

### ***Award for Tibetan Healthcare Method***



**Laurent Pordie, French anthropologist and ethnopharmacologist was one of five individuals to receive the Rolex Awards for Enterprise. He was selected from 2,000 applicants worldwide. Pordie seeks to revive traditional Tibetan medicine to improve health care in Ladakh, in Kashmir, India. In the past, *Amchis* (traditional doctors) provided their skills free, he said, with villagers shouldering their farming chores in return. But the barter system failed, and the *Amchis* disappeared, he said, with the introduction of conventional modern medicine and a growth in social mobility. Pordie said he believes that by reinstating *Amchi* skills he could improve health care in the region. In 1998, he set up a program called "Traditional medicine for survival," and it is for this project that he was chosen as a recipient of the award. He is seen speaking about his work, above, at a press briefing held at the Regency Hotel in Manhattan on Sept.27.**

*(Photo: Piyuli Jain)*