



King Faisal
PRIZE

**LAUREATES OF KING
FAISAL PRIZE**

2025



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Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud

Patron of the King Faisal Foundation

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HRH Khalid Al-Faisal

Chairman of KFP Board

INTRODUCTION

King Faisal Prize (KFP) was initiated by the King Faisal Foundation (KFF) inspired by its humanitarian objectives and its commitment to preserve the true Islamic values which King Faisal, may Allah have mercy upon him, stood for. These values and principles, held dearly by the late King Faisal, are firmly enshrined in the statute of the Prize.

KFF established KFP as a lofty expression and reflection of the late King Faisal's untiring support for endeavors slated to alleviate human suffering through the advancement of research and creative human thinking. These are core values which the late King Faisal passionately upheld, besides his respect for knowledge, empathy with scholars, and his recognition of their contributions to the advancement of nations. He strongly believed that progress of his nation and his countrymen cannot be achieved without a resolute acquisition of knowledge that is commensurate with the values and teachings of Islam, as well as an in-depth understanding of human history and a genuine appreciation of the foundations in which the Islamic civilization is grounded, along with the conducive factors that helped this civilization blossom and thrive, and positively contribute to human civilization.

KFP is driven by objectives animated by this thorough human perception, emanating from the cradle of the Islamic message, a land to which the hearts of Muslims throughout the world are attached, a land founded on the principles of this message and ruled by its values. These features endow the Prize with a distinct prestige among peer prizes that seek to motivate scientists and thinkers and encourage them to pursue further scientific and intellectual accomplishments that benefit humanity and help foster a better and brighter civilization. This year, we celebrate the 47th anniversary of awarding the prize. As KFP firmly wades its way towards its prestigious position among leading international prizes. It takes special pride in being widely recognized for being impartial and independent of all political, sectarian, racial and religious prejudice. We pray to the Almighty Allah to preserve our country's security and stability. May this country continue its noble mission under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, Supreme President of King Faisal Philanthropic Foundation. May Allah guide us all to that which benefits Islam and Muslims and contributes to the advancement and progress of mankind.

May Allah make our aspirations come true

Khalid Al-Faisal



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Dr. Abdulaziz Alsebail
Secretary General

KING FAISAL PRIZE

The establishment of King Faisal Prize asserts the belief, held by King Faisal's sons, that knowledge is the gateway towards wider horizons in all fields that benefit mankind. The Prize reaffirms the message that King Faisal Foundation carries to the World, a message based on the promulgation of virtue and hope, recognition of scholarship and participation in all that serves human aspirations in development and progress. The Prize was incepted more than 47 years ago in honor and commemoration of a great monarch who dedicated his life to serving his Arabic and Islamic Nation, while extending a welcoming arm to the entire world. It comes as a continuation of the message he had embraced throughout his life – May Allah have Mercy upon him.

47 years have passed since the first of the Prize's five categories was awarded. It is with the utmost thanks to Allah that the Prize has been far reaching in fulfilling its objectives, the most important of which being service to Islam and Muslims, benefiting Muslims at present and in the future, leading them towards participation in modern civilization, re-enforcing Islamic values and projecting them to the world, contributing to human progress and enrichment of human thought in various intellectual and scientific fields, without racial, sexual, religious or cultural distinction .

Since its inception, the Prize, in its different categories, has been awarded to 301 laureates from 45 nations, including 10 philanthropic and scholastic institutions. The Prize for Service to Islam was awarded to the most prominent Islamic personalities and institutions whose tremendous contributions have greatly impacted Muslims throughout the World. The Prize for Islamic Studies drew attention to vital issues that deeply influenced Muslim societies, and recognized scholars who have made new and significant contributions to those issues. The Prize for Arabic Language and Literature recognized a number of intellectuals who dedicated much of their life serving the Arabic language and its arts, projecting their efforts and rewarding them with some of what they deserve. The Prize for Medicine celebrated scholars in the medical field and other fields related to human health and medicine, by recognizing their distinguished contributions towards the wellbeing of mankind. The Science Prize, which rotates annually between physics, mathematics, chemistry and biology, has also honored scientists who have made ground-breaking discoveries and innovations that benefited humanity in these respective fields. Probably as an evidence of the international standing of King Faisal Prize in recognizing gifted scientists and researchers is that a number of its laureates have been subsequently awarded other prestigious international prizes. Whileover forty years have passed since its inception, the Prize Board and General Secretariat continue their strive to advance the Prize's mission and view the future with optimism and confidence. We are now entering a new stage, with even more determination to serve the objectives of the Prize and sustain its success and role as a source of benevolence and happiness for all workers in philanthropic fields, thanks to scholars and international scientific institutions for their confidence in the Prize's integrity and to the continuous support of the Board of Directors and the General Secretariat of the King Faisal Foundation and the King Faisal Prize Board.

