

**PRESS RELEASE  
WINNERS ANNOUNCED  
2000/1420H KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE  
FOR  
SCIENCE**

**Topic: BIOLOGY**

The King Faisal International Prize for Science is awarded this year for Biology. The Selection Committee awarded the Prize jointly to:

**Dr. John Craig Venter**

Founder of the Institute for Genomic Research in the USA

and

**Professor Edward Osborne Wilson**

Professor at Harvard University in the USA

Dr. Venter has pioneered novel techniques for the rapid identification of genes and the fast and economical sequencing of entire genomes. These approaches have already revealed the complete genetic make-up of several species of micro-organisms including agents of human disease, and are making a key contribution to the elucidation of the human genome. His concepts and methods have had a deep impact on the new field of genomics whose implications for human health and nutrition are considerable.

Professor Wilson has been the pioneer of four major scientific disciplines: the study of species within ecosystems, the conservation of the biological diversity of species, the field of sociobiology which seeks to elucidate the genetic basis of human and animal behavior, and, last but not least, an ambitious attempt to bring together, in a single conceptual framework, the various fields of knowledge from the natural sciences through the social sciences, to the humanities and the arts.