

GENERAL SECTION

KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR MEDICINE

Khalid M. Al Aboud,¹ Ahmad M. Al Aboud,² Khalid A. Al Hawsawi,²¹ Dermatology Department, King Faisal Hospital, Makkah, Saudi Arabia,² Dermatology Department, Hera General Hospital

This is a brief commentary about the King Faisal International Prize for Medicine and its previous winners.

Keywords: King Faisal International Prize for Medicine, Saudi Arabia, Medicine.

INTRODUCTION

An award is something granted or given in recognition of one's meritorious work. The value of the award may be small or large. It can be in the form of a plaque, medal, certificate, diploma, money, lecture, etc. An award matters much to the development of any subject.

There is no doubt about the value of awards and prizes in increasing the quality of work. This should be reflected at all levels of the medical profession starting from the department, training programmes, periodicals and research work relating to all aspects like basic sciences or clinical sciences. The paramedical personnel comprising the nurses, pharmacists and other health-delivery personnel must also be considered when granting these awards. Limitations to original work and recognition cut through barriers of nationality, religion, race and sex. Conditions should be as little as possible to enable the best workers to qualify for these awards.

There are many International awards in Medicine including the King Faisal International Prize (KFIP) for Medicine¹, Nobel Prize², Prince

Mahidol Award³ and Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Makhtoum Award for Medical Sciences.⁴ With Exception of Nobel Prize, little is mentioned in Medical literature databases, including the MEDLINE⁵ about other awards, in general and the King Faisal International Prize for Medicine in particular. In fact searching the MEDLINE⁵ by "King Faisal International prize", revealed only 2 citations.⁶⁻⁷ The present discussion is to provide the medical literature through Journal of Ayub medical college which is cited in the MEDLINE more information about this award.

KFIP for Medicine is awarded annually; the KFIP is worth 750,000 Saudi riyals (\$200,000). The prize was established in 1981 with \$1.2 billion donated by eight sons of King Faisal who died in 1975. As testimony to the high caliber of recipients and to the importance of the research carried out by KFIP laureates, nine winners have gone on to win Nobel prizes for the same work that was recognized by KFIP. Table-1 shows the past recipients of the King Faisal International Prize for Medicine.

Table-1: Recipients of the King Faisal International Prize for Medicine (1982-2005)

Year	Recipients	Country	Area of Research
1982	David C. Morley	U.K	Primary Health Care
1983	Wallace Peters	U.K	Malaria
1984	John S. Fordtran	U.S.A	Diarrheal Diseases
	William Greenough III		
	Michael Field		
1985	R. Palmer Beasley	U.S.A	Viral Hepatitis
	Mario Rizzetto	Italy	
1986	Gian Franco Bottazzo	Italy	Diabetes Mellitus
	Albert E. Renold	Switzerland	
	Lelio Orci	Italy	
1987	Barrie Russel Jones	U.K	Prevention of Blindness
1988	Janet D. Rawley	U.S.A	Leukemia
	Melvin F. Greaves	U.K	
1989	Robert G. Edwards	U.K	Infertility
	Luigi Mastroianni	U.S.A	
1990	Capron André	France	Schistosomiasis
	Anthony E. Butterworth	U.K	
1992	Attilio Maseri	Italy	Coronary Artery Disease
1993	Luc Montagnier	France	Acquired Immuno-deficiency Diseases
	Jean-Claude Chermann		
	Sinoussi -Dr.Françoise Barré		

Table-1 Continued from the previous page.

1994	W. French Anderson	U.S.A	Medical Applications of Genetic Engineering
	Robert Williamson	U.K	
1995	Gregory P. Winter	U.K	Molecular Immunology
	Mark M. Davis	U.S.A	
	Tak W. Mak	Canada	
1996	Bengt A. Robertson	Sweden	Management of the Premature Infant
	Tetsuro Fujiwara	Japan	
1997	Colin L. Masters	Australia	Management of the Premature Infant
	Konrad T. Beyreuther	Germany	
	James F. Gusella	Canada	
1998	John L. Gerin	U.S.A	Control of Communicable Diseases
	Robert H. Purcell		
1999	Patrick G. Holt	Australia	Allergic Diseases
	Stephen T. Holgate	U.K	
2000	Cynthia Jane Kenyon	U.S.A	Ageing
2001	Sir Roy Y. Calne	U.K	Organ Transplantation
	Norman E. Shumway	U.S.A	
	Thomas E. Starz	U.S.A	
2002	Finn Waagstein	Denmark	Pathophysiology of Failure Chronic Heart
	Eugene Braunwald	U.S.A	
2003	Axel Ullrich	Germany	Breast Cancer
	Umberto Veronesi	Italy	
2004	Ulrich Sigwart	Switzerland	Invasive Cardiology
2005	Sir Richard Doll	U.K	Tobacco Risks on Human Health
	Sir Richard Peto		

**Prize for 1991 was withheld*

COMMENTS

It is evident from Table-1 that the awards are given to the original and outstanding contribution which has the highest impact on lives of people by improving their well being. The King Faisal International Prize is among few International awards that extend its scope to the outside of the field of the sciences. It is also given for Arabic Literature and service of Islam¹.

REFERENCES

1. King Faisal International Prize-KFIP [homepage on the Internet]. Riyadh: Saudi Arabia: King Faisal Foundation: c2005 [cited 2005 Sep 28] Available at: <http://www.kff.com/English/kfip/KFIPIndex.htm>
2. Nobelprize.org [homepage on the Internet]. Sweden: The Nobel Foundation: c2005 [last modified 2005 Sep 28; cited 2005 Sep 28] Available at: <http://nobelprize.org/>.
3. Prince Mahidol Award Foundation. [homepage on the Internet]. Bangkok: Thailand: Prince Mahidol Award Foundation; c 1998 [cited 2005 Sep 28] Available at: <http://www.kanchanapisek.or.th/pmaf/index.en.html>.
4. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Medical Sciences [homepage on the Internet]. Dubai: United Arab Emirates: Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Medical Sciences [cited 2005 Mar 2] Available at: <http://hmaward.org.ae>.
5. Pubmed [Database on the Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine (US). [cited 2005 Mar 2]. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/>
6. King Faisal International Prize awarded. *Eur J Cancer* 2003;39(3):272
7. SoRelle R. Winners of the King Faisal International Prize for Medicine 2001. *Circulation* 2001;103(3):E9005-6

Address for correspondence:

Dr. Khalid Al Aboud, P.O Box 5440, Makkah, Saudi Arabia, Tel 00966 2 5566411, Fax: 00966 2 5563523/5574350,
E-mail: amoa65@hotmail.com