

Acceptance Speech of
PROFESSOR NORMAN EDWARD SHUMWAY
CoC Winner of the 2001
King Faisal International Prize for Medicine
Friday 16 February 2001 (22 Dhu AlC Qedah 1421H)

Presented by
Professor Thomas Earl Starzl

Your Royal Highness, Prince Abd Allah bin Abd AlC Aziz
The Crown Prince, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Head of
the National Guard
Your Royal Highnesses
Your Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

It is indeed a great pleasure to share this award with two such illustrious surgeon-scientists as Professor Thomas Starzl and Sir Roy Calne. We three are most fortunate and owe so much to our transplant patients. Patients are the real heroes, for they accepted transplantation when the early results were so much less favorable than today. Worldwide, more than 50,000 patients have undergone transplantation of the heart with a current five-year survival expectancy of 75 percent. In fact, the science of transplantation has progressed to the point where the limiting factor is the donor supply. In an effort to solve the donor shortage, considerable research is being directed to the use of animal organs. Clearly, present experiments do not as yet support the inauguration of clinical trials. Another approach to the problem of heart failure is the artificial heart. Clinical trials with various types of artificial heart are underway but, again, there is no one model that appears superior.

The life everlasting may not be just around the corner, but serious inroads have been made by transplantation for the treatment of lethal disease entities.

Again, I am most grateful for being selected by the King Faisal International Prize for this award and recognize fully that it is indeed a salute to our transplant patients.