

Foundation committees and selection panels

1. 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 30 January 2023 to consider the nominations of the 10 candidates, together with the Administrator’s technical comments on the candidatures.

The Panel decided unanimously to propose to the Executive Board that the 2023 Prize should be jointly awarded to the Nick Simons Institute (Nepal) and Professor Vichai Tienthavorn (Thailand). If the Board confirms the awards, each laureate will receive a statuette and US\$ 20 000.

The Nick Simons Institute is a nongovernmental organization that aims to improve health care and innovatively fill health workforce gaps that the health system faces in rural areas of Nepal. The Institute works closely with the Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal to train medical professionals (such as midwives and anaesthetic assistants) in rural areas, to enable them to provide the services that are most needed by the local population. Some 7000 professionals have received such “upgrader” training. The Institute also implements its Curative Service Support Programme, which supplies essential equipment to hospitals and provides targeted additional human resources to help to solve the issue of the lack of medical professionals in rural areas. A total of 44 hospitals have already benefited from this programme. The Institute also subsidizes the living costs of doctors and health workers in order to increase retention of these much-needed individuals in rural areas. The Hospital Strengthening Programme, the third key programme run by the Institute, uses a tool called Minimum Service Standards to help to identify gaps in readiness to improve the quality of hospital services and develop an action plan for improvement. A total of 119 hospitals have benefited from the Hospital Strengthening Programme since 2015. In addition, the Institute conducts research and advocacy activities to shape perceptions and influence policies that affect rural health workers and health care systems in Nepal. If the award is confirmed, the Institute would like to invest in training in newborn care at the hospitals it supports and in motivating and rewarding selected outstanding rural health workers.

Professor Vichai Tienthavorn is President of the Praboromarajchanok Institute, which is under the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand. He has been involved in three major initiatives. The first relates to the prevention and control of thalassemia in Thailand. As the Director-General of the Department of Health, he developed an innovative policy entitled “Choose Partners, Choose to Be Pregnant, and Choose to Deliver”, to reduce the prevalence of severe thalassemia in Thailand. In the light of the policy’s positive impact, Professor Tienthavorn promoted its adoption at ministerial level as the national policy for thalassemia prevention and control. The second major initiative is “7-Colour Traffic Light Ping Pong”, a communication tool Professor Tienthavorn designed while he was Dean of

the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Phayao in Thailand, to help individuals to improve their behaviours in order to prevent and control diabetes and hypertension. The tool is a basic screening method for diabetes and hypertension that can reduce the rate of medication intake, save travelling and medical service costs of local populations and reduce public health officers' workload. This simple and effective approach has contributed to addressing the severe challenge of noncommunicable diseases in this middle-income country. A national policy was formulated based on this tool. The third major initiative addresses the challenge of the maldistribution of the health workforce, especially in border and rural areas of the country. The Praboromarajchanok Institute, headed by Professor Tienthavorn, formed partnerships with nearly all village schools to recruit high school students, train them and help them to settle back locally. An accelerated medical curriculum to train the local health workforce has also been developed to address the needs of communities where there is a shortage of staff. If the award is confirmed, Professor Tienthavorn would like to further expand partnerships with schools, give one-year training courses to village health volunteers to enable them to become nurses, and pursue efforts to adapt the health care curriculum to address the needs of the most underserved communities in Thailand.

2. United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize – Report of the United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize 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 Prize Selection Panel met on 31 January 2023 to consider the nominations of the 11 candidates, together with the Administrator's technical comments on the candidatures.

The Panel decided unanimously to propose to the Executive Board that the 2023 Prize should be awarded to Dr Maria Asuncion Silvestre (Philippines). If the Board confirms the award, the laureate will receive US\$ 20 000.

