



2026 Collen-Jeantet Prize for Translational Medicine

Yasmine Belkaid, an Algerian, American and French scientist, is awarded the 2026 Collen-Jeantet Prize for Translational Medicine for illuminating the complex interplay between the microbiota, nutrition, infection, and the immune system, transforming our understanding of host defence and tissue homeostasis.

Bringing together immunology, microbiology and modern genomic tools, Yasmine Belkaid's work has shown how the microbiota helps train the immune system and guides our ability to tolerate everyday food and environmental exposures. She has uncovered key roles for nutrition and metabolites, particularly vitamin A, in shaping immunity in different human populations. Her team has also demonstrated how the immune system detects ancient viral sequences embedded in our DNA, using these once-dismissed "junk" elements to control inflammation and help tissues recover after injury.