

## **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 fifty-fourth session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (20–23 October 2007), the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Committee held a meeting on Saturday, 20 October 2007, under the chairmanship of Mr A. A. Miguil, Minister of Health, Djibouti (Chairman of the Regional Committee).

The Committee reviewed nominations received from Egypt, Morocco and Pakistan.

The Committee members studied thoroughly the curricula vitae and the background of the three candidates and recommended that the candidate from Pakistan, Professor Sayed Adeeb ul Hassan Rizvi, should be selected as the person to be proposed to the Executive Board at its 122nd session in January 2008 as the recipient of the Prize.

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

Professor Sayed Adeeb ul Hassan Rizvi is being honoured for his significant contribution to public health.

### **2. Sasakawa Health Prize – Report of the Sasakawa Health Prize Selection Panel**

The Sasakawa Health Prize is awarded to a person or persons, an institution or institutions, or a nongovernmental organization or organizations having accomplished outstanding innovative work in health development, such as the promotion of given health programmes or notable advances in primary health care, in order to encourage the further development of such work.

The Sasakawa Health Prize Selection Panel met on 23 January 2008 under the chairmanship of Dr B. Sadasivan, Chairman of the Executive Board. The other Panel members were Professor Sohn Myongsei, member of the Executive Board, and Professor K. Kiikuni, representing the Founder of the Prize.

The Panel reviewed the documentation, 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 2008 Prize should be awarded to the Movement for Reintegration of People Affected by Hansens disease (MORHAN), Brazil.

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

A brief description of the work carried out by the proposed laureate is given below for the consideration of the Executive Board.

The Movement has been an important partner of the Ministry of Health in the struggle against leprosy (Hansens disease), which still persists in Brazil today. It is an independent community initiative and not governmental, and is the main stakeholder in the prevention, detection, and treatment of the disease, and of the social reintegration of this special disability group.

The aim of the Movement is also to educate and involve the community and prevent discrimination. It develops and distributes educational and information materials, and organizes workshops to involve families and the public, using multimedia communication. It also encourages people to visit the old colony hospitals to promote the importance of this action to the public health administrators.

The Movement has established community centres for the prevention and treatment of leprosy, integrating its work with other public services and policies and with local and regional initiatives. It has played an important role in the development of legislation for the protection of the human rights of those affected by the disease.

MORHAN launched its first media campaign in 1988, organizing 12 national meetings to inform the public and the government of the problems faced by sufferers of leprosy. It participated in the development of the Brazilian Constitution between 1986 and 1988 and was involved in the elaboration of legislation to support people affected by thalidomide and to control the production of this medicine, playing an important role in the recognition of ethical standards for handicapped and disadvantaged population groups.

### **3. Francesco Pocchiari Fellowship – Report of the Francesco Pocchiari Fellowship Committee**

The Francesco Pocchiari Fellowship Committee met on 5 June 2007 to review a list of 20 candidates submitted to WHO through the regional offices. The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the Executive Board that the Francesco Pocchiari Fellowship 2008 should be awarded to both Dr Uranchimeg Davaatseren from Mongolia and Dr Intesar Alsaidi from Yemen. If the Board confirms the award, the laureates will each receive US\$ 10 000.

Born in 1966, Dr Davaatseren graduated from the Health Sciences Faculty, University of Mongolia and has been working as a senior tutor and ophthalmologist for 17 years in this University. Her present research interests are in refractive error and glaucoma. These are a significant cause of avoidable visual disability, especially in developing countries. She plans to study clinical epidemiology during her fellowship in a University in Japan or the United States of America.

Born in 1975, Dr Alsaidi graduated in gynaecology and obstetrics in Yemen. She is currently working as an instructor at the Faculty of Medicine of Sana'a and she is responsible for reproductive health services at a rural centre for maternal child health (Thila centre). Her current research interest is on maternal health problems with a focus on the incidence and predisposing factors for pre-eclampsia (toxaemia of pregnancy). The fellowship will provide Dr Alsaidi with training courses in research methodology, statistics and basic epidemiology to enable her to perform more studies to improve the health of Yemeni women.

#### **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 to a person or persons, an institution or institutions, or a nongovernmental organization or organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to health development.

The United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Selection Panel met on 24 January 2008, under the chairmanship of Dr B. Sadasivan, Chairman of the Executive Board. Other Panel members present were Dr H. Abdesselem, member of the Executive Board, and Mr Nasser Khalifa Al Budoor and Mr Abdul Hameed Al Humood, representing the Founder of the Prize.