Dr Maria Asuncion Silvestre is a renowned clinician, a passionate advocate for exclusive breastfeeding and the founder of a nongovernmental organization called Kalusugan ng Mag-Ina (Health of Mother and Child) in the Philippines. Dr Silvestre has used her experience as a private practitioner in her community and has drawn on her research findings, with evidence collected from the field, to improve the health of mothers and newborns. She has designed a pioneering protocol called Essential Intrapartum and Newborn Care, consisting of a simple set of choreographed actions for health workers attending a mother during delivery and her newborn immediately after birth and during the first week of her or his life. Her objective was to propose an affordable set of interventions, which would be replicable in all resource settings and thus help to bridge the health equity gap, and ensure optimal conditions for exclusive breastfeeding. In the light of her research findings, Dr Silvestre's efforts to influence medical curricula in the Philippines, to closely partner with public health authorities to expand the scope of her research and to design evidence-based policies that serve the most vulnerable populations have been remarkable. She has numerous publications and has undertaken pro bono teaching. Her work has helped to save countless lives at the national level and beyond, having collaborated with 17 countries of the WHO Western Pacific Region to scale up the First Embrace campaign for Early Essential Newborn Care, a set of simple WHO-recommended and cost-effective interventions that her work has helped to shape. She has tirelessly invested her time and expertise in being a member of numerous regional and international technical groups to help to advance primary health care.

3. 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, an 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 30 January 2023 to consider the nominations of the eight candidates, together with the Administrator's technical comments on the candidatures.

The Panel decided unanimously to propose to the Executive Board that the 2023 Prize should be jointly awarded to the National Center for Chronic and Noncommunicable Disease Control and Prevention (China) and Dr Abla Mehio Sibai (Lebanon). If the Board confirms the award, each laureate will receive a plaque and US\$ 20 000.

The National Center for Chronic and Noncommunicable Disease Control and Prevention, part of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, has hosted a department focusing on the health of older people since 2013. It delivers a broad range of programmes and activities that advance health promotion for older people, including the development of a death registry and conducting national surveillance for noncommunicable diseases and nationally representative surveys on health literacy in older age, which help to develop evidence-based policies. The National Center has also designed programmes to promote health literacy in response to the findings of these surveys, including a dedicated toolkit for older people. In addition to a pilot project on disabilities and prevention of dementia, the National Center has put together an innovative project to improve the mental and cognitive health of more than half a million older persons in both urban and rural areas. The project involves capacity-building of 2000 primary care staff and the establishment of a mental health database on older people, to better understand their needs. The National Center has also developed activities on health communication and health promotion, such as a health advocacy week dedicated to older people. The National Center has also conducted an ambitious body of research and has published a series of reports on the health of older persons.

Dr Abla Mehio Sibai is Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon. She is a well-known academic, lecturer and researcher on ageing and noncommunicable diseases in her country. Her numerous achievements span a remarkably broad range of areas, including research, data, policy, programme development and training, which form a holistic approach to the promotion of healthy ageing. She has developed innovative programmes that support lifelong learning and older people's health and continued contribution to society, enrolling 600 older people every year at the University for Seniors at the American University of Beirut. Dr Sibai has directly contributed to training clinicians on healthy ageing and has advanced research on ageing by coauthoring hundreds of articles, 20 book chapters and 70 reports that have been frequently cited. She co-led the landmark WHO Global Burden of Disease Study in Lebanon (2000) and conducted the first national survey on noncommunicable diseases and risk factors, using the WHO STEPwise approach (2008–2010), the country's main source of data for the Ministry of Public Health, informing advocacy, policy-making and programme planning for health promotion. Dr Sibai has led the development of the national strategy for older persons in Lebanon (2020–2030). In her work, she has been attentive to leaving no one behind, with a specific focus on older refugees in situations requiring a humanitarian response. In addition, she created the Arab Ageing Network and the Centre for Studies on Ageing to

provide appropriate platforms, networks and links between research and policy at the national, regional and international levels. She has made an outstanding contribution to older people's health in Lebanon and the region.

