

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-fifth session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (11–14 October 2008), the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Committee held a meeting on 11 October 2008, under the chairmanship of Dr Abdulkarim Rasa'a, Minister of Public Health and Population, Yemen (Chairman of the Regional Committee).

The Committee reviewed nominations received from Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, and Yemen.

The Committee members studied thoroughly the curricula vitae and the background of the seven candidates and recommended that the candidate from Lebanon, Professor Huda Zurayk, should be selected as the person to be proposed to the Executive Board at its 124th session as the recipient of the Prize.

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

Professor Huda Zurayk, a statistician, served as Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut from 1998 to 2008. She has contributed to many areas of public health research with a particular focus on population health, reproductive health and women's health in the region. Her work on population health began early in her career, when she participated in studies on maternal and child health in Lebanon. Her many publications include a demographic and epidemiological profile of the Beirut population at the height of the civil war. In 1987, after joining the Population Council in Cairo, she co-founded the Regional Reproductive Health Working Group, which continues today as a network of researchers throughout the region, examining issues critical to reproductive health from a multidisciplinary perspective. As a member of this group, she and other researchers produced the landmark Giza Study on women, reproduction and health in rural Egypt, which has been the foundation for numerous research papers and continuing research. Her experiences in Egypt led to a keen interest in the social context of population change and a commitment to interdisciplinary research. In recent years, she has spearheaded efforts to develop an integrated programme of population research at the American University of Beirut and to set up the Urban Health Study.

In support of population research internationally, Professor Zurayk served on numerous bodies, including the Reproductive Health Panel of the United States National Academy of Sciences, the Council of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, and the International Scientific Advisory Board of the Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies in South Africa. She is a Founding Member of the Nour Arab Women's Association and a member of the Steering Committee of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut. She served on the Women and Gender Equity Knowledge Network of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health and is a member of the editorial board of the Bulletin of the World Health Organization.

2. Léon Bernard Foundation Prize – Report of the Léon Bernard Foundation Committee

The Léon Bernard Foundation Committee met on 21 January 2009 under the chairmanship of Mr N.S. de Silva (Sri Lanka), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other members of the Committee present at the meeting were Mr C. Vallejos and Sir Liam Donaldson, both Vice-Chairmen of the Board.

The Panel was informed that the financial situation of the Foundation could not allow for the Prize to be awarded this year. The Léon Bernard Foundation Prize will therefore not be awarded in 2009.

3. 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 2009 under the chairmanship of Mr N.S. de Silva (Sri Lanka), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other Panel members were Professor Sohn Myongsei, member of the Executive Board for the Republic of Korea, and Professor K. Kiikuni, representing the Founder of the Prize.

The Panel members carefully studied the curricula vitae and the background 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 2009 Prize should be awarded to Dr Amal Abdurrahman Al Jowder, Acting Director of the Health Promotion Directorate, Ministry of Health, Bahrain.

If the Board confirms the award, the laureate will receive US\$ 30 000.

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

Dr Amal, Acting Director of the Health Promotion Directorate in the Ministry of Health, Bahrain, is a dedicated leader and an outstanding professional in the field of health promotion. She has spearheaded many initiatives at community level and in the ministry. She has involved all interested parties and ensured the enlightenment and empowerment of the community while building a reliable information network formed by health specialists, representatives from social centres, municipalities,

clubs and local schools, which have collaborated on disseminating information on health issues through newspaper articles, exhibitions, seminars and public lectures nationwide. She organized the first telephone hotline for health queries in Bahrain. Another successful campaign involved the promotion of vaccinations to all, with a nearly 100% coverage rate.

Dr Amal has written many educational publications and has introduced the teaching of health education and health promotion into the family practice residence programme. She set up committees of public school education, with the training of supervisors, thus creating the nucleus of health promotion in schools. In 1994, she introduced AIDS education into the school curriculum. She has trained many workers in various ministries, members of the civil society, clubs and associations, and is the coordinator of a project to improve coordination between the Ministry of Health and other ministries. She has participated in the preparation of various health-promotion activities, in particular the creation of the first anti-smoking clinic. She is also active politically and a leading figure in the community of volunteer workers and has participated in many missions, including the Hajj Medical Mission for four years. The Sasakawa Prize would enable her to set up two new activities: an education bus and a sports bus, in order to tour remote areas of the country, providing services to geographically disadvantaged population groups. One would deliver information materials, and the other would promote physical activity by distributing basic sports equipment.

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 20 January 2009, under the chairmanship of Mr N.S. de Silva (Sri Lanka), Chairman of the Executive Board. Other Panel members present were Dr H. Abdesselem, member of the Executive Board for Tunisia, and Mr Nasser Khalifa Al Budoor, 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 2009 should be awarded to both the Integrated Perinatal Care Project, KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Singapore and the Georgian Respiratory Association, Georgia.