The Panel reviewed the documentation, together with the Administrator's technical comments on the candidatures. 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 2008 should be awarded to Children's Cancer Hospital, Cairo.

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

A brief description of the work carried out by the proposed laureate is given below for the consideration of the Executive Board.

The Children's Cancer Hospital in Cairo was opened in July 2007 after 10 years of planning, construction and fundraising, with the aim to provide a state-of-the-art hospital to treat children with cancer, regardless of race, creed or ability to pay, recognizing that the majority of sick children come from poor families in Egypt for whom the cost of cancer care is prohibitive. The Association of Friends of the National Cancer Institute which was established as a nongovernmental organization in 1998 succeeded in fundraising more than US\$ 250 million in seven years, and registered as a Foundation in 2003.

The Hospital now diagnoses and treats paediatric cancer in all stages of the disease, conducts research, and trains health professionals at all levels. It provides the most modern, cost-effective care and sets national standards at scientific, educational and technological levels. It is also an internationally recognized centre of excellence for training, clinical and management systems, sharing its expertise both nationally and internationally and using the most modern information and communication technology. It maintains a strong alliance with the National Cancer Institute in Egypt.

The Hospital is also committed to research into the epidemiology of paediatric cancer, to improve prevention, early diagnosis and treatment, and plays an important role in the community as a leader in public health education, environmental health and other community issues. The Hospital advertises its services on television, has developed widely used school education programmes on hygiene, diet, smoking, cancer and charity. A booklet in English and Arabic, "Cancer for Kids", was distributed to 50 000 schools.

#### **5. State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion – Report of the State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation Selection Panel**

The State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion is awarded to a person or persons, an institution or institutions, or a nongovernmental organization or organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to research in health promotion.

The State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation Selection Panel met on 23 January 2008, under the chairmanship of Dr B. Sadasivan, Chairman of the Executive Board. Other Panel members present were Dr A.A. Bin Shakar, member of the Executive Board, and Mr Tareq F.Y.M.A. Al-Doaij, representing the Founder of the Prize.

The Panel reviewed the documentation carefully, together with the Administrator's technical comments on the candidatures. 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 State of Kuwait Prize for Research in Health Promotion for 2008 should be jointly awarded to Dr Zaza Metreveli, Department of Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care Medicine and Critical Care Medicine, Gudushauri National Centre, Tbilisi, Georgia and Dr Chuon Chantopheas, National Laboratory for Drug and Food Quality Control, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

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

A brief description of the work carried out by the proposed laureates is given below for the consideration of the Executive Board.

Dr Zaza Metreveli is the Chief of the Department of Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care Medicine and Critical Care Medicine at the Gudushauri National Medical Centre in Tbilisi, where he has shown leadership qualities in establishing health services to meet the priority needs of the population of Georgia, particularly in the field of emergency medicine, anaesthesiology and critical care, and in maternal health care. During states of national emergency and conflict, especially during the war year of the 1990s, he made a significant contribution to national welfare and has received significant recognition and awards from the Georgian Government.

Dr Metreveli is also recognized for providing specific training in critical care and emergency medicine for large numbers of emergency rescuers and the police, developing online programmes in telemedicine and training courses for physicians and rescue staff. A training programme he developed for schoolchildren was adopted in several schools. He has successfully involved the community and community services in emergency preparedness and emergency procedures. Further aspects of his work in emergency medicine and critical care have been the guidelines and manuals for use in catastrophes, and the leading roles he played in disaster situations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey between 2003 and 2006, gaining him an international reputation.

Dr Chuon Chantopheas is Deputy Head of the Technical Bureau of the National Laboratory for Drug and Food Quality Control at the Ministry of Health and has played a leading role in her country in raising awareness about the consequences of food-borne diseases, a major cause of ill-health in Cambodia. She has gained an international reputation in the region for informing the community on how to take preventive action, involving business and industry, several government departments, as well as consumers, and using mass communication media. She has been recognized as an expert in this field, both nationally, and by FAO and WHO, and invited to address international meetings and public forums on food-borne disease.

Dr Chuon Chantopheas has also initiated laboratory research to identify contaminants and harmful substances in food, leading to the development of national guidelines and a handbook on chemical substances and microbiologicals in food, used for public information and for training. Her efforts have been focused on assisting rural communities and small businesses in this low-income developing country to produce and process safe food and reduce the incidence of food-borne disease.

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