On this occasion, the Prize's General Secretariat would like to express its deep indebtedness to all scholars, researchers, Islamic organizations and scientific institutions throughout the world for their support, advice, fruitful cooperation and distinguished nominations. We look forward to their continuous support and cooperation. Heartfelt congratulations to the laureates whose biographies and accomplishments are detailed in this booklet.

Dr. Abdulaziz Alsebil



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Countries And Laureates

1979-2025

ARABIC LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE		ISLAMIC STUDIES		SERVICE TO ISLAM		MEDICINE		SCIENCE	
ALGERIA	1	BANGLADESH	1	AFGHANISTAN	1				
AUSTRALIA	1	EGYPT	7	BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	1				
EGYPT	23	FRANCE	1	EGYPT	6				
IRAQ	3	GERMANY	1	FRANCE	1				
JORDEN	4	INDIA	2	INDIA	2				
LEBANON	2	IRAQ	4	INDONESIA	2				
MOROCCO	9	JORDEN	3	JAPAN	1				
PALESTINE	1	KUWAIT	1	KUWAIT	3				
SAUDI ARABIA	3	LEBANON	1	LEBANON	2				
SUDAN	1	MOROCCO	2	MALAYSIA	3				
SYRIA	3	QATAR	1	NIGER	1				
TUNISIA	2	SAUDI ARABIA	10	NIGERIA	2				
UK	1	SUDAN	2	PAKISTAN	2	AUSTRALIA	2	AUSTRIA	1
USA	3	SYRIA	2	PHILIPPINES	1	CANADA	6	CANADA	3
		TURKEY	2	RUSSIA	1	CHINA	1	FRANCE	1
		UK	2	SAUDI ARABIA	17	DENMARK	1	GERMANY	6
		USA	1	SENEGAL	1	FRANCE	4	HUNGARY	1
				SOUTH AFRICA	1	GERMANY	3	INDIA	1
				SOUTH KOREA	1	ITALY	5	JAPAN	3
				SUDAN	2	JAPAN	3	NETHERLANDS	1
				TANZANIA	1	NETHERLANDS	2	RUSSIA	2
				TURKEY	1	SWEDEN	1	SWITZERLAND	3
				UAE	3	SWITZERLAND	2	TUNISIA	1
						UK	14	UK	14
						USA	33	USA	30

TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL	
LAUREATES	COUNTRIES	LAUREATES	COUNTRIES	LAUREATES	COUNTRIES	LAUREATES	COUNTRIES	LAUREATES	COUNTRIES
57	14	43	17	57	24	77	13	67	13

TOTAL LAUREATES	301
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TOTAL COUNTRIES	45
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Mr. Sami Abdullah Almaglouth

Laureate of King Faisal Prize

Service to Islam

(Co-Laureate)

Sami Almaqlouth was born in Al-Mubarraz, in 1962. He memorized the Holy Quran at an early age and received his elementary education in Al-Ahsa and Al-Khafji. He earned a bachelor's degree in education with a major in History and a minor in Geography, graduating with second-class honors from King Faisal University in 1988. He worked in the field of education for three decades until his early retirement. He worked as an Imam and sermon in Almaqlouth mosque in Al-Ahsa for two decades. He is currently serving as a consultant in the Atlas Department at the General Authority for Survey and Geospatial Information, and the Muslim World League.