If the Board confirms the award, the laureates will both 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.

The KK Women's and Children's Hospital was founded in 1924 with the aim of being the health-care leader for women and children, providing specialized care. It is the largest medical facility in Singapore. The Integrated Perinatal Care Project has contributed significantly to bridging the gap between knowledge and practice with a strong research element in the knowledge-translation process. The multidisciplinary team, which staffs the facility, operates in a coordinated manner, enabling patients to benefit from state-of-the-art care with world-class results achieved and maintained over several years in all areas and notably a decrease in maternal mortality and eclampsia rates. The team has also patented and implemented new health-care delivery methods. Knowledge generation through

internal surveys ensures ongoing enhancement of various protocols. The Project is largely self-funded by the revenue from private obstetric patients besides government subsidies, and has formed strong partnerships with other research-related local/regional organizations. The Integrated Perinatal Care Project has established a strong national and international reputation in the provision of excellent perinatal care and as a comprehensive referral centre.

The Georgian Respiratory Association was established in 2004 with the aim of developing and promoting respiratory medicine in Georgia. Its main activities consist in promoting basic, epidemiological and clinical research in respiratory medicine; producing guidelines on the management of respiratory diseases; promoting continuing medical education for medical specialists and organizing scientific meetings and other events. It has regional branches all over Georgia and since 2008 has about 400 active members. Funding comes mainly from membership fees and donations from different nongovernmental organizations. The Association has made a significant contribution to the education of doctors in remote parts of the country through the organization of regional meetings held three times a year. It is the first medical association in Georgia to have created national guidelines and provided appropriate training processes. A significant achievement has been the continuing education of doctors in remote parts of the country, through the organization of regional congresses for different specialists, in collaboration with major institutions, research and scientific centres. This allows for the continuous exchange of the latest medical information. It also publishes the Georgian Respiratory Journal, the country's only medical publication. Other achievements are the organization of its first international congress, which provided an opportunity to discuss modern methods of diagnosis and management of different respiratory diseases; the congress has received European accreditation. The Association has also prepared the first national guidelines for respiratory diseases, with appropriate training processes. It collaborates internationally and has begun pilot projects on surveillance of chronic respiratory diseases at primary health-care levels.

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 20 January 2009, under the chairmanship of Mr N.S. de Silva (Sri Lanka), Chairman of the Executive Board. Other Panel members present were Dr A.A. Bin Shakar, member of the Executive Board for the United Arab Emirates, and Mr Nawaf Naman, 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 2009 should be jointly awarded to Dr Shaikha Salim Al Arrayed, Head of the Genetic Department in the Salmaniya Medical Complex and Head of the National Committee for Control of Hereditary Diseases, Bahrain and the National Centre for Workplace Health Promotion, Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, Poland.

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 Al Arrayed, Head of both the Genetic Department in the Salmaniya Medical Complex and the National Committee for Control of Hereditary Diseases, has made significant contributions to health research, health training and health-care services in her country and in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, with a focus on the elimination of genetic diseases and the care of those affected by them. Over the past 25 years, she has successfully implemented the country's hereditary blood diseases control programme, achieving a 60% to 70% reduction of prevalence among newborns. Increased knowledge among the general population has also considerably reduced the rate of consanguinity. Dr Al Arrayed has organized and directed health education and awareness campaigns for groups ranging from the general public to health professionals and policy-makers and health authorities. Information booklets have been produced and distributed widely. Good working partnerships have been built with religious scholars and legislators. This programme, the first in the Region, has been used as a model in other regions.

The National Centre for Workplace Health Promotion, established in 1996 within the Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, is responsible for the development and coordination of activities of the National Network for Workplace Health Promotion in Poland. It has an interdisciplinary team of researchers and implementers, specializing in the fields of sociology of health and medicine, public health and political science and their teaching. It is also the National Contact Office for the European Network for Workplace Health Promotion and is a member of COST, the intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology. The Centre is responsible for the development of plans and strategies. Its staff members have published more than 200 papers and produced 12 textbooks. It carries out systematic research and analysis of the status and conditions of health promotion in Poland, producing information for use in consultations on health promotion projects in enterprises, training of professionals and the creation of social and political support for improved health promotion in Poland and the region. Funding comes through national and international grants from the public and private sectors. Among its various achievements is the launch in 2002 of a new area of research into the needs of older employees, with the ensuing discussion around the issue. The Centre has developed a unique database on health promotion activities carried out in Polish enterprises, including the monitoring of tobacco control. New problems identified from research and regular surveys are investigated, catalogued and monitored. The process of implementing appropriate health-promotion interventions is thus accelerated and the benefits to the population are achieved more rapidly. The work of the Centre has been recognized internationally and has received many positive reviews from the competent bodies.

6. Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation Prize – Report of the Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation Selection Panel

The Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation Selection Panel met on 21 January 2009 under the chairmanship of Mr N.S. de Silva (Sri Lanka), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other Panel members were Professor P.L. Erdogan, appointee of Professor I. Dogramaci (the President of Bilkent University) and Professor T. Türmen, representing the International Children's Center (Ankara).

The Panel reviewed thoroughly the documentation together with the Administration's technical comments on the candidatures. It was decided that none of the candidates was suitable to receive the Prize in 2009.

In addition, the Panel unanimously decided to revise Article 4 of the Statutes of the Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation. The text of Article 4 will now read:

“Article 4

Purpose

The Foundation is established for the purpose of promoting and raising the standards of family health by acknowledging individuals who have contributed distinguished service in the field of family health. To achieve this the Foundation shall:

every two years award a prize consisting of a gold-plated silver medal, a certificate and an honorarium to a person or persons globally recognized for his/her/their service in the field of family health. The Prize shall be presented during a World Health Assembly to the recipient(s) or, in their absence, to a person (or persons) representing him/her (them). Should more than one person be selected, the prize money will be divided equally among the awardees, who shall each receive a certificate and a medal.

In the selection of awardees geographical equity shall be observed as far as possible.

The amount of the honorarium shall be determined each year by the Foundation Selection Panel in consultation with WHO and in accordance with the accumulated interest on the Foundation's capital.

The cost of the medal shall be met by the Founder.

The Prize shall be awarded in alternate years. If in any year no Prize is awarded, the Prize shall be announced for the following year without waiting for two years to elapse.”

The above-mentioned revision will be transmitted for information to the World Health Assembly.

7. 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 was established in 2008, and 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 the following areas: research into and prevention, treatment and control of HIV/AIDS; research into and control of communicable diseases; or control of neglected tropical diseases.

The Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize Selection Panel met on 22 January 2009 under the chairmanship of Mr N.S. de Silva (Sri Lanka), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other Panel members were Ms P.T. Toelupe, alternate to Mrs G.A. Gidlow, member of the Executive Board for Samoa, and Dr park Jong-wha, representing the Founder of the Prize.

The Panel members carefully studied the curricula vitae and the background of the candidates and decided to propose to the Executive Board that the 2009 Prize should be awarded to the Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center in Georgia.

If the Board confirms the award, the laureate will receive US\$ 85 000.

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

The Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center is well regarded for its achievements in diagnostics, treatment and control of infectious diseases and has pioneered work in the region on AIDS and viral hepatitis, notably in research, and their treatment, prevention and control. It has introduced universal coverage of antiretroviral treatment and services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. An AIDS diagnostic laboratory and the National HIV/AIDS Registry were established in 1989. The Center's main objective is to provide excellence in patient care, medical education and biomedical research in the field of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. Despite economic constraints, it has created a modern, comprehensive, evidence-based surveillance system, generating epidemiological statistics, including data on molecular epidemiology, on HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Progress has been made in characterizing new clinical forms of asymptomatic HCV infection. The Center played a crucial role in the country's pioneering adoption of a law on HIV prevention in 1995 and the development of the national strategy on HIV/AIDS, completed in 2002, and the National TB–HIV Strategic Plan for 2007–2011. National treatment and care guidelines are constantly being updated to ensure their substantial effectiveness. The Center has also contributed significantly to Georgia's biomedical research capacity, with findings published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at various international forums.

8. Jacques Parisot Foundation Fellowship – Report of the Jacques Parisot Selection Panel

The Jacques Parisot Foundation Selection Panel met on 21 January 2009 under the chairmanship of Mr N.S. de Silva (Sri Lanka), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other members of the Panel present at the meeting were Mr C. Vallejos and Sir Liam Donaldson, both Vice-Chairmen of the Board.

According to the established order of nomination of candidates, which was determined by the drawing of lots when the Jacques Parisot Foundation Fellowship was created, it was the turn of the African Region to submit candidatures for the Fellowship award.

The committee reviewed the three shortlisted candidates put forward by the Regional Committee for Africa and decided to propose to the Executive Board that the Sixteenth Jacques Parisot Foundation Fellowship should be awarded to Ms Livesy Abokyi Naaffoe (Ghana). If the Board confirms the award, the laureate will receive a medal and US\$ 5000.

Ms Abokyi proposes to undertake a population-based study of the health-seeking behaviour of persons suffering from persistent cough in the Kintampo North and South Districts of Ghana.

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