2006, he was Head of the Physiology and Sleep Research Department of the Hôtel Dieu hospital in Paris. Up to this day, he still remains actively involved in this sleep research centre.

In 2007 he founded the European Sleep Center (ESC). This institute hosts doctors and specialists (neurologists, pneumologists, heart specialists, engineers and biomedics) who have been commissioned to conduct research for individuals as well as collectivities in order to diagnose the relationship between sleeping difficulties and concentration levels. The research at ESC is achieved both through modern technology and human sciences. The ESC offers its experience and its team of specialists to large companies and small enterprises and also works on health and safety campaigns in work environments.

In 2008, Dr. Duforez initiated a partnership between the European Sleep Center and Reunica, an important institute for social security and pensions in France. Together, ESC and Reunica developed a programme called 'Sleep/Vigilance/Health', which is open to all members of the organizations. In close collaboration with the Association for Bedding in France, a unique programme is now being worked out to measure the influence of bedding products on sleep quality and wake/sleep rhythm.

Investment in the Future

Recognizing the achievements of Doctor Duforez, the 2012 EBIA Award underlines the Association's commitment to the overall wellbeing of consumers and EBIA's firm intention to support the kind of contribution realised by Doctor Duforez. EBIA believes that the efforts of Doctor Duforez and others like him will give rise to future findings of benefit to the society as a whole which the bedding industry strives to serve with ever-improved products and services.

About EBIA

The European Bedding Industries' Association (EBIA) was founded in 2000 to represent the interests of the bedding industry. The Association currently comprises meanwhile some 160 members located in eleven countries throughout Europe. The main objective of EBIA is to stimulate and raise awareness for the industry's commitment to producing quality products while acting as the bedding industry's permanent voice. At the same time, EBIA is dedicated to furthering the wellbeing and comfort of the European consumer.

For more information, please visit www.europeanbedding.eu

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