He established (The Electronic Encyclopedia of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and (King Fahad: The First Pioneer of Education), implemented by the ministry of education. He served as a member of the Social Sciences Curriculum Development Team for the Comprehensive Curriculum Development, and as a member of the team which authored the (Geographic School Atlases) for the ministry of higher education. Mr. Almaqlouth was entrusted with several projects, most notably: the Atlas of the History of Islamic Preachment document for the Ministry of Islamic Affairs; developing a document on incorporating tourism and archaeological concepts into educational curricula; and the following geospatial documents: Riyadh Region Atlas, the Saudi Atlas for Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center, the Holy mosques Atlas, the preliminary ideas for the King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Atlas. He also established a preliminary concept document for the Arabic Language Atlas for the King Salman Global Academy for Arabic Language, a detailed concept for the museum of the (Holy Quran and Prophet's Sunnah) for the Muslim World League, and the (Muslim World League Atlas) document.

Among his works is the Series of Historical and Islamic Atlases, comprising 22 atlases, most notable are: the Atlas of Prophets and Messengers, the historical atlas of the biography of the prophet peace be upon him, the Series of Atlases of Al-Khulafa' Al-Rashidun, may Allah be pleased with them, the Atlas of Islamic Conquests, the Atlas of the Wars of Apostasy, the Series of Atlases on the History of Islamic States (Umayyad, Abbasid, Mamluk, and Ottoman), the Atlas of Modern World History, the Atlas of the Crusades, the Tourist Atlas of Saudi Arabia, the Atlas of Places in the Holy Quran, the Atlas of Religions, the Atlas of Sects in Islamic history, the Atlas of Hadith Scholars, the Atlas of Tafseer Scholars, the Atlas of the Ten Quranic Reciters and their Twenty Narrators, and currently in preparation the Atlas of Fiqh (Islamic Jurisprudence) Scholars.

Global translations: (English, Indonesian language, Malawian language, Urdu, Turkish, Farsi, Bangali, Uzbekistani, and currently French).

Television programs: (Ecumenical Councils in 9 episodes, Notable Hadith Scholars, Islamic Conquests, the Crusades Campaigns Paths, and Spark of Embers).

Most notable awards: The Saudi Author Award in 2015.

He was honored as a pioneer of historical atlases in the Arab world at Al-Ahsa Literary Club in 2017.





Speech by
Mr. Sami Abdullah Almaglouth

Under the shade of the flourishing word, the maps of the earth seek shelter in the guidance of the prophets and messengers (may peace be upon them) seeking to capture the passion behind their message and legacy: “Those are the ones whom Allah has guided, so follow their guidance.” Along the shores of time, humanity continues its journey toward the goals of life, inscribing its stories onto a planet brimming with events and history. Thus, atlases became bridges connecting time and space, tools to dispel ignorance and consign it to oblivion. In a world where mankind strives for comprehension and discovery, atlases have become scientific gateways unveiling new lands and expanding the horizons of knowledge and awareness.

Through my humble contribution to these atlases, I have sought to echo the events and the journeys of the past. Every map tells a story, where colors intertwine, lines overlap, contours shine, and images emerge to shape the promise of a bright future.

King Faisal Prize stands as a beacon of knowledge, inspiring the pursuit of excellence and strengthening the resolve of those who strive despite adversity. It is an invitation to every innovator and thinker to leave their remarks in a world teeming with challenges. And in that long-awaited moment, time seemed to pause, as if the universe is holding its breath to listen to my heartbeats, when the Secretary General of the prize announced the joyous news of my laureateship of King Faisal Prize for Service to Islam. A wave of excitement surged within me, as if every dream I had pursued had finally come to rest in this one extraordinary moment.

Every step of this blessed journey was fraught with challenges and uncertainties. I recalled the long nights spent among books and cartography tools, the days of wandering through gardens of knowledge, museums of distant lands, and the ancient sites of civilizations, harvesting whatever wisdom and insight I could gather. As I bring this map, etched in words, to an end, I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the esteemed organizers of King Faisal Prize, a paragon of integrity and nobility. Their dedication has ensured its continued brilliance under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and his trustworthy Crown Prince (may Allah protect them). They have been the lifeblood of this prize and the seeds of inspiration that have flourished in the hearts of innovators. Their relentless efforts have rekindled hope in countless souls, ensuring that this award remains a symbol of excellence and a testament to ingenuity.



