

January 10th, 2024

**King Faisal Prize
General Secretariat Announcement
2024 Laureates**

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

With the grace and glory of Allah, the selection committees of the 2024 King Faisal Prize, after meticulous deliberations that were held from Monday 8th to Wednesday 10th of January 2024, have reached the following decisions for the Prize's five categories of Service to Islam, Islamic Studies, Arabic language & Literature, Medicine, and Science.

First: King Faisal Prize for The Service to Islam

King Faisal Prize for Service to Islam for this year 2024 is awarded jointly to:

**Japan Muslim Association
(Japan)
&
Dr. Mohammad Sammak
(Republic of Lebanon)**

Japan Muslim Association is awarded the prize in recognition of his outstanding work in Service to Islam, which included:

- Attending, caring for, and defending Muslims' affairs in Japan.
- Sponsoring Muslim youths' education.
- Granting educational scholarships for students to Islamic countries.
- Presenting the true image of Islam through publications and printed materials.
- Organizing the pilgrimage (Hajj) and Umrah to Makkah for Japanese Muslims.

Dr. Mohammad Sammak is awarded the prize in recognition of his outstanding work in Service to Islam, which included:

- His early and continuous contributions in embracing the Islamic-Christian dialogue.
- His diligent work in strengthening communication links with the other.
- His active participations in dialogue conferences regarding the relationship between Islam and other religions.
- His active presidency and membership in many organizations, commissions, and associations which preach tolerance and peace.
- The depth of his books and research that are anchored on objective methodology and scientific solidity.

Second: King Faisal Prize for Islamic Studies

King Faisal Prize for Islamic Studies for this year 2024, Topic: **(Islamic Legislations and their Contemporary Applications)**, is awarded to:

Professor Wael Hallaq
(United States of America)
Professor at Columbia University

Professor Wael Hallaq is awarded the prize for his pioneering contributions in providing an academic reference, parallel to the traditional Orientalist writings, that influence universities around the world. This was evident in his tremendous amount works that were translated into many languages, in addition to his success in establishing a guideline for the development of Islamic legislation.

Third: King Faisal Prize for Arabic Language and Literature

The King Faisal Prize for Arabic Language and Literature for this year 2024, Topic: **(Non-Arab Institutions and their Endeavors to Promote Arabic)** is withheld due to nominated works not elevating to the criteria of the prize.

Fourth: King Faisal Prize for Medicine

King Faisal Prize for Medicine for this year 2024, Topic: **(Management of Peripheral Disabilities)**, is awarded to:

Professor Jerry Roy Mendell
(United States of America)
Professor at Ohio State University

Professor Dan Hung Barouch is awarded for his pioneering work in the screening, early diagnosis, and treatment of patients with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and limb girdle muscular dystrophies. He was the first investigator to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of high doses of AAV-mediated gene transfer therapy in patients with SMA type 1, a treatment that is globally approved. He demonstrated that it takes courage, commitment, and determination to translate preclinical developments for the benefit of patients.

Fifth: King Faisal Prize for Science

King Faisal Prize for Science for this year 2024 Topic: **(Biology)**, is awarded to:

Professor Howard Yuan-Hao Chang
(United States of America)
Professor at Stanford University

Professor Howard Yuan-Hao Chang is awarded the prize for his pioneering contributions in elucidating the role of long non-coding RNAs in gene regulation and function, as well as for the co-development of innovative genome-wide approaches for identifying DNA regulatory regions. These discoveries are having a powerful impact across molecular biology and genetics and have important implications for understanding complex human diseases.

The General Secretariat of King Faisal Prize commends the 2024 esteemed laureates and offers its sincere gratitude to the distinguished members of the selection committees, the referees, and the experts of this year's session for their highly valued contributions. The General Secretariat also extends its appreciation to all organizations and institutions that have graciously collaborated with it in submitting their nominations and the members of the media for their continued interest in the Prize's activities.

May Allah look favorably on those devoting their time and effort in virtue to the betterment of humanity.