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Athenagoras Human Rights Award bestowed to 5 top researchers, pharmaceutical executives for their contribution to combating coronavirus



The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, this week conveyed a warm congratulatory letter to the husband-and-wife founders of Germany-based BioNTech, ethnic Turkish physicians and researchers Ugur Şahin and Özlem Türesi, who were awarded the Athenagoras Human Rights Award by the National Council of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle.

Along with the couple, other recipients are Thessaloniki-born and raised Albert Bourla, the president and CEO of Pfizer, as well as George Yancopoulos and Christos Kyratsous, the president and vice president, respectively, of Regeneron Pharmaceutical.

All five of the recipients were honored for their contribution to combating the coronavirus by creating appropriate vaccines and medicines.

In a letter to doctors Şahin and Türesi, His All Holiness underlined that “…We would like to congratulate you on your pioneering research and effective invention, which

is a valuable weapon in the fight against the pandemic that prevails around the world.”