4. 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 31 January 2023 to consider the nominations of the 14 candidates, together with the Administrator's technical comments on the candidatures.

(a) Nomination for the 2023 Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health

The Selection Panel decided unanimously to propose to the Executive Board that the 2023 Prize should be awarded to Dr Jorge Francisco Meneses (Guatemala). If the Board confirms the award, the laureate will receive a plaque and US\$ 100 000. The Panel also unanimously agreed that the laureate be requested to indicate how he would use the funds.

Dr Jorge Francisco Meneses started his career as a physician at the Retalhuleu National Hospital in Retalhuleu, Guatemala, where he promoted community participation in hospital care for over 20 years, thanks to the set-up of community-based committees. In the light of the positive impact of his work, the model of ethical and patient-centred care that he designed during these years was scaled up at the national level and Dr Meneses became the national supervisor for hospitals. In this role, Dr Meneses implemented the Continuous Performance and Quality Improvement programme, which he helped to design, in 13 hospitals of the national hospital network, in partnership with the Ministry of Health. The programme has resulted in improving the quality of patient care, by focusing on the safety and satisfaction of patients, their families and the community. In recent years, Dr Meneses has coordinated a pilot project in the Guatemala South Health Area for the implementation of the first integrated network of health services in the country. The pilot includes providing health services to underserved communities and setting up network integration mechanisms for health services, such as a unique patient identification number, electronic medical records, appointment scheduling for any health service and unified care protocols at different levels of care. His work led to the adoption of a national strategy of integrated health services networks of Guatemala, in line with the primary health care strategy promoted by PAHO, making Guatemala the only country in Central America to have such a strategy.

(b) Guidelines for the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health

The Selection Panel also considered and approved guidelines for the Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health, which are annexed to the present document for information.

5. Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion – Report of the Nelson Mandela Award Selection Panel

The Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion is awarded to a person or persons, an institution or institutions, a governmental or nongovernmental organization or organizations, who or which has/have made a significant contribution to health promotion.

The Nelson Mandela Award Selection Panel met on 31 January 2023 to consider the nominations of the 11 candidates, together with the Administrator's technical comments on the candidatures.

The Panel decided unanimously to propose to the Executive Board that the 2023 Award should be awarded to Dr Mariam Athbi Al Jalahma (Bahrain). If the Board confirms the award, the laureate will receive a plaque. Dr Mariam Athbi Al Jalahma is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Regulatory Authority of Bahrain and has held various leadership positions in government and academic institutions in her country. Dr Al Jalahma has played a major role in the development of the National Health Plan, the Primary Healthcare Strategy, the Strategic Plan for the Ministry of Health, the National Plan for Childhood and the National Plan for the Empowerment of Women in Bahrain. In addition, as Assistant Undersecretary for Primary Care and Public Health, she led the development of the Strategy of National Health Regulatory Authority and reviewed and implemented Bahrain's antismoking policies. Dr Al Jalahma has also implemented a national accreditation system for health institutions in Bahrain, which received a government best practice award. As Chief Executive Officer, she led the National Health Regulatory Authority's initiative towards digital transformation, to enable the Authority to become a Digital Health Regulator Model in the Gulf Cooperation Council. Her initiatives to increase the Authority's revenue and efficiency – including securing an increase in fees to be paid to the Authority, outsourcing verification of health practitioners' certificates and contracting the test administration industry to conduct examinations for health professionals – have helped to rationalize spending and encourage excellence in the medical sector. During her membership of the Shura Council, remarkable results were achieved in the area of health promotion, including implementation of a law on premarital screening, a campaign for early detection of heart disease in the workplace and an early screening clinic for chronic diseases and breast cancer in primary care centres. She has also demonstrated her deep commitment to health promotion by engaging in awareness-raising activities on radio and television shows aired across all countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. In addition, when a member of the Executive Body of the Council of Health Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council, she contributed to the development of health plans, such as combating chronic diseases, antismoking and adolescent health, covering all countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

