

Foundations and awards

1. Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize – Report of the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Committee

The Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize is awarded to a person having made the most significant contribution to any health problem in the geographical area in which Dr A.T. Shousha served WHO, namely the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

During the sixty-fourth session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (Islamabad, 9–12 October 2017), the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Committee met on 10 October, chaired by Her Excellency Mrs Saira Afzal Tarar, Minister of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Pakistan (Chair of the Regional Committee).

The Committee reviewed nominations from Afghanistan, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Oman and Pakistan.

The Committee members considered the applications of the seven candidates and recommended that the candidate from Pakistan, Dr Assad Hafeez, Director-General of Health, Ministry of National Health Services of Pakistan, should be selected as the person to be proposed to the Executive Board at its 142nd session as the recipient of the Prize.

If the Board confirms the award, the laureate will receive the equivalent of 2500 Swiss francs in United States dollars.

Dr Hafeez is being honoured for his significant contribution to public health in Pakistan. He is currently Director-General of Health in the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination. Over the past 25 years, he has played a leading role in the development of the health sector in Pakistan through his extensive experience in the public health sector, international organizations and civil society. He managed one of the largest programmes for community health workers worldwide and was instrumental in the development and launch of Pakistan's flagship national health insurance programme in 2015. As Director-General of Health, he has spearheaded several prominent national initiatives, such as the development of key health strategies and evaluation of the national health system and devolution policy.

Dr Hafeez graduated from the Army Medical College, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, in 1987. He received a Masters in epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (in 2003) and a PhD in public health from the University of Manchester (in 2009) in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

An accomplished paediatrician, Dr Hafeez has held several academic posts in national and international institutions. At present he is Executive Director and Dean of the Health Services Academy and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Quaid-i-Azam University. He has served on a number

of expert committees and technical boards at the national, regional and global levels and has published more than 50 articles in scientific journals and other publications. He is currently representing Pakistan on the WHO Executive Board (2015–2018).

2. Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Prize – Report of the Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Selection Panel

The Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Prize is awarded to a person or persons globally recognized for his, her or their service in the field of family health. The Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Selection Panel met on 23 January 2018, under the chairmanship of Dr Assad Hafeez (Pakistan), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other Panel members were Professor Phyllis Erdogan, appointee of Professor A. Doğramacı (the President of Bilkent University, Turkey) and Professor Tomris Turmen, representing the International Children’s Center (Ankara).

The Panel members studied the curricula vitae and the backgrounds of six candidates, together with the Administrator’s technical comments on the candidatures. The Panel, bearing in mind the Statutes governing the award of the Prize, unanimously decided to propose to the Executive Board that the 2018 Prize be awarded to Professor Vinod Kumar Paul (India).

If the Board confirms the award, the laureate will receive US\$ 20 000.

Professor Paul is an internationally renowned researcher, clinician, educator and public health advocate in the area of family health, with a special focus on newborn health. He has made an exceptional and lasting contribution towards improving the health and well-being of families, especially in developing countries. His efforts resulted in bringing long-neglected newborn health and maternal health to the centre-stage of strategies for the Millennium Development Goals. He was instrumental in establishing the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in 2005–2006. He is also recognized as a leading expert in universal health coverage and human resources for health.

Professor Paul has contributed significantly to important documents used globally on family health in the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals eras, including the global strategy on women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health (2010 and 2016) and the scientific evidence base behind *The Lancet* Neonatal Survival Series (2005) and *The Lancet* Every Newborn Series (2014). He has published numerous articles in international peer-reviewed journals as well as several books and monographs, including a book on paediatrics that is the standard text book for medical students in India and south Asia.

Professor Paul has played a key role in formulating national child health guidelines and programmes in India and is currently Minister of State, Health, Nutrition and Gender.

3. Sasakawa Health Prize – Report of the Sasakawa Health Prize Selection Panel

The Sasakawa Health Prize is awarded for outstanding innovative work in health development to a person or persons, an institution or institutions, or a nongovernmental organization or organizations. Such work includes the promotion of given health programmes or notable advances in primary health care.

The Sasakawa Health Prize Selection Panel met on 24 January 2018, chaired by Dr Assad Hafeez (Pakistan), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other Panel members were

Tran Thi Giang Huong, alternate member of the Executive Board for Viet Nam, and Professor Etsuko Kita, representing the founder of the Prize.