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مصنف تبيان
TEBYAN QURAN

Tebyan Quran
from Liajlehum Association for Serving
People with Disabilities

Laureate of King Faisal Prize
Service to Islam

(Co-Laureate)

Tebyan Quran for the deaf is a unique achievement that aims to serve individuals with hearing disabilities to comprehend the meanings of the Holy Quran and interact with it using sign language. The project seeks to facilitate the reflection on the verses of the Holy Quran for a group that has long faced challenges in accessing the correct interpretation of religious texts due to the language barrier.

This Quran for the deaf was developed by Liajlehum Association to serve individuals with disabilities. It is the first of its kind, offering a visual translation in sign language for the interpretation of Quranic verses, accompanied by simplified explanations that make religious concepts easier to understand. The Quran relies on advanced technologies to display content, making it an effective educational tool that enhances the inclusivity of Islamic discourse and opens a new horizon for spreading the message of the Holy Quran among the deaf community.

Tebyan Quran represents a qualitative step in integrating deaf individuals into Islamic sciences, as it provides them with an innovative visual means to understand the words of Allah. This enhances their connection with the Quran and offers them the opportunity to reflect on it in an unprecedented way. It also contributes to achieving the principle of equality in accessing religious knowledge and reflects Islamic values that emphasize justice, mercy, and inclusivity.

Tebyan Quran for the deaf has earned widespread attention from scholars and Islamic institutions. It is considered an exemplary model in utilizing technology to serve Islam, reflecting a modern vision for spreading the teachings of the true religion in a way that meets the needs of special groups. This project is part of the blessed efforts contributing to the global dissemination of Islam's message, affirming that the Holy Quran is a book of guidance for all people, regardless of their linguistic or sensory abilities.





Speech by

Tebyan Quran
from Liajlehum Association for Serving
People with Disabilities

Praise to Allah, who honored us to serve His noble Book and chosen us to be part of a noble mission that illuminates the hearts of Muslims with the light of the Holy Quran, despite the challenges and difficulties we may face. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, the final messenger, and upon his family and companions.

The recognition of Tebyan Quran with King Faisal Prize for Service to Islam is both a great honor and a profound responsibility that we hold with immense pride. The idea for Tebyan Quran for the deaf was initiated from the firm belief that the Holy Quran is a source of guidance for all humanity and must be accessible to every Muslim without exception, including our brothers and sisters with hearing impairments. Though they have been deprived of the ability to hear, their hearts and souls yearn to experience the words of Allah and grasp their deep meanings.

This project took shape after reviewing a study conducted by a Tafsir Center for Quranic Studies, which examined previous efforts to translate Quranic interpretation into sign language. Despite sincere and dedicated efforts, many of these initiatives did not achieve their intended success due to a lack of expertise in sign language and the absence of the necessary technologies to ensure clarity and accuracy in interpretation. Recognizing this gap, we embarked on our journey with a devoted commitment to bridging it, striving to present content that upholds the grandeur of the Holy Quran while addressing the needs of the deaf community in a professional and innovative manner.

Despite the challenges, our unwavering faith in our mission has been the driving force behind our persistence and progress. Serving the Holy Quran is not merely a project to be completed, rather a covenant, a commitment, and a responsibility toward a cherished group of our society. This award is not merely an honor for our organization; it is a tribute to everyone who believes that the light of the Holy Quran must reach every heart, regardless of barriers. It stands as living proof that sincerity, perseverance, and dedication yield the most meaningful and impactful results.

We pray that Allah grants us success in continuing this blessed journey, makes us among those who serve His Book, and bestows security and faith upon our nation. May He bless all those who have contributed to and supported this noble endeavor.

