

PRESS RELEASE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
2012/1433H KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
FOR
SCIENCE

Topic: BIOLOGY

Riyadh, 16 January 2012 - 22 Safar 1433H., HRH Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Director of King Faisal Foundation, tonight announced the winners of the King Faisal International Prize.

The King Faisal International Prize for Science (Biology) for the year 2012 (1433H.) has been awarded to:

Professor Alexander J. Varshavsky (USA)
Professor of Cell Biology, California Institute of Technology

Professor Varshavsky has made ground-breaking discoveries into how the living cell works. He elucidated how cell functions are regulated by protein degradation. Proteins are essential parts of organisms and participate in virtually every process within the cell. Cells continuously produce and destroy proteins to ensure optimal function.

Varshavsky's work led to the unraveling of the cellular mechanisms that determine how cellular proteins are being selected for destruction. He also discovered how proteins are marked for rapid degradation. These advances have created a new realm of biology and have been essential for progress in research on human cancer, neurodegeneration, immune responses and other fundamental biological processes. This may lead to clinically useful therapies.

Note to Editor:

- Over the past 34 years, a total of 47 scholars from 11 different countries have won the King Faisal International Prize for Science.

- The topic for the 2013 King Faisal International Prize for Science is (*Physics*). The deadline for nomination is **1 May 2012**.