PRESS RELEASE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
1998/1418H KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE IN MEDICINE

Topic: CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The King Faisal International Prize in Medicine for 1418H (1998) has been awarded to: **Professor John Louis Gerin and Professor Robert Harry Purcell** for research on Control of Communicable Diseases.

Professor John Gerin, a US citizen born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1937 is Director of the Division of Molecular Virology and Immunology, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Georgetown University Medical Center, Rockville, Maryland.

Professor Robert H. Purcell, US citizen, born in 1935 in Keokuk, Iowa, is the Head of the Hepatitis Viruses Section, Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

Working in close collaboration, these two prominent scientists devoted most of their research activities for the discovery, identification, characterization and vaccine developments of various hepatitis viruses. Their achievements in this field represent one of the most remarkable and important events in the history of one of the most common communicable diseases of our time. They have produced seminal studies on hepatitis A, Band E viruses. Their work led to the development of the vaccines of hepatitis A and B which are now widely used around the world.

Their investigations are scientifically meritorious and the results of their work have had a profound effect on the control and prevention of various forms of hepatitis. In addition, their laboratories have been points of reference for many centers around the world, devoted to the study of hepatitis.