

**ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF
THE KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
ON THE RESULTS OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEES
IN THEIR MEETINGS HELD
BETWEEN 18/9/1423H-21/9/1423H
CORRESPONDING TO 23/11/2002G-26/11/2002G**

Riyadh, 26 November 2002, HRH Prince Khaled AI-Faisal, Managing Director of King Faisal Foundation, tonight announced the winners of the 2003 King Faisal International Prize.

Professor Marion Frederick Hawthorne (USA), Professor of Chemistry, University of California, USA, shares the Prize for Science (Chemistry) with **Professor Koji Nakanishi** (Japan), Centennial Professor of Chemistry, Columbia University, USA.

Professor Hawthorne is one of the most creative and productive chemists in the world. His research extends over many fields, ranging from the syntheses of new compounds to novel therapies for cancer. He has been influential in the field of boron chemistry, particularly in its industrial applications to catalysis of polymerization. Professor Hawthorne's research could lead to the development of a "silver bullet" to target cancerous cells for destruction while sparing healthy ones. Such an achievement would have a profound impact on cancer therapy.

Professor Nakanishi, an equally eminent chemist, has a wide field of scientific accomplishments. His research in biologically active natural products has exceptional scientific and economic value. He has established the properties and elucidated the structures of many chemical compounds including antibiotics, carcinogenic materials, and anticancer products. Professor Nakanishi's recent research concentrates on the interaction of light with the molecules responsible for vision. These studies are likely to accelerate the development of a treatment for macular degeneration which afflicts many elderly people and leads to the loss of sight.

The prize for Medicine (Breast Cancer) is jointly awarded to **Professor Axel Ullrich** (Germany), Director of the Department of Molecular Biology, Max-Planck Institute for Biochemistry, Germany and **Professor Umberto Veronesi** (Italy), Scientific Director, European Institute of Oncology, Milan, Italy.

Professor Ullrich is widely regarded for his outstanding contributions to the study of the molecular biology of breast cancer. Over the last 20 years he and his colleagues have demonstrated the role of tyrosine kinase receptors as growth promoters for cancerous cells. Their discovery of the HER-2 oncogene in 1985 led to the subsequent description of its amplification. In 1990 his description of a monoclonal antibody to the EGF receptor led to the development of Herceptin, the first clinically effective monoclonal antibody now in use worldwide. More recently, his research has extended to other areas of receptor target interactions of relevance to angiogenesis.

Over the past three decades Professor Veronesi has pioneered a revolution in the management of breast cancer. His pivotal role in demonstrating the safety of a wide resection followed by radiotherapy spared countless of women from mastectomy and its consequences. In further research, ways to improve the quality of life of breast cancer patients, he developed axillary-sparing sentinel node dissection to prevent lymphoedema. Recently he has been engaged in developing intra operative radiotherapy. This greatly shortens the time for multi-modality therapy.

Throughout his long and distinguished career he has fostered multi-disciplinary research. His leadership in this has been recognized by his election as president of many societies, including the Federation of European Cancer Societies, EORTC (European Organization for the Research and Treatment of Cancer) and IUCC (International Union Against Cancer). Professor Veronesi's commitment to treating and training is reflected in his founding of the European School of Oncology, which this year celebrated its 20th anniversary.

The Prize for Islamic Studies (History of Islamic Economics) has been jointly awarded to Professors Izz EI-Din Orner Mousa (Sudan) and Ibrahim Abu Bakr Harakat (Morocco). Professor Mousa has been awarded the Prize for his authoritative book *Economic Activity in the Maghrib in the 6th Century Hejira*. This detailed work, characterized by its precise methodology and objectivity, is a reliable resource for researchers interested in economic life in the Maghrib more than 800 years ago. Professor Harakat's research on Islamic economics between the 1st and 9th century hejira is distinctive for its holistic view of Islamic economic history as it reflected on society. Professor Harakat compares Islamic economic concepts with those of the Christian world. In his nominated book, he revisits earlier arguments by European researchers with regard to the Islamic community and

economy and emphasizes Islam's impact on world economy.

The Prize for Arabic Literature (Definitions of Literary and Critical Terms of Arabic Literature) has been withheld.

The Prize for Service to Islam will be announced at a later date.

Notes to Editors:

- The topics for the 2004 King Faisal International Prize are:
Medicine-Invasive Cardiology, Science-Biology, Arabic Language and Literature-Preservation of Classical Arabic to the End of the Fifth Century A.H., Islamic Studies-Basis of Islamic Jurisprudence. The deadline for all nominations is **31 May 2003.**