PRESS RELEASE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
2003/1423 KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
FOR
MEDICINE

TOPIC: BREAST CANCER

Riyadh, 26 November 2002. HRH Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, Managing Director of King Faisal Foundation, tonight announced the winners of the King Faisal International Prize in the field of Breast Cancer, the prize for Medicine is jointly awarded to:

Professor Axel Ullrich
Director of the Dept. of Molecular Biology, Max-Planck Institute for Biochemistry
Germany

Professor Umberto Veronesi
Scientific Director European Institute of Oncology, Milan, Italy

Professor Ullrich is widely regarded for his outstanding contributions to the study of the molecular biology of breast cancer. Over the last 20 years he and his colleagues have demonstrated the role of tyrosine kinase receptors as growth promoters for cancerous cells. Their discovery of the HER-2 oncogene in 1985 led to the subsequent description of its amplification, in 1990 his description of a monoclonal antibody to the HER-2 receptor led to the development of Herceptin, the first clinically effective monoclonal antibody now in use worldwide. More recently, his research has extended to other areas of receptor target interactions of relevance to angiogenesis.

Over the past three decades Professor Veronesi has pioneered a revolution in the management of breast cancer. His pivotal role in demonstrating the safety of a wide resection followed by radiotherapy spared countless of women from mastectomy and its consequences. In further research, ways to improve the quality of life of breast cancer patients, he developed axillary-
sparing sentinel node dissection to prevent lymphoedema. Recently he has been engaged in developing intra operative radiotherapy. This greatly shortens the time for multi-modality therapy.

Throughout his long and distinguished career he has fostered multi-disciplinary research. His leadership in this has been recognized by his election as president of many societies, including the Federation of European Cancer Societies, EORTC (European Organization for the Research and Treatment of Cancer) and IUCC (International Union against Cancer). Professor Veronesi’s commitment to treating and training is reflected in his founding of the European School of Oncology, which this year celebrated its 20th anniversary.

**Note to Editor:**

- Over the past 25 years, a total of 43 scholars from 11 different countries have won the King Faisal International Prize for Medicine.
- The topic for the 2004 King Faisal international Prize for Medicine is Invasive Cardiology. The deadline for nomination is **31 May 2003**.