The Panel members considered the applications of nine candidates, together with the Administrator's technical comments on each. The Panel, bearing in mind the statutes and guidelines governing the award of the Prize, decided unanimously to propose to the Executive Board that the 2018 Prize should be awarded to the Fundación Pro Unidad de Cuidado Paliativo (Pediatric Palliative Care Unit Foundation) (Costa Rica).

If the Board confirms the award, the laureate, as an organization, will receive US\$ 40 000.

The Foundation, a non-profit organization, is being recognized for its contribution to the rights of children with terminal illnesses. Created in Curridabat, San José Province, Costa Rica in 1992, the Foundation supports the National Program of Paediatric Palliative Care for children and adolescents with life-limiting conditions, during the terminal phases of their lives. It operates in the National Children's Hospital and other medical centres and in home settings across Costa Rica. The Foundation trains health professionals from Costa Rica and elsewhere in Latin America and, since 2006, runs a master's programme in palliative care in conjunction with Santa Paula University. The Foundation has opened and is running two day centres, which are primarily run by multidisciplinary volunteer teams who offer activities such as music therapy, art therapy, dog therapy, as well as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, hypnosis and reiki.

The Foundation also trains family caregivers and operates a national home-visit care programme. It provides medical equipment and assistive products such as wheelchairs, oxygen tanks, and nebulizers at reasonable cost, and assists low-income families with the purchase of medicines, and also provides them with monthly food assistance. In addition, the Foundation runs a mourning programme, offering a one-year follow-up for parents, siblings and caregivers of a deceased child and provides funding support for the funeral.

The Foundation has given itself the challenge of offering its services to all children and adolescents who need paediatric palliative care in Costa Rica by 2019.

4. United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize – Report of the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Selection Panel

The United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize is awarded for an outstanding contribution to health development to a person or persons, an institution or institutions, or a nongovernmental organization or organizations.

The United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Selection Panel met on 23 January 2018, chaired by Dr Assad Hafeez (Pakistan), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other Panel members present were Ms Faeqa Saeed Alsaleh, member of the Executive Board for Bahrain, and Dr Mohammad Salim Al Olama, representing the founder of the Prize.

The Panel members considered the applications of nine candidates, together with the Administrator's technical comments on them. Bearing in mind the statutes and guidelines governing the award of the Prize, the Panel unanimously decided to propose to the Executive Board that the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize for 2018 should be awarded to The Korea Institute of Drug Safety and Risk Management (KIDS) (Republic of Korea).

If the Board confirms the award, the laureate will receive US\$ 20 000.

KIDS was established in January 2012 to enhance national health quality through prevention and recognition of drug-related issues. As a public institution managing drug safety, KIDS supports evidence-based decisions in drug safety by promoting the reporting of adverse drug events, assessing drug safety information, performing causality assessments, developing drug utilization review criteria, disseminating safety information and providing education to the public.

KIDS periodically provides the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety with statistics, safety information and adverse events reports. In the Republic of Korea, the pharmacovigilance system is operated on a decentralized basis, where KIDS functions as the focal point for Regional Pharmacovigilance Centers and collects data from them. In 2017, there were 27 such centers, comprising 25 local teaching hospitals and two nationwide centers.

The Korea Adverse Event Reporting System is a system developed by KIDS to facilitate reporting and management of adverse event reports for drug and therapeutic biological products. All reports of such adverse events have been recorded in the system since 2012. Suspected drug adverse event information is reported to KIDS using a form named Individual Case Safety Reports. Adverse events can also be reported via an adverse drug reactions call centre and through other means such as fax and email. All information received is stored within the reporting system as individual case safety reports. KIDS detects and evaluates signals from cumulated data, and generates drug safety information. The database of the reporting system is compatible with international standards for pharmacovigilance and the global database for the WHO Programme for International Drug Monitoring, Vigibase.

5. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion – Report of the State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation Selection Panel

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion is awarded to a person or persons, institution or institutions, or a nongovernmental organization or organizations having made an outstanding contribution to research in the areas of health care for the elderly and in health promotion.

The State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation Selection Panel met on 23 January 2018, chaired by Dr Assad Hafeez (Pakistan), Chairman of the Executive Board. Other Panel members present were Dr Sultan Qasrawi, alternate member of the Executive Board for Jordan, and Dr Mohammad Alkhashti, representing the founder of the Prize.

The Panel members considered the applications of the three candidates, together with the Administrator's technical comments on them. Bearing in mind the statutes and guidelines governing the award of the Prize, the Panel decided unanimously to propose to the Executive Board that His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion for 2018 be awarded to Association El Badr, Association d'aides aux malades atteints de cancer (the El Badr Association, Cancer Patient Association) (Algeria)

Should the Board confirm the award, the laureate will receive US\$ 20 000.

