

Announcement

The Secretariat General of King Faisal International Prize

Deliberations of the Selection Committees of

King Faisal International Prize for 1996

(27-30 January 1996)

The Selection Committees of King Faisal International Prize, in its five branches for the Service to Islam; Islamic Studies; Arabic Literature; Medicine; and Science, convened a series of meetings on 27-30 January 1996 to reach the following decisions:

First:	<p>The Selection Committee of the Service to Islam awarded Dr. Abdul Rahman Humoud Al-Sumait (Kuwait), Secretary General of the African Muslim Agency, in recognition of his numerous efforts in service to Islam and Muslims, which included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Founding the Kuwaiti Relied Organization that assisted rescuing thousands people from starvation in many African countries.2. Founding the African Muslim Agency, and assuming its Secretariat General since 1981. He had been personally in the work of the agency in the religious and social areas. Such work culminated in building several mosques, Islamic centers and schools, women training centers, hospitals, and medical camps along with payment of remunerations for thousands of preachers, Imams, teachers, students, and orphans. This involved also drilling artesian wells and providing needy with food, clothes and medicines.
Second:	<p>The Selection Committee of the Islam Studies had unanimously awarded this year prize on The Life of Prophet Mohammed to Dr. Akram D. Al-Umari (Iraq) in recognition of his scholarly research on the life of Prophet Mohammed as an author, editor, lecturer and supervisor. He attempted to apply rigorous academic methods in criticizing versions of verbal histories as apparently demonstrated by his book, "The True Life of Prophet Mohammed". In introducing the book, he elaborated on the method pursued with in-depth analysis and lucid style.</p>
Third:	<p>The Selection Committee of the Arabic Language and Literature awarded Sheikh Hamad Al-Jassir (Saudi Arabia) the 1996's prize for his countless work in literary journeys, particularly in his two books on the Pilgrim Holy Sites and Roads to Pilgrim, attributed to Imam Al-Harbi; and the Chained Jewels of Haj, authored by Abdul Gadir Al-Jaziri.</p> <p>Sheikh Jassir deliberated about the life of Al-Harbi and his work, following manuscripts about him in the Arabic and Islamic bibliographies, verifying truth of facts and providing precise marginal explanations to the texts. He was concerned with producing his book, The Chained Jewels of Haj, in a fine</p>

	<p>format, putting into it great efforts in verifying different versions of the manuscript and comparing them to each other. He further satisfactorily provided illuminating explanations to texts towards correction of much of what was reflected in publications of earlier geographers.</p>
<p>Fourth:</p>	<p>The Selection Committee of King Faisal International Prize for Medicine for 1996 decided to award two co-winners on the topic of ‘Management of Pre-mature Infant’ as follows:</p> <p>Dr. Bengt A. Robertson (Sweden); and Dr. Tetsuro Fujiwara (Japan).</p> <p>As regards Dr. Robertson, he was born in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1935 and studied medicine at the Karolinska Institute in 1960. In the decade subsequent to graduation, he and his research team conducted pioneering research on animal in the field of neonatal respiratory distress syndrome (RDS). The researchers demonstrated, for the first time, that introducing pulmonary surfactant, as a surface-active lipoprotein complex that reduces surface tension in lungs, would reduce probability of RDS. Later, it was proved that dispensing such material to pre-mature infants had certain benefits.</p> <p>Moreover, Dr. Robertson and colleagues published over 230 papers in addition to 117 references, comprehensive articles and book chapters. Dr. Robertson concluded his career record as Professor of Pediatric Pathology in the Department of Women and Child Health at Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.</p> <p>Dr. Fujiwara, on the other hand, was born in Morioka, Japan, in 1931. He graduated with an MD degree from Iwate Medical University in 1956. He conducted research on administering exogenous surfactant endotracheally to preterm infants to successfully treat RDS. This conclusion led him to search for an alternative synthetic surfactant and therefore to produce an artificial complex. He then applied the synthetic surfactant by injection into the pulmonary tracts of premature infants with the result of saving lives of 8 out of each ten children infected with RDS. Diagnosis was done by amniotic fluid test pre-natal or by testing infant intestine content post-natal.</p> <p>Dr. Fujiwara published 215 papers and 83 books, articles or book chapters. Currently, synthetic surfactant has become a milestone in treatment of premature infants throughout the world.</p> <p>These experimental and clinical research of the two laureates resulted in reduction by 80% of prenatal mortality rate due to the RDS upon administering synthetic surfactant.</p>
<p>Fifth:</p>	<p>The Selection Committee of King Faisal International Prize for Science for 1996 awarded the following three co-winners on the theme of biology:</p> <p>Dr. Günter Blobel (USA), Professor of Cell Biology at the Rockefeller University;</p> <p>Dr. Hugh R. Pelham (UK), Director of the Molecular Biology Laboratory of the Medical Research Council; and</p> <p>Dr. James E. Rothman (USA), Vice-Chairman of the Cellular Biochemistry</p>

and Biophysics Program at the Sloane-Kettering Institute in New York.

The prize was awarded for the pioneering work done by the three laureates on transport of proteins across cell membranes.

Dr. Blobel had been one of the leading researchers of protein sorting and targeting and protein integration into membranes. His research in this field constituted the conceptual framework for further study. This led him to more than one considerable discovery, notable among which was the scientific understanding of how a cell can organize itself into various compartments whilst utilizing solely one mechanism for protein synthesis.

Dr. Pelham conducted seminal research on the intracellular molecular traffic. His research on heat shock proteins resulted in his development of the chaperone concept, the molecular that aid protein folding and transport. He further demonstrated mechanisms for retrieval and retention of proteins in the endoplasmic reticulum of the cell. He also illustrated that a terminal four-amino acid sequence was the factor to maintaining a protein in the endoplasmic reticulum. He proved that the signal was required to retain, rather than export, the protein through its retrieval from the Golgi complex as part of the general movement of proteins within cells.

Dr. Rothman, on the other hand, made a discovery whereby intracellular protein transport could be reconstituted in cell-free extracts and that vesicular transport within the Golgi apparatus could be accurately reproduced from isolated Golgi membranes, cytosol and ATP.

The Selection Committee decided that themes for next year's prizes would be as follows:

1. As regards the prize for Islamic Studies, the theme would be, "Studies on the Status of Women in Islam";
2. As regards the prize for Arabic Literature and Arabic Language, the theme would be, "Comparative Studies across Arabic and Literature of Other Languages in terms of Theoretical and Applied Aspects";
3. As regards the prize for medicine, the theme would be, "Control of Communicable Diseases"; and
4. With respect to the prize for science, the theme would be, "Physics".