

**PRESS RELEASE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
1992/1412H KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
FOR
SCIENCE**

Topic: BIOLOGY

The discovery by Crick and Watson of the structure of the hereditary material in living organisms, including man, was a major scientific breakthrough for which the scientists were awarded the Nobel Prize. More recently the distinguished British scientist,

DR. SYDNEY BRENNER

made two fundamental discoveries that complete the work of Crick and Watson. He first of all established that the molecules carrying the hereditary message, called DNA, encode the information they contain in a cipher using four "letters" of the genetic "alphabet". Each single piece of information is represented by a particular combination of three of these "letters". This is what is referred to as the triplet codon. **Dr. Brenner** then discovered how this information, stored in DNA, is duplicated, without prejudice to the original, and carried to the part of the cell where it is used to manufacture the proteins encoded.

This work is the basis of the present major international undertaking aimed at charting the complete genetic map of man. Many genetic, and other, diseases have become amenable to treatment since these developments. Others will be so soon. The value to man, and knowledge of the work recognized by the award of the King Faisal International Prize for Science, is of the utmost importance.

Dr. Sydney Brenner was for many years the Director of the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, England. This prestigious institution has been responsible for, or closely involved in, the most important scientific discoveries in molecular biology for the last 40 years. Since 1986, Dr. Brenner has been the head of the MRC Molecular Genetics Unit, a department which was created to allow him to continue his research.