The Association – which was founded in 2006 by residents, including several doctors, of the Wilaya (department) of Blida, Algeria, as part of a collective effort for the better management of

patients with cancer – is being recognized as a very good example of the involvement of civil society in social and humanitarian actions.

The Association's general objectives are to inform and raise awareness in the general population, and to help patients with cancer. It runs a tobacco use control programme and each year organizes "Never the first cigarette", an annual awareness campaign against tobacco use, aimed at pupils and students in primary schools, high schools and colleges. It offers breast cancer screening and organizes various awareness activities during the month of October – breast cancer awareness month – and all through the year in universities, companies, supermarkets and public spaces.

The Association invests in preventive actions, early detection of cancer and providing medical services to patients affected by cancer, in both hospitals and day clinics, offering psychological and logistical support, ranging from blood transfusion services and medicines, to colostomy bags and nappies. It helps patients in their relations with the social insurance services and the social protection services, and obtains social insurance coverage for poor and uninsured patients. In 2011 it inaugurated the first house to receive and accommodate cancer patients. In 2015 the Association opened the Dar El Ihcen charity home, with a capacity for up to 65 beds, which has since provided over 45 000 nights of accommodation and medical care to more than 1370 patients, for an average stay of 45 days. This was mostly possible thanks to donors and volunteers, especially young students. The Association also provides transport for patients, to enable them to travel to receive treatment.

The Association has improved the comfort of patients and nursing staff at the Blida Cancer Center and its paediatric oncology ward: refurbishment of the care room of the Blida paediatric oncology ward, and the play room for sick children of the Center.

The Association is now creating a paediatric oncology centre to ensure the highest quality of care for children and a community centre, which will offer facilities for parents, a school and a leisure area. The prize money will contribute to this new project.

6. Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health – Report of the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize Selection Panel

The Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health is awarded to a person or persons, an institution or institutions, a governmental or nongovernmental organization or organizations, who have made an outstanding contribution to public health.

The Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize Selection Panel met on 23 January 2018, chaired by Dr Assad Hafeez (Pakistan), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other Panel members were Ms Maylene Beltran, alternate member of the Executive Board for the Philippines, and Mr Yohan Ihn, Representative of the founder of the Prize.

The Panel members studied the curricula vitae and the backgrounds of 12 candidates and decided unanimously to propose to the Executive Board that the 2018 Prize should be awarded to Dr Nazni Wasi Ahmad (Malaysia).

If the Board confirms the award, the laureate will receive US\$ 100 000.

Dr Ahmad, Senior Research Officer of the Medical Entomology Unit, Institute for Medical Research in Kuala Lumpur, is being recognized for her contribution to innovative research in forensic

entomology, in particular her studies on maggot debridement therapy with *Lucilla cuprina* to expedite the healing process in diabetic wounds and foot ulcers.

According to documentation submitted with Dr Ahmad's candidature, in Malaysia the prevalence of foot ulceration is around 6% in patients attending diabetic outpatient facilities, and foot complications account for 12% of all diabetic hospital admissions. A serious complication of diabetes is the development of ulcers. The presence of multidrug-resistant bacteria in wounds further compounds the risk of septicaemia, and amputation of affected limbs is often seen as the only option. It is estimated that the cost of treating diabetic ulcers will be US\$ 5.1 billion in the South-East Asia Region by 2025. This represents a heavy burden on the health care systems of the Region, especially in developing tropical countries. The need to develop new therapeutic methods that are effective, affordable, simple and available at any time and at any health care setting, particularly primary health care facilities, to treat diabetic foot ulcers has revived maggot debridement therapy. The development of bacterial resistance to antibiotics and difficulties in treating various wounds has also revived this therapy.

The therapy involves the application of maggots (fly larvae) onto wounds and/or ulcers for the purpose of clearing (debriding) the wounds and/or ulcers to expedite the healing process. The maggots feed on necrotized tissues, removing unwanted tissues. In addition the maggots secrete several useful agents such as antimicrobial agents and other agents that fight the infection, enhance tissue granulation and promote the healing process.

There are many advantages in using this therapy, especially a reduction in the number of amputations. Amputations are carried out not only due to intractable lesions but also because they are about two thirds the cost of treatment of diabetic ulcers with antibiotics and also less expensive than time spent in hospitals. To date in Malaysia, more than 6000 patients in more than 51 hospitals have been successfully treated using this therapy, without any untoward side effects.

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