God Bless,



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Prof. Saad Abdulaziz Al-Rashid

Laureate of King Faisal Prize

Islamic Studies

(Co-Laureate)

Saad Alrashid was born in 1946. He earned his bachelor's degree in history in 1969 from King Saud University. He was granted a scholarship to the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom to study Islamic archaeology. During his academic journey, he conducted field studies in several Arab, Islamic, and European countries to collect information related to his field. He also undertook extensive expeditions along the historic pilgrimage route (Darb Zubayda) from Iraq to Mecca and Medina. Professor Alrashid presented a comprehensive research study titled: Darb Zubayda: The Pilgrimage Route from Kufa to Mecca: A Historical, Civilizational, and Archaeological Study, which earned him a Ph.D. in Islamic Archaeology from the University of Leeds in 1977. Professor Alrashid worked as an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at King Saud University and contributed to establishing the first Department of Archaeology in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, and Yemen in 1978. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1982 and later to Full Professor in 1992. He held several administrative positions at the university, including Vice Dean of the College of Arts, Dean of Library Affairs at King Saud University, Head of the Department of Library and Information Science, and Head of the Department of Archaeology and Museums. He also supervised archaeological excavations at the Islamic city of Al-Rabadha for 25 years. These excavations uncovered features of an early Islamic city associated with the time of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and the Rightly Guided Caliphs, extending into the early Abbasid era. Discoveries included architectural features such as the main mosque, the residential mosque, remnants of palaces and houses, water facilities, and a variety of artifacts. These findings provided insights into the characteristics of early Islamic cities in the Arabian Peninsula and served as a training ground for the first generation of Saudi archaeology students, who benefited from the hands-on experience to work in the Saudi Department of Antiquities. Professor Alrashid also led scientific and exploratory expeditions within and outside the Kingdom.

He was appointed as Deputy for Antiquities and Museums at the Ministry of Education from 1996 to 2005 and later served as an advisor to the President of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage. The Ministry of Culture selected him as one of the curators for the Islamic Biennale. Professor Alrashid has actively participated in numerous conferences, seminars, and scientific associations both within Saudi Arabia and internationally. He has authored many publications and scientific research articles featured in academic journals, as well as Arab and international encyclopedias. Among his notable works are Darb Zubayda: The Pilgrimage Route from Kufa to Mecca – A Historical, Civilizational, and Archaeological Study, Al-Rabadha: A Portrait of Early Islamic Civilization in Saudi Arabia, Unpublished Islamic Inscriptions from 'Rawwa' in Medina, Islamic Inscriptions from Mecca – Study and Analysis, Studies on Early Islamic Archaeology in Medina, Manuscript Inscriptions on Stone from the Asir Region: An Analytical and Comparative Study, and Al-Suwaidra (Formerly Known as Al-Tarf): Its Archaeology and Islamic Inscriptions. In addition, he published an English-language book titled Medieval Routes to Mecca: A Study of the Darb Zubayda Pilgrim Trail (revised by Peter Webb), (Gilgamesh Publishing/King Abdulaziz Public Library), 2020. Professor Alrashid supervised several academic theses and was selected as a member of various councils, associations, advisory committees, and scientific bodies in his field of expertise. He received many awards, honors, and medals, including The King Khalid Medal (Third Class), The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Award for Excellence in Studies and Research on the History of the Arabian Peninsula, The King Abdulaziz Medal (First Class), The Amin Madani Prize for Research on the History of the Arabian Peninsula, and The Award of His Excellency Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Naim for Service to the History and Archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula.





Speech by
Prof. Saad Abdulaziz Al-Rashid

I feel immense joy when speaking about archaeology in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, drawing from my humble experience in study, research, and fieldwork, in addition to my long-standing collaboration with scholars, researchers, technicians, and administrators, each in their respective fields. I fully recognize the vision and commitment of our leadership and officials regarding the significance of our archaeological heritage. I was among the first scholarship students sent abroad to study Islamic archaeology in the Arabian Peninsula, and I had the privilege of embarking on a unique journey tracing the pilgrimage routes across the region. My focus has been on one of the most remarkable Islamic cultural projects of all time, which is the pilgrimage route from Iraq to Makkah and Madinah, known as Darb Zubaydah. I personally explored the archaeological remains along this route, including its sophisticated water structures, architectural landmarks, precise engineering, and the guiding markers that once led thousands of pilgrims, traders, and travelers.

I also had the honor of leading a scientific team from King Saud University to uncover the remains of the Islamic city of Al-Rabadha, a city whose origins trace back to the era of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), the Rightly Guided Caliphs, and the early Islamic centuries. These discoveries provide deep insights into the emergence of early Islamic cities in the Arabian Peninsula. My research has also extended to studying early Islamic inscriptions and rock carvings in Makkah, Madinah, and various locations across the Kingdom. This work has allowed me to trace the origins and evolution of early Islamic calligraphy, the very script in which the Holy Quran was first written, and the earliest manuscripts of the Holy Quran in Madinah.

