

Speech of Dr.
Michael Berridge

Winner of King Faisal International Prize

For Science 1986/1406H.

Sunday 9.3.1986 (28.6.1406A.H.)

I am absolutely delighted and extremely honoured to be the recipient of this prize. The real reward for any scientist is to be able to unlock one of Nature's secrets and I have been very lucky in having contributed to recent discoveries concerning how cells communicate with each other. The intellectual excitement of making such discoveries is sufficient reward, but to be given a prize of this kind in a wonderful bonus.

Like a novelist who has written a book I would like to dedicate this prize to my family. My wife Sue and my son Paul are here today and my daughter Rozanne who is busy with her studies at University. They have provided me with tremendous support over the years and should share in the honour of this prize.

This is not the time to describe my work in any detail except to say that I am interested in how cells communicate with each other. In order for our body to function normally all our cells must cooperate with each other. Now I believe that nations can learn a lot from biology. In this modern world we are all very dependent upon each other and to operate efficiently nations must learn to communicate with each other. In addition to honouring intellectual achievement, I believe that the King Faisal International Prize helps in such understanding by bringing different people together.

In conclusion may I repeat how honoured I feel to have received this prize. I also appreciate having the opportunity to visit your wonderful country and to receive your traditional Arab hospitality.