



GRAZIELLA PELLEGRINI and MICHELE DE LUCA, of Italian nationality, will share the 2020 Jeantet-Collen Prize for Translational Medicine for the development of epithelial stem cell-based regenerative therapy in patients with severe eye and skin disease.

The use of stem cells to treat or prevent a disease, offer great promise in regenerative medicine. Graziella Pellegrini and Michele De Luca have played a pivotal role in establishing epithelial stem cell therapies, combining them with gene therapy. Their discoveries in the fields of corneal regeneration and skin replacement therapies have allowed hundreds of patients to be treated.

Graziella Pellegrini and Michele De Luca will use the prize money to pursue research on new cell and gene therapies to restore vision in patients who have suffered corneal injuries as well as to cure patients affected by devastating genetic skin diseases.