At the present time, coronary artery disease (CAD) is one of the most important causes of death in the developed countries of the world where it has been estimated that 15 to 20 million new cases are diagnosed each year. However, CAD is now becoming an important cause of death in many developing countries. A significant number of these deaths occur in young individuals and many of the survivors are left incapacitated. During the last two decades, important advances have been made in our understanding of the pathophysiology and epidemiology of CAD, as well as its medical and surgical treatment. The contributions of one individual in this field are especially prominent. The Prize has therefore been awarded to:

**PROFESSOR ATTILIO MASERI**

Dr. Maseri, 55, Italian, is currently professor of cardiology at the renowned Catholic University of Rome, and Director of the Institute of Cardiology at the Policlinico "Agostino Gemelli".

Dr. Maseri's incisive and original research has focused the attention of cardiologists worldwide on the previously unidentified, vital role of coronary vasospasm in the precipitation of angina and of silent myocardial ischemia. In elucidating the mechanisms involved, he has provided a rationale for the application of new pharmacological agents in the reduction or abolition of such events. Dr. Maseri's extensive research has had a profound influence on our understanding of the mechanisms by which anatomically normal coronary arteries may produce myocardial ischemia, the management of which differs in many ways from that of the commoner, effort-induced angina that results from augmented myocardial oxygen demand.
Dr. Maseri's discoveries have helped in the development of a variety of therapeutic agents such as coronary vasodilators in the treatment of ischemic cardiac pain and acute myocardial infraction. Thanks to his originality of thought and vigorous pursuit of new avenues of research, Dr. Maseri will undoubtedly continue to make meaningful contributions in this field for many years to come.