

**PRESS RELEASE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
2011/1432H KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
FOR
MEDICINE**

Topic: Stem Cell Therapy

Riyadh, 17 January 2011 - 13 Safar 1432H, 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 Medicine (Stem Cell Therapy) for the year 2011 (1432H) has been awarded jointly to:

Professor James Alexander Thomson (USA)

Director of Regenerative Biology at Morgridge Institute for Research and Professor at the Department of Anatomy in the University of Wisconsin

Professor Shinya Yamanaka (Japan)

Senior Investigator in stem cell biology of the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Director of the Center for Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell Research and Application (CiRA), and Professor at Kyoto University, Japan, and the University of California in San Francisco, USA.

having succeeded in isolating stem cells from non-human primates in 1995 and from human embryos in 1998. Professor James Thomson made — in 2007 — the groundbreaking discovery that induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS) could be generated from human somatic cells. This important breakthrough has revitalized interest in stem cell biology, with many laboratories re-investigating the possible use of these cells in the modeling and treatment of human diseases.

Professor Shinya Yamanaka achieved a major breakthrough in 2006 when he was able to generate induced pluripotent stem cells from mouse adult fibroblasts. In 2007, he succeeded, independently of Professor Thomson, in reprogramming human adult skin cells into iPS cells.

Note to Editor:

- Over the past 33 years, a total of 57 scholars from 11 different countries have won the King Faisal International Prize for Medicine.

- The topic for the 2012 King Faisal International Prize for Medicine is *(Minimal Invasive Fetal Management)*. The deadline for nomination is **1 May 2011**