By the grace of Allah and through collaborative efforts, our profound archaeological heritage is now reaching the world in its most magnificent form. These discoveries provide us with invaluable knowledge about the social, cultural, and economic life of the civilizations that thrived in the Arabian Peninsula for thousands of years. This historical narrative reaches its pinnacle with the dawn of Islam, the revelation of the Holy Quran to our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), and the flourishing of Islamic civilization, which spread from this blessed land to every corner of the world.

I extend my deepest gratitude to King Faisal Foundation and its leadership for honoring me with the 2025 King Faisal Prize for my studies on the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula; it is an honor I cherish dearly. This prestigious award bears the name of a great leader, King Faisal bin Abdulaziz (may Allah have mercy on him), and receiving it is not just a personal achievement but a recognition of the collective efforts of archaeologists, historians, and scholars of Islamic civilization in our beloved Kingdom.

I also sincerely thank King Saud University, particularly the Department of Archaeology and Museums, which I had the honor of helping to establish, as well as my esteemed professors and colleagues in the field. My appreciation extends to the Ministry of Education for its dedicated efforts in preserving our archaeological heritage and for the years I had the honor of serving. I also express my gratitude to the General Authority for Tourism and National Heritage, under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, and subsequently His Highness Prince Badr bin Farhan Al-Saud, for granting me the honor of contributing to the preservation and promotion of our national heritage in various capacities.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to my family for their unwavering support throughout my academic and professional journey.

May God grant us success.



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Prof. Saïd Faiz Alsaïd

Laureate of King Faisal Prize

Islamic Studies

(Co-Laureate)

Said Faiz Alsaïd was born in 1960. He earned a Ph.D. in Semitic Civilizations and Languages from the University of Marburg, Germany in 1994. He served as the Head of the Department of Archaeology, Dean of the College of Tourism and Archaeology, and Dean of the King Abdullah Institute for Research and Consulting Studies. He is the Secretary General of the King Abdullah International Translation Award, a member of the Board of Directors of the Heritage Commission, and a visiting professor at the University of Marburg, Germany (2001), the University of Nancy, France (2007), and the German Archaeological Institute (2015). Professor Alsaïd authored and translated 91 scientific papers on the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula, all of which were published in 15 books and peer-reviewed scientific journals in Arabic, German, English, and French. Professor Alsaïd took part in several archaeological excavations at various sites across Saudi Arabia, including Al-Faw site, Field supervisor for the King Saud University excavation team at the Dadan site (2004-2010), Co-chair of the Saudi-German excavation project in Tayma (2004-2010), and Co-chair of the Saudi-French project for documenting and studying archaeological inscriptions in the Najran region (2007-2014). He also conducted several archaeological surveys at sites such as Al-Birk site in Jazan, Tayma, Tabuk, Najran, Al-Ula, Madain Saleh, Hail, Thaj, and Al-Quwaiyah. The results of these surveys were published in books and peer-reviewed scientific journals. Professor Alsaïd also contributed to navigating and identifying King Abdulaziz's route to reclaim Riyadh and aided in preparing the archaeological content for the National Museum and Al-Murabba Palace. Furthermore, he was involved in the establishment and preparation of academic programs in archaeology, including Chair of the Scientific Committee for establishing the College of Tourism and Archaeology

