

Presentation of the
2002 King Faisal International Prize Winners

By

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Secretary-General of King Faisal International Prize

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In the name of Allah
Praise be to Allah and peace and prayers be upon the Prophet Mohammad and all his family,
Companions, and all his followers until the day of judgement

Your Royal Highness, Prince Sultan ibn Abd Al-Aziz
Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defence and Aviation
And Inspector General
Your Royal Highnesses
Your Excellencies
Brothers and Sisters

Assalam Alaikum,

It gives me great pleasure to present the winners of the 2002 King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam, Arabic Literature, Medicine, and Science.

The King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam has been awarded to His Highness Shaikh Dr. Sultan ibn Muhammad Al-Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharja. Shaikh Sultan was nominated by the World Assembly of Muslim Youth, the Arab Education Office for the Gulf States and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. A dedicated Muslim philanthropist, Shaikh Sultan has fostered numerous educational, health care and housing projects that have benefited large sectors of Muslims throughout the world. His humanitarian endeavors include road building, electricity and water networking, sponsorship of international Muslim students, renovation and building of mosques and provision of various other forms of direct and indirect help to destitute Muslim communities. In his capacity as Ruler of Sharja, he relentlessly emphasizes the values and teachings of Islam. Shaikh Sultan is also an educationalist and author of important manuscripts on the history of the Gulf region and the role of British colonialism in that part of the world.

The King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Literature (Studies on Modern Palestinian Literature) has been awarded jointly to Professor Husam Al-Din Amin Al-Khatib of Syria and the late Professor Husni Mahmud Husain of Jordan.

Professor Al-Khatib is a professor of comparative literature in the Department of Arabic Language in Qatar University. He was nominated for the Prize by King Saud University and King Fahd University of Petroleum and Mineral Resources and has been awarded the prize in recognition of his highly scholastic studies on contemporary Palestinian literature, particularly his authoritative book on literary criticism in Palestine and in Diaspora.

The late Professor Husni Mahmud Husain, who died a few weeks ago, was a professor of modern literature and literary criticism at Al-Yarmuk University in Jordan. He was nominated for the prize by King Saud University in Riyadh, Al-Yarmuk, Irbid and Applied Sciences Universities in Jordan and the Supreme cultural Council of Egypt. Professor Husain was awarded the prize in recognition of his insightful contributions to the study of modern Palestinian literature, including his famous book on the poetry of Palestinian resistance.

The King Faisal International Prize for Medicine (Pathophysiology of Chronic Heart Failure) has been awarded jointly to Professor Finn Waagstein of Denmark, and Professor Eugene Braunwald of USA.

Professor Waagstein is a Professor of Cardiology at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenberg University, Sweden. He was nominated for the prize by the Swedish Society of Cardiology and the European Society of Cardiology. He has been awarded the prize for his discovery of the important role of beta-adrenergic blockers in the treatment of congestive heart failure. Professor Waagstein's pursuit of research in that field for twenty years has led to the establishment of beta-blockade as a widely accepted modality in the treatment of heart failure.

Professor Braunwald is the Faculty Dean and Chief Academic Officer of the Partner Health Care System of Brigham and Women's and Massachusetts General Hospital and Distinguished Hersey Professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. He was nominated by Harvard Medical School and has been awarded the prize in recognition of his remarkable achievement over 40 years, which have led to the development of several novel pathophysiological concepts that have a significant impact on the understanding and treatment of congestive heart failure.

The King Faisal International Prize for Science (Mathematics) has been awarded jointly to Professor Yuri Manin of Russia and Dr. Peter Shor of the USA.

Professor Manin is the Director of Max-Planck Institute for Mathematics in Bonn, Germany, Board of Trustees Professor at Northwestern University, Evanston, USA, and Leading Researcher (in absentia) at the Steklov Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He was nominated for the Prize by the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung Foundation in Germany,

and has been awarded the prize in recognition of his outstanding fundamental contributions to the advancement of different fields of mathematics and mathematical physics.

Dr. Shor is a researcher at the AT&T laboratories in New York, USA. He was nominated for the prize by King Saud University and has been awarded the prize for discovering the first interesting applications of quantum computers – future machines based on quantum mechanics that have far greater computing capacity than any existing digital computer. Dr. Shor's algorithms have galvanized the computing community, triggering much research into the links between quantum mechanics, mathematics and computer science.

On behalf of the General Secretariat of King Faisal International Prize, I would like to thank His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn Abd Al-Aziz, representative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, under whose auspices this ceremony is held, and to all of you for kindly attending the occasion. I would also like to thank everyone who cooperated with the General Secretariat of King Faisal International Prize during the nomination, refereeing, and final selection processes.

May Almighty Allah guide and support those engaged in virtuous deeds. May Almighty Allah help our laureates in their endeavours to serve humanity, enrich human knowledge, and reduce human suffering.

Thank you all for accepting our invitation to share this occasion with us.

Best wishes and assalam alaikum.