
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-second session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (Kuwait City, 5–8 October 2015), the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Committee met on 7 October 2015, chaired by His Excellency Dr Ali Saad Al-Obaidi, Minister of Health, Kuwait (Chairperson of the Regional Committee).

The Committee reviewed nominations from Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Lebanon.

The Committee members considered the applications of the six candidates and recommended that the candidate from Lebanon, Dr Walid Ammar, be selected as the person to be proposed to the Executive Board at its 138th 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 Walid Ammar is being honoured for his significant contribution to public health in Lebanon, in particular in the areas of primary health care and health policy, and for his efforts in translating research and evidence into policy, programmes and practice. Dr Ammar graduated from the medical college of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium, in 1982, and received a master's degree in public health and a *diplôme d'études approfondies* from the Lebanese University in 1996. In 2001, he was awarded a PhD in epidemiology from the Université Victor Segalen in Bordeaux, France (Université Bordeaux II).

Since 1993, Dr Ammar has been Director-General of the Ministry of Public Health of Lebanon, bringing together a range of stakeholders to chart a vision for the welfare, rights and health care of the population in Lebanon. He set up Lebanon's primary health care network in 1994. From 1996 to 1998, he directed the World Bank-financed Health Sector Rehabilitation Project, initiated by the Ministry of Public Health. In addition to its many other achievements, this project promoted the development of public hospitals and initiation of the first national hospital accreditation system in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, and was instrumental in strengthening and developing the Lebanese health care system.

Dr Ammar is a model for public health professionals, having served not only in government and in the academic community but also in numerous national, regional and international organizations, boards and councils. Dr Ammar has produced numerous publications in the areas of health system management, paediatric endocrinology and metabolism, and clinical paediatrics. His work as a researcher has led to the development of major studies which have been pivotal in reforming the health care system of Lebanon.

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

The Ihsan Dođramacı 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 Dođramacı Family Health Foundation Selection Panel met on 27 January 2016, under the chairmanship of Ms Precious Matsoso (South Africa), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other Panel members were Professor Phyllis Erdogan, appointee of Professor A. Dođramacı (the President of Bilkent University) and Professor Tomris Turmen, representing the International Children’s Center (Ankara).

The Panel members studied the curricula vitae and the backgrounds of the eight candidates, together with the Administrator’s technical comments on the candidatures. The Panel, bearing in mind the Statutes and guidelines governing the award of the Prize, unanimously decided to propose to the Executive Board that the 2016 Prize be awarded to Professor Sir Michael Marmot (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

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

Michael Marmot is Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College London and Director of that university’s Institute of Health Equity. Throughout his distinguished career of over 35 years, he has played a leading role in global public health, in particular in addressing health inequalities. His calls for action to reduce health inequalities have focused on the dual themes of “equity from the start” and empowerment of women through education and social action. Both are major contributors to the health and well-being of children.

Michael Marmot is one of the world’s 400 most-cited scientists in all biomedical disciplines, having published more than 1000 peer-reviewed articles and led multiple reviews with global impact. His book, “The Health Gap”, published in 2015, brings together the evidence on the links between education, the empowerment of women and health.

Michael Marmot chaired the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2005–2008) and made a key contribution to the Commission’s final report “Closing the gap in a generation: Health equity through action on the social determinants of health”, published in 2008. He has furthermore served as an adviser to governments and intergovernmental organizations in several regions of the world.

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 27 January 2016, chaired by Ms Precious Matsoso (South Africa), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other Panel members were Dr Jeon Man-Bok, member of the Executive Board for the Republic of Korea, and Professor Hiroyoshi Endo, representing the founder of the Prize.

The Panel members considered the applications of all 13 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 2016 Prize be awarded to the Federation of Medicus Mundi Spain.

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

The Federation of Medicus Mundi Spain is a nongovernmental organization which was created in 1963 and is being nominated by the Minister of Health, Social Services and Equality of Spain, with the support of the health ministers of El Salvador and Peru, and various public institutions in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Guatemala.

The Federation of Medicus Mundi Spain has been nominated for its project "Transforming public health systems on the basis of primary health care principles", which was developed in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru more than two decades ago. The improved coverage of and equitable access to health care in rural and indigenous communities has been achieved by strengthening public primary health care in accordance with the Federation's "Model of integrated and inclusive health" which has been designed as a long-term strategy to promote the reform of the health system based on rights and through integrated comprehensive care aimed at reducing inequalities.

The Federation of Medicus Mundi Spain proposes to use the prize money to continue to contribute to the strengthening of public health systems in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru. This will include international scientific research on the impact of the project on the health systems of the four countries. Furthermore, a workshop will be organized, with the aim of disseminating the conclusions drawn from the aforementioned research at the regional, and possibly at the global, level.

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 27 January 2016, chaired by Ms Precious Matsoso (South Africa), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other Panel members present were Dr Abdullah bin Mifreh Assiri, member of the Executive Board for Saudi Arabia, and Dr Mohammad Salim Al Olama, representing the founder of the Prize.

The Panel members considered the applications of the four 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 2016 be awarded to Dr Palize Mehmatt (China).

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

Dr Palize Mehmett, born in 1963, is currently Chief of the Public Health Department of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and has been nominated for the innovative work she has carried out over 30 years in the field of public health and in the field of epidemics and disease control and prevention.