at King Saud University, Chair of the Scientific Committee for developing the curriculum for the Archaeology program at King Saud University, Chair of the Scientific Committee for developing the curriculum for the Heritage Management program at King Saud University, Chair of the Scientific Committee for the international accreditation of the Archaeology program at King Saud University, and Chair of the Scientific Committee for developing the specialized standards and learning outcomes document for the Archaeology program, a readiness project with the Saudi Education and Training Evaluation Commission. Since 2019, Professor Alsaïd has been selected as a member of Saudi Arabia's team of accredited experts for the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO). He has also supervised 16 master's and doctoral theses in the fields of archaeology and heritage management. He served as the Secretary of the Saudi Archaeological Studies Association from 1998 to 2008, Vice President of the Saudi Archaeological Society in 2021, and Chief Editor of Archaeological Studies journal, the journal of the Saudi Archaeological Studies Association (1998-2006). He was also the Editor of the annual book of the Department of Archaeology, Studies in Archaeology (2006-2013). Professor Alsaïd received several prestigious awards, including King Abdulaziz Prize for the Book in 2014, The King Saud University Deanship of Graduate Studies and Scientific Research Award for Distinguished Scientific Publication in 2011, The Shoman Award for Arab Researchers in 2003, The German Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship in 2000, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Arab Awards Forum in 2021, a Corresponding Member of the German Archaeological Institute since 2006, and a Certificate of Appreciation for Pioneers in Archaeology from the Ministry of Media in 2012.





Speech by
Prof. Saïd Faïz Alsaïd

Being awarded King Faisal Prize for Islamic Studies in the field of «Studies on the Archaeological Heritage of the Arabian Peninsula» is undoubtedly an extraordinary event and a profound honor. It represents a global recognition of scholarly research in the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula and highlights the role of archaeology in shaping cultural identity, shared human history, and sustainable development. Receiving King Faisal Prize, renowned for its global prestige and rigorous academic standards, also serves as a recognition of the historical and cultural significance of the Arabian Peninsula, acknowledging its contributions to humanity through its deep-rooted civilization, rich cultural heritage, and remarkable achievements in thought, art, and architecture. These contributions have played a prominent role in the advancement of human civilization and continue to inspire a sustainable and prosperous future for humanity.

King Faisal Prize's decision to dedicate one of its 2025 awards to the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula sends a clear message about the importance of this heritage. It encourages a renewed reading of ancient Arab history and sheds light on the role of the region's inhabitants in shaping global civilization. It also carries a broader message to the international community about the essential connection between the past, present, and future, emphasizing the need to preserve this invaluable heritage and to foster a culture of preserving historical treasures both tangible and intangible. This effort enables societies to remain connected to their cultural legacy. Today, it is well recognized that heritage is not merely a means of leisure or entertainment but an integral aspect of human well-being, social stability, and sustainable development.

On a personal level, receiving King Faisal Prize for Islamic Studies is not merely a reward for my past work; rather, I see it as a defining milestone in my academic journey and a great honor and a powerful motivation to continue rigorous research on the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula. It also strengthens my commitment to contextualizing its history within the broader narrative of both the Arabian Peninsula's civilizational legacy and world history as a whole.



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Prof. Michel Sadelain

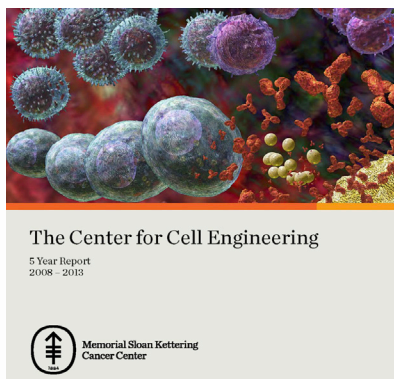
Laureate of King Faisal Prize

Medicine

Michel William Jeffrey Sadelain was born in Paris, France on 21 April, 1960. He received his baccalaureat degree in Math in France and MD degree from the University Paris in 1984, training with Pr. Gabriel Richet. He continued his training in Immunology at the University of Alberta (Edmonton, Canada) with Dr. Thomas Wegmann and pursued his postdoctoral research at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research at MIT (Cambridge, MA) with Dr. Richard Mulligan (1989-94). In 1994 Dr. Sadelain began his work at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he founded the Center for Cell Engineering in 2007.

Dr. Sadelain's research has been on the forefront of stem cell and T cell engineering, with the aim of devising safe, effective, and ultimately curative treatments for severe hereditary blood disorders and cancers. His lab conceived receptors for antigens that he named chimeric antigen receptors (CARs) and identified CD19 as an optimal therapeutic target, for which he provided the first experimental evidence by demonstrating that human T cells could be engineered to effectively target CD19+ lymphomas and leukemias in mice (Brentjens et al, 2003). His lab obtained the first FDA approval for a CD19 CAR therapy trial in the US. In 2013, his team was the first to report dramatic responses to CD19 CAR therapy in adults with relapsed and refractory acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) leading to long-term survival. CAR therapies were approved by the FDA in 2017. The advent of CD19 CAR therapy has paved the way for a nascent global cell therapy industry that is poised to advance other cell-based medicines and regenerative medicine.

