

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-third session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (Cairo, 3–6 October 2016), the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Committee met during the afternoon of 6 October and morning of 7 October 2016, chaired by His Excellency Dr Ahmed Emad El Din Radi, Minister of Health, Egypt (Chairperson of the Regional Committee).

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

The Committee members considered the applications of the five candidates and recommended that the candidate from Oman, Dr Yasmin Ahmed Jaffer, should be selected as the person to be proposed to the Executive Board at its 140th 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 Jaffer is being honoured for her significant contribution to public health in Oman, particularly in the area of women's and children's health. Dr Jaffer graduated from the College of Medicine, Baghdad University, in 1983, and received her Masters degree in mother and child health from the Institute of Child Health, University College London, in 1989.

Dr Jaffer is currently Senior Consultant and Advisor in the Directorate General of Primary health care, Oman. From 1993 to 2014, she was Director of the Department of Family and Community Health, Ministry of Health, overseeing a major expansion in women's and children's health services. Among her many achievements, Dr Jaffer coordinated the National Women and Child Care Plan and played a pivotal role in establishing the national birth-spacing programme, helping to introduce policies to ensure the availability of various contraception methods to couples. During her term as Director of the Department of Family and Community Health, the total fertility rate in Oman decreased from 6.9 in 1993 to 3.13 in 2007, antenatal clinic coverage was greatly expanded, and rates of hospital deliveries increased substantially.

Dr Jaffer has served on many key national committees, including those for children's rights, nutrition, school health, quality assurance, maternal mortality, and mother and child health, and has contributed to the development of many national policies, including on population and human

resources, as well as to the Omani Code for Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes: Regulating the Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes, and the national women's strategy. As a researcher, she has published in many national and international journals, particularly in the areas of maternal, child and adolescent health.

2. 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 25 January 2017, chaired by Dr Ray Busuttil (Malta), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other Panel members were Professor Nguyen Kim Tien, 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 15 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 2017 Prize should be awarded to Dr Arslan Rinchin (Mongolia).

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

Dr Rinchin, born in 1943, is being nominated for his remarkable contribution to the advancement of primary health care in Mongolia.

Since 1971, Dr Rinchin has devoted his career to tackling viral hepatitis in Mongolia. Between 1973 and 1978, Dr Rinchin carried out research on hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and its detection, HBsAg being the primary marker of hepatitis B virus infection. His findings demonstrated that hepatitis B was endemic in Mongolia and that it affected mainly children. In the light of this, he advocated the rapid adoption of health practices to reduce the number of infections with hepatitis B virus, namely improvement of sterilization of injection equipment and medical instruments, and an increase in hepatitis B vaccination rates. The immediate effect was that as of 1981 a slight decrease in the number of hepatitis B virus infections was measured. A further decrease was seen following the introduction in 1991 of hepatitis B vaccination in the national immunization schedule.

Dr Rinchin has published articles in national and international journals, and initiated the Expanded Programme on Immunization in Mongolia, with financing, which he helped to ensure, from WHO, UNICEF and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Funds from the Prize will be used: to support non-State actors, the National Centre for Communicable Diseases and the Ministry of Health to implement Government programmes on the control and reduction of hepatitis A, B and C; to coordinate activities to reduce stigma in families, workplaces and schools of carriers of hepatitis viruses; and to increase advocacy for better health services and laboratory testing in remote facilities and also for best practices to avoid infection. Funds will also be dedicated to organizing World Hepatitis Day and to provide financial support to young researchers. Guidelines will be developed for the use of the prize money.

3. 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 24 January 2017, chaired by Dr Ray Busuttil (Malta), 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 the eight 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 2017 should be awarded to Professor Lô Boubou Baïdy (Mauritania).

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

Professor Lô Baïdy is being honoured for his substantial contribution to the establishment of the national blood transfusion centre and development of blood transfusion services, as well as for his fight against viral hepatitis, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections in Mauritania. Professor Lô Baïdy, born in 1956, has served since 2010 as Inspector General for Health in the Ministry of Health, and has been Chair of the Faculty of Medicine of Nouakchott University since 2006.

Over the past two decades, Professor Lô Baïdy has ensured the availability of structured blood banks throughout the whole country, including the most remote hospital structures, and advocated for the introduction, in 2002, of vaccination against hepatitis B in the expanded immunization programme. As a result of his efforts, the immunization programme was further strengthened through the introduction of vaccination against hepatitis within 24 hours of birth.

Professor Lô Baïdy contributed to the establishment of a national structure for the control of viral hepatitis in 2013. He also contributed to the development of HIV/AIDS/sexually transmitted infection strategies by directing the scientific coordination of two sociobehavioural and biological surveys conducted in vulnerable groups in 2007 and in 2014.

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 24 January 2017, chaired by Dr Ray Busuttil (Malta), Chairman of the Executive Board. The other Panel members were Dr Paulyne Jean Rosell-Ubial, member of the Executive Board for the Philippines, and Mr Kim Inseong, Representative of the founder of the Prize.

The Panel members studied the curricula vitae and the backgrounds of the 16 candidates and decided unanimously to propose to the Executive Board that the 2017 Prize should be awarded to the Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade (Cuba).

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

The Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade was established in 2005. It is integrated into the medical cooperation unit of the Ministry of Public Health of Cuba, which itself has over 40 years of medical aid experience.

The Brigade is composed of Cuban health workers, including physicians and nurses, trained in disaster medicine and infectious disease containment. The volunteer teams have extensive experience in responding to disasters and major epidemic outbreaks. More than 7000 team members have intervened in countries such as the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, China, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan and Peru. The Brigade carried out a significant mission during the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa: over 250 health professionals provided care in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia.

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