



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD
103rd Session
Provisional agenda item 7

EB103/32
11 November 1998

Awards

Establishment of a regional foundation prize for research in Down syndrome

1. The WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, at its forty-fifth session (Beirut, October 1998), adopted resolution EM/RC45/R.9 (Annex) recommending establishment of a Down Syndrome Research Prize Foundation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The Regional Committee also approved the proposed Statutes of the Foundation.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

2. The Executive Board is invited to consider approving the recommendation submitted herewith by the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, in which case the following decision could be adopted:

The Executive Board, having considered a recommendation of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean Region,¹ decides to establish the Down Syndrome Research Prize Foundation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, to be administered by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in accordance with the Statutes approved by the Regional Committee at its forty-fifth session in October 1998.

¹ Resolution EM/RC45/R.9.

ANNEX

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

EM/RC45/R.9
October 1998

Forty-fifth Session

Agenda item 18

**DOWN SYNDROME - ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL
RESEARCH PRIZE FOUNDATION**

The Regional Committee,

Having reviewed the Regional Director's report on the Down Syndrome;¹

Recalling its endorsement of the Regional Consultative Committee's proposal to agree to the establishment of prizes for research on priority problems in the Region;

Taking into consideration the high incidence of Down Syndrome in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region;

1. **PROPOSES** the establishment of a regional foundation prize for research into Down syndrome;
2. **CONVEYS** its appreciation to Dr Abdel Rahman Abdulla Al-Awadi for the generous offer of funds to be used to initiate this prize;
3. **APPROVES** the text of the Statutes of the Down Syndrome Research Prize Foundation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region;
4. **RECOMMENDS** the establishment of such a Foundation to the 103rd session of the Executive Board to be held in January 1999;
5. **INVITES** Member States, institutions and individuals to make voluntary financial contributions to WHO in order to increase the funds available to the Foundation for the award of such a prize.

¹ Document EM/RC45/18.

**Statutes of the Down Syndrome Research
Prize Foundation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

Article 1

Establishment

Under the title of the “Down Syndrome Research Prize Foundation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region”, a foundation is established within the framework of the World Health Organization, which shall be governed by the following provisions:

Article 2

The Founder

The Foundation is established upon the initiative of, and with funds provided by, Dr Abdel Rahman Abdulla Al-Awadi (hereinafter referred to as “the Founder”).

Article 3

Capital

The Founder endows the Foundation with an initial capital of US \$25,000.- (twenty five thousand United States Dollars only). The capital of the Foundation may be increased by income from its undistributed reserves or by gifts and bequests.

Article 4

Purpose

The Foundation is established for the purpose of awarding a prize to one or more persons who have made an outstanding contribution in the field of research related to Down Syndrome. The specific criteria that shall be applied in the assessment of the work done by the candidates shall be determined by the Foundation Committee.

Article 5

The Prize

1. The “Down Syndrome Research Prize in the Eastern Mediterranean Region” shall consist of a bronze medal and a cash sum which shall be awarded once every two years, funds permitting, from the accumulated interest on the Foundation’s capital after deduction of the total cost of striking the medal and any other costs incurred.

2. The initial value of the cash prize shall be determined by the Foundation Committee at its first session taking into account the Foundation's capital and the anticipated annual interest. This amount may be adjusted from time to time by the Committee based on changes in the capital of the Foundation, variation in interest rates and other relevant factors.

Article 6

The Foundation Committee

The Committee entitled the "Down Syndrome Research Foundation Committee" shall be composed of the following members: The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, the Chairman of the Regional Committee Technical Discussions and a representative of the Founder. The Regional Director of EMRO or his representative will serve as the Secretary of the Committee.

Article 7

Proposal and selection of candidates

1. Any national health administration of a Member State of the World Health Organization within the Eastern Mediterranean Region, or any former recipient of the Prize, may put forward the name of a candidate for the Prize. The nomination must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons on which it is based. Proposals shall be submitted to the Administrator who shall submit them to the Foundation Committee together with his technical comments.
2. Current and former staff members of the World Health Organization shall be ineligible to receive the Prize.
3. The Committee shall decide in private meeting, by a majority of the members present, on the recommendation to be made to the Regional Committee, whose decision shall be final.
4. The presence of at least three members of the Foundation Committee, including the Chairman of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean or a Vice-Chairman acting for the Chairman at that Regional Committee, shall be required for the taking of decisions.
5. The Prize shall be presented during the following session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean by its Chairman to the recipient or, in his absence, to a person representing him.

Article 8

The Administrator

1. The Foundation shall be administered by its Administrator, namely the Regional Director of EMRO, who shall act as Secretary of the Foundation Committee.

2. The Administrator shall be responsible:
- a) for the execution of the decisions taken by the Foundation Committee within the limits of its powers as defined in these Statutes, and
 - b) for the observance of the present Statutes and generally for the administration of the Foundation in accordance with these Statutes.

Article 9

Revision of the Statutes

On the proposal of one of its members, the Foundation Committee may propose a revision of the present Statutes. Any such proposal, if endorsed by a majority of the Committee, shall be submitted to the Regional Committee for its approval.

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