Among her main achievements, she is recognized for having popularized guidelines on good nutrition, breastfeeding and drinking-water safety. Dr Mehmett has thus contributed to the improvement of living standards of urban, rural and ethnic minority groups of the Xinjiang region. Over the last 10 years, Dr Mehmett has been conducting three research projects, one of which focuses on monitoring the nutrition and health conditions of children aged 0–6 years in poor rural areas and involves a cost-benefit study of the nutritional package that is provided free of charge to over 200 000 children aged between six months and 2 years old, subsidized by the central Government. This project is ongoing in eight particularly poor areas in 10 provinces (including Xinjiang), and the findings from this research have shown it to be an effective anti-poverty health care project.

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 26 January 2016, chaired by Ms Precious Matsoso (South Africa), Chairman of the Executive Board. Other Panel members present were Dr Maysa Mohamed Shawqi Ahmed El Bassiouni, member of the Executive Board for Egypt, and Dr Majda Al Qattan, representing the founder of the Prize.

The Panel members studied the *curricula vitae* and backgrounds of seven of the eight candidates, together with the Administrator's technical comments on each. 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 2016 be awarded to Dr Michal Novák (Slovakia).

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

Dr Novák, born in 1947, was nominated by the Ministry of Health of Slovakia for his outstanding work over the past 30 years on the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Among his outstanding achievements, he is recognized for having created a monoclonal antibody (MN423) that was instrumental in the discovery of the tau protein as the prime candidate for the causative molecule of Alzheimer's disease. He also identified the key role of the truncated tau proteins (tauons) as the origin of the brain-wasting tau pathology in Alzheimer's disease.

Dr Novák has launched various initiatives that focus on improving the scientific understanding of the disease, standards for medical tools for its identification and treatment, and the quality of social care and structures available to assist patients, their families and health service providers, and also on ensuring optimum care at all stages of the patient's illness.

In 1996, Dr Novák founded the Institute of Neuroimmunology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, known now as the Alzheimer's Disease Centre, which addresses specific scientific issues in the field of neurodegenerative diseases.

In 2011, Dr Novák's research identified the Alzheimer degenerative therapeutic target. A promising therapeutic vaccine for Alzheimer's disease is in development, among the first Alzheimer-specific vaccines to reach the in-man clinical trial stage. Following the findings of that first trial, a second phase of testing was launched in December 2015.

Dr Novák has also contributed to the improved quality of services provided to Alzheimer's disease patients and their relatives in Slovakia. In 1998, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and a group of psychiatrists, Dr Novák set up the first Slovak national diagnostic centre for Alzheimer's disease patients. He also founded and currently serves as President of the Slovak Alzheimer's Society, which provides a platform for interaction between caregivers, families of Alzheimer's disease sufferers, patients, physicians and scientists. In 2002, he established the Memory Centre, a daily clinic for Alzheimer's disease and dementia sufferers which organizes activities to stop or reduce memory loss and to encourage physical and mental vitality even in advanced age.

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 in public health.

The Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize Selection Panel met on 26 January 2016, chaired by Ms Precious Matsoso (South Africa), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other Panel members were Dr Linda Milan, Senior Policy Adviser, Department of Health (representing Dr Janette Loreto-Garin, member of the Executive Board for the Philippines), and Mr Kim In Seong, Representative of the founder of the Prize.

The Panel members studied the curricula vitae and the backgrounds of the 10 candidates and decided unanimously to propose to the Executive Board that the 2016 Prize should be awarded to Dr Alireza Mesdaghinia (Islamic Republic of Iran).

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

Dr Mesdaghinia, born in 1939, has been nominated by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his lifelong commitment to and leadership in strengthening the capacity of public health facilities and education systems in the Islamic Republic of Iran. He has made an outstanding contribution to research and control of infectious diseases in his own country as well as in others. Dr Mesdaghinia has enhanced local, national and international collaborations between the School of Public Health of the Tehran University of Medical Sciences and many organizations that specialize in education, research and public health, including WHO.

Dr Mesdaghinia is a professor of renown in the field of public health both nationally and internationally. At the Tehran University of Medical Sciences, he was Dean of the School of Public Health for 28 years; he has taught and supervised numerous postgraduate students, conducted extensive research, and published over 200 papers in peer-reviewed medical journals. In addition, Dr Mesdaghinia has contributed to expanding the management, education and research activities of the

School of Public Health, establishing new PhD, Master of Science and Master of Public Health programmes. The Master of Public Health programmes have been followed by over 500 public health professionals from the Islamic Republic of Iran and from the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The International Diploma Course on Malaria Programme Planning and Management, established by Dr Mesdaghinia, has been attended by national and international students. Furthermore, under Dr Mesdaghinia's management, the School of Public Health established the Leishmaniasis, Malaria and Virology laboratories, among others, which serve as national reference laboratories. As Deputy for Public Health in the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Dr Mesdaghinia has managed several national programmes that focus on the improvement of public health, and has directed the Institute of Environmental Research over the last 14 years. Dr Mesdaghinia has contributed to the establishment of 10 peer-reviewed medical journals in the field of public health, and, since 2008, has chaired the Journal of Environmental Health.

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