ANNEX

DR LEE JONG-WOOK MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

DRAFT GUIDELINES

1. The Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health consisting of a sum of money (which will not exceed US\$ 100 000), together with a plaque from the Founder, will be awarded for outstanding contributions to public health.
2. The Prize will be awarded to a person or persons, an institution or institutions, a governmental or nongovernmental organization or organizations that have contributed to the improvement of public health, reflecting the will of Dr LEE Jong-wook, the sixth WHO Director-General, who dedicated to the underprivileged.
3. The Prize aims at rewarding work that has extended far beyond the call of regular duties, and it is not intended as a reward for an excellent performance of duties normally expected of an official occupying a government position or of a governmental or intergovernmental institution.
4. The following criteria will be applied in the assessment of the work performed by the candidate/candidates:
 - (a) contribution to the improvement of population and public health;
 - (b) efforts to improve health care access in resource-constrained settings and achieve health equity;
 - (c) outstanding achievements in solving global health problems that have emerged in the recent years; and
 - (d) best practices in the areas of (a), (b), or (c) that can be replicated in other fields.

Some illustrative examples of the above are attached to these guidelines.

In the event that several candidates are nominated for the Prize, priority consideration will be given to candidates from WHO Member States that are classified by the World Bank as low-income countries or lower-middle-income countries, or to candidates who are undertaking – or have undertaken – activities implemented in those countries.

5. The candidate/candidates nominated for the Prize must be intimately and directly connected with the efforts and achievements in a given area and must have the possibility of remaining involved in the further development of this work.
6. The candidate/candidates will be requested to indicate how the award funds would be used.
7. To facilitate the assessment of the work done and the accomplishments, the most recent and pertinent documentation directly related to the work should be submitted along with the nomination. Such materials should illustrate clearly the nature of the work carried out, the results achieved, the difficulties and challenges encountered, and the solutions proposed and implemented; they need not

necessarily have been published in a scientific or other type of journal. Inadequate or inappropriate documentary evidence of the work carried out will significantly handicap the Prize Selection Panel in the assessment of the candidature.

8. To further support the documentary evidence, if necessary, the Administrator, on behalf of the Prize Selection Panel, reserves the right to examine the work done by the candidate/candidates.

9. Current and former staff members of the World Health Organization, and current members of the Executive Board, shall be ineligible to receive the Prize.

10. There should not be more than two recipients of the Prize per year. If two candidates are considered eligible by the Prize Selection Panel and selected to receive the Prize, the sum will be equally divided between them.

11. These guidelines will be reviewed and updated periodically as considered appropriate.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES DESERVING CONSIDERATION FOR THE PRIZE

(a) Contribution to the improvement of population and public health:

- contributing to the development of health care including, but not limited to, research on identifying determinants, prevention or management of diseases, and health promotion at the population level;
- contributing to preventing the spread of a communicable disease by advancing detection and diagnosis techniques, including early detection and management;
- contributing to providing health services needed in the efforts to strengthen the health system; and
- contributing to the improvement of public health by developing or adopting appropriate and/or innovative, country-specific technology.

(b) Efforts to improve health care access in resource-constrained settings and achieve health equity:

- improving the level of community-based health through contribution to better primary public health care;
- making efforts to reduce health inequalities among communities and population groups;
- demonstrating commitment to the provision of health services to the marginalized and vulnerable;
- contributing to the improvement of health of internally displaced persons and/or refugees, through health-related activities in disaster-stricken areas; and
- making efforts to provide essential health services needed in resource-constrained areas/settings.

(c) Outstanding achievements in solving global health problems that have emerged in recent years:

- making efforts to solve global health threats, including – but not limited to – air pollution and climate change, noncommunicable diseases, and novel infectious diseases.

(d) Best practices in the areas of (a), (b), or (c) that can be replicated in other fields:

- using the results of community or country-based projects to achieve broader impacts in other countries and/or regions.

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