

Presentation of the
2013 King Faisal International Prize Winners
By
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Secretary General of King Faisal International Prize

35th KFIP Award Ceremony
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In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Praise be to Allah and Peace and Prayers be Upon the Messenger of Allah.

Your Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Abd Al-Aziz,
Crown Prince, Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Your Eminences and Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests.

Assalamu Alaikum,

It gives me great pleasure to present this year's Prize winners.

The King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam has been awarded to Shaikh Rai'd Salah Mahajna, from the 1948-occupied Palestinian territories, in recognition of his distinguished accomplishments, namely:

- His prominent role as a founding member of the Islamic movement in Occupied Palestinian territories of 1948.
- His distinct efforts of reform and social service during his chairmanship of the Islamic Movement between 1996-2001.
- His services as Chairman of Al-Aqsa Foundation for Refurbishment of Revered Islamic Places and Chairman of the Humanitarian Relief Organization in Occupied Palestine.
- His pioneering role in many projects for restoration of Al-Aqsa Mosque, in collaboration with the Islamic Endowment

Organization in Al-Quds and the Committee for Conservation of the honorable Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

- Being the first to discover the tunnel dug under Al-Aqsa Mosque by the occupiers.
- His success, in collaboration with Al-Rawha Peoples' Committee, in 1998 in preventing confiscation of Al Rawha land, thereby serving his countrymen.
- Organizing regular events under the motto "Al-Aqsa is in Danger" which attract thousands of Palestinians in the occupied territories and help boost their morale.

I am pleased to invite Shaikh Ra'id Salah to come forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

The King Faisal International Prize for Arabic Language and Literature in the topic of (*Individual and Institutional Efforts in writing Arabic Dictionaries*) has been awarded to the Arabic Language Academy in Cairo. The Academy has been nominated for the Prize by Ain Shams University, Al-Minya University, *Dar Al-Uloom* College at Cairo University and the World Assembly of Muslim Youth in Riyadh. The Academy is recognized for its miscellaneous services to the Arabic Language, particularly the production, over more than 80 years, of a large collection of general and specialized Arabic dictionaries which it prepared in collaboration with experts in different specialties. These illustrious dictionaries are characterized by their diversity, response to the needs of different Arabic language users, tying contemporary Arabic Language to its past and utilizing novel scientific techniques in dictionary production.

I am pleased to invite His Eminence Professor Hassan Mahmoud Abd Al-Latif Al-Shafi'e, Chairman of the Arabic Language Academy to come forward to receive the Prize and deliver his speech on behalf of the Academy.

The King Faisal International Prize for Medicine in the topic of (*The Genetics of Obesity*) has been awarded jointly to Professor

Douglas Leonard Coleman (USA/Canada) and Professor Jeffrey Michael Friedman (USA), who have been nominated for the Prize by the Rockefeller University in New York and the 2012 KFIP Science laureate Professor Alexander Varshavsky of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, in recognition of the originality and high global impact of their research.

The winners' research has focused primarily on neuro-hormonal processes that regulate appetite, food intake and energy expenditure, and has led to the discovery of leptin which reduces appetite through afferent pathways to the brain. This is the most important discovery in obesity research in the past three decades and is an example of the relatedness and interactions of many specialties in genetics, biochemistry and cell biology research.

I am pleased to invite Professor Coleman to come forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

I am also pleased to invite Professor Friedman to come forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

The King Faisal International Prize for Science in the topic of (*Physics*) has been awarded jointly to Professor Paul Corkum (Canada) who has been nominated for the Prize by Stanford University in California and Professor Ferenc Krausz (Hungary/Austria) who has been nominated for the Prize by King Saud University in Riyadh.

Professors Corkum and Krausz are recognized for their independent pioneering work which has made it possible to capture the incredibly fast motion of electrons in atoms and molecules in a "movie" with a time resolution down to attoseconds. An attosecond is a vanishingly short time. One attosecond compared to one second is like one second compared to the age of the Universe, i.e., around 14 billion years.

When intense ultra-short laser pulses are focused into a gas, a laser-like beam of attosecond pulses of ultraviolet light is produced.

Professor Corkum was the first to explain this phenomenon with a conceptually simple model. He has harnessed this process for pioneering studies in collision physics, plasma physics, and molecular science. He has also been able to produce tomographic images of the movement of electrons in molecules.

I am pleased to invite Professor Corkum to come forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

Professor Krausz has developed powerful techniques for generating intense, tailored, waveforms of laser light, and he has applied these tools for observing and controlling the incredibly fast motion of electrons. His group was the first to generate single ultraviolet pulses with a duration as short as 80 attoseconds.

I am pleased to invite Professor Krausz to come forward to receive his Prize and deliver his speech.

The General Secretariat of the King Faisal International Prize concludes by expressing its utmost thanks to His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Abd Al-Aziz, Crown Prince, Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense for sponsoring this ceremony on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. The General Secretariat also extends its sincere congratulations to the winners of this year's prizes, and to thank our distinguished guests for sharing this happy occasion with us. Special appreciation and gratitude are extended to all of those who have cooperated with us during the nomination, refereeing and selection processes.

May Allah assist and support all workers in humanitarian fields.

Assalamu Alaikum.