

**ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF
THE KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
ON THE RESULTS OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEES
IN THEIR MEETINGS HELD
BETWEEN 2/12/1424H-5/12/1424H
CORRESPONDING TO 24/1/2004G-27/1/2004G**

Riyadh, 27 January 2004, HRH Prince Khaled AI-Faisal, Director of King Faisal Foundation, tonight announced the winners of the 2004 King Faisal International Prize.

The prize for Science (Biology) has been awarded to **Professor Semir Zeki** (UK), Professor of Neurobiology at the University College, London, for his seminal work on the organization of the visual brain. He was the first to show that the visual brain consists of many different areas that are functionally specialized to process and perceive different attributes of the visual scene. His subsequent studies have also shown that the visual brain perceives different attributes such as motion and color at different times, leading to the now widely accepted *theory of temporal asynchrony in vision*; which maintains that the visual consciousness consists of many different micro-consciousnesses that are distributed in space and time. Professor Zeki's contributions have had a tremendous impact on the biology of vision.

The prize for Medicine (Invasive Cardiology) has been awarded to **Professor Ulrich Sigwart** (Switzerland), Professor of Cardiology and Chief of the Center and Division of Cardiology at Geneva University, and a renowned pioneer of interventional cardiology. Professor Sigwart is credited for conceiving and realizing endoluminal stenting which has dramatically changed the approach to the treatment of coronary and extra-coronary arterial disease worldwide. As a result of his innovation, coronary stenting has developed into a viable and effective alternative to bypass surgery. His courage and innovative spirit have also materialized the nonsurgical option of pharmacologic septal ablation in patients suffering from severe and obstructive septal hypertrophy.

The Prize for Arabic Language and Literature (Preservation of Classical Arabic to the End of the Fifth Century A.H.) has been awarded to **Professor Hussain Muhammad Nassar**, (Egypt), Professor of Arabic Language at Cairo University, and a leading scholar of the history and development of Arabic Lexicography. This is best exemplified by his authoritative text: *The Arabic Dictionary; its Origins and Development*.

In addition to many other important books and articles on that subject, Professor Nassar has also edited several anthologies of pre-Islamic and Islamic eras.

The Prize for Islamic Studies (Basis of Islamic Jurisprudence) has been jointly awarded to **Dr. Ali Ahmad Ghulam AI-Nadvi** (India), Head of Sharia advisors at AI-Rajhi Financial Company, and **Dr. Yacoub bin Abd AI-Wahab AI-Bahussain** (Saudi Arabia), Associate Professor of Islamic jurisprudence at Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University in Riyadh. In his widely recognized book (in Arabic) on Islamic jurisprudence in financial matters, Dr. AI-Nadvi has not only reviewed the subject throughout Islamic history but has also attempted to adapt some of the concepts of earlier Islamic scholars to modern circumstances.

Dr. AI-Bahussain has also made exhaustive and original studies into the fundamental rules of Islamic jurisprudence. The works of both laureates represent pioneering studies on a subject that has so far been given inadequate attention.

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

Notes to Editors:

- The topics for the 2005 King Faisal International Prize are: **Science-** (*Physics, Medicine-Tobacco Risks on Human Health, Arabic Language and Literature- Arabic Prose in the 4th and 5th Centuries A.H., Islamic Studies-Territorial defense of the Islamic State During the 5th and 6th Centuries A.H.*). The deadline for all nominations is **31 May 2004**.