



Award of the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize and Fellowship

1. Following the recommendations of the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Committee at the Sixty-third Session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, the Executive Board awarded the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize for 2017, by decision EB140(11), to Dr Yasmin Ahmed Jaffer (Oman) for her significant contribution to public health in the geographical area in which Dr Shousha served WHO.
2. Dr Yasmin Ahmed 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 Ahmed 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.
3. Dr Ahmed Jaffer is currently Senior Consultant and Advisor in the Directorate-General for Primary Health Care, Oman. From 1993 to 2014, she was Director of the Department of Family and Community Health, overseeing a major expansion in women's and children's health services. Among her many achievements, Dr Ahmed 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 contraception options 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, and antenatal clinic coverage and hospital delivery were greatly expanded.
4. Dr Ahmed 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 manpower development, as well as to the Omani code for the ban on 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.
5. The 2017 Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize, consisting of a medal and the equivalent of 2500 Swiss francs in United States dollars, will be presented to Dr Ahmed Jaffer by the Chairman of the Sixty-fourth Session of the Regional Committee.
6. The Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Committee is also scheduled to meet during the Sixty-fourth Session of the Regional Committee to consider nominations for the prize and fellowship for 2018. In accordance with the Statutes, the Committee shall be composed of the following members: the Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen of the Regional Committee.
7. The Director-General of the World Health Organization acts as Administrator of the Foundation and the Regional Director acts as Secretary of the Foundation Committee.