

Awards

1. At its 138th session, in January 2016, the Executive Board adopted a number of decisions awarding prizes to individuals or institutions in recognition of their outstanding achievements in health development.¹

2. An award ceremony for the following five prizes will take place during the plenary meeting on the morning of Friday, 27 May 2016:

The **Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Prize** will be presented to **Professor Sir Michael Marmot (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**

The **Sasakawa Health Prize** will be presented to the **Federation of Medicus Mundi (Spain)**

The **United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize** will be presented to **Dr Palize Mehmett (China)**

The State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation's **His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion** will be presented to **Dr Michal Novák (Slovakia)**

The **Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health** will be presented to **Dr Alireza Mesdaghinia (Islamic Republic of Iran)**.

3. These prizes were created by, or set up in memory of, eminent health personalities. The call for nominations is sent out each year, after the Health Assembly, and nominations can be made by national health administrations and by any former recipient of the prizes. The recipients of the prizes are designated by the Executive Board during its January session, based on recommendations made by each foundation's selection panel.

4. Over the years, the prizes have been awarded to well-known scientists and researchers or simply to dedicated people who have greatly contributed through their work to the advancement of public health and to institutions caring for the health of local communities.

5. Further information on the prizes and on the 2016 recipients is provided in the Annex to the present document and at <http://www.who.int/governance/awards>.

¹ See decisions EB138(5), EB138(6), EB138(7), EB138(8), EB138(9) and EB138(10) (2016).

ANNEX

1. Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Prize

The Ihsan Doğramacı 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 2016 prize has been awarded to **Professor Sir Michael Marmot (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**.

Sir 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.

Sir 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.

Sir 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.

2. Sasakawa Health Prize

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 2016 prize has been awarded to the **Federation of Medicus Mundi Spain**.

The Federation of Medicus Mundi Spain is a nongovernmental organization which was created in 1963 and has been awarded the prize 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.

3. United Arab Emirates Health Foundation Prize

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 2016 prize has been awarded to **Dr Palize Mehmett (China)**.

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 awarded the prize 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 6 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.

4. The State of Kuwait Health Promotion Foundation's His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Prize for Research in Health Care for the Elderly and in Health Promotion

The 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 2016 prize has been awarded to **Dr Michal Novák (Slovakia)**.

Dr Novák, born in 1947, has been awarded the prize 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.

5. Dr LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health

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 2016 prize has been awarded to **Dr Alireza Mesdaghinia (Islamic Republic of Iran)**.

Dr Mesdaghinia, born in 1939, has been awarded the prize 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.