Michel Sadelain is an author of over 280 papers and his research has led to the creation of over 60 patents. He previously served on the NIH Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee, as President of the American Society for Gene and Cell Therapy, and is an elected Fellow of the American Association of Cancer Research. He is the recipient of the Cancer Research Institute's Coley Award for Distinguished Research in Tumor Immunology, the Sultan Bin Khalifa International Award for Innovative Medical Research on Thalassemia, the NYIPLA Inventor of the Year award, the Passano award, the Pasteur-Weizmann award, the Gabbay award, the INSERM International Prize Laureate, the ARC Foundation Léopold Griffuel award, the Outstanding Achievement Award from the American Society for Gene and Cell Therapy, the Clarivate Citation Laureate in Physiology or Medicine for breakthrough research advancing CAR therapy for the treatment of cancer, and in 2024 the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences and the Canada Gairdner Award.





Speech by
Prof. Michel Sadelain

I am deeply honored and elated by the recognition bestowed upon my lifetime's research and cell therapy in general. I designed molecules, that I named chimeric antigen receptors (CARs), to guide immune cells to identify CD19 and eliminate undesirable cells. I nicknamed these cells "Living drugs". Such living drugs have been administered to over 50,000 patients worldwide. Countless laboratories are now developing CARs for cancers, autoimmune and neurological disorders.

I want to thank all those who worked with me on the breakthrough of CD19 CAR therapy, chiefly Dr Isabelle Riviere, who demonstrated not only scientific ingenuity but the character and resilience needed to bring CAR T cells to patients when nobody believed in this approach. I want to thank my clinical colleagues and the giants of cell therapy on whose shoulders we stood. I also want to thank my family, for their support and tolerance of my infinite "distraction with research".

Lastly, I want to thank all supporters of science and medical research. Science is a method to understand the world around us, reducing past errors or misconceptions and bringing hope and new possibilities. Once in a while, a new paradigm like CAR therapy emerges. Research that is not motivated by profit depends on governments and benefactors. I want to express my gratitude to His Royal Highness, the King Faisal Prize and its scientific committee for their unwavering support of research, which is unexplainably vacillating back home. My program and my university remain unfalteringly committed to advancing health and innovation for the benefit of mankind.



King Faisal
PRIZE
2025



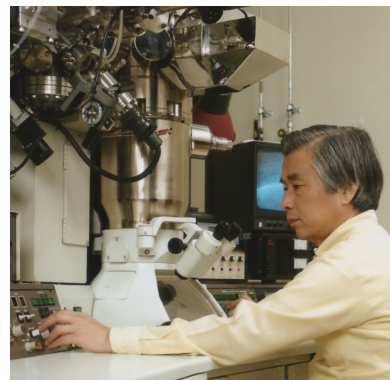
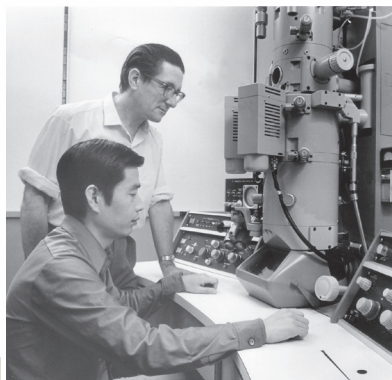
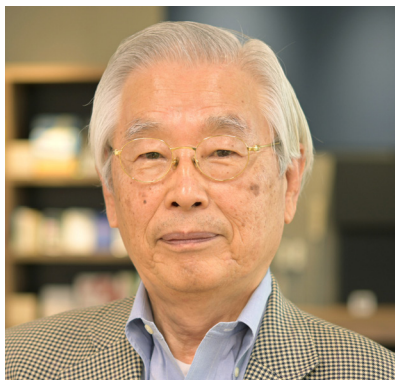
Prof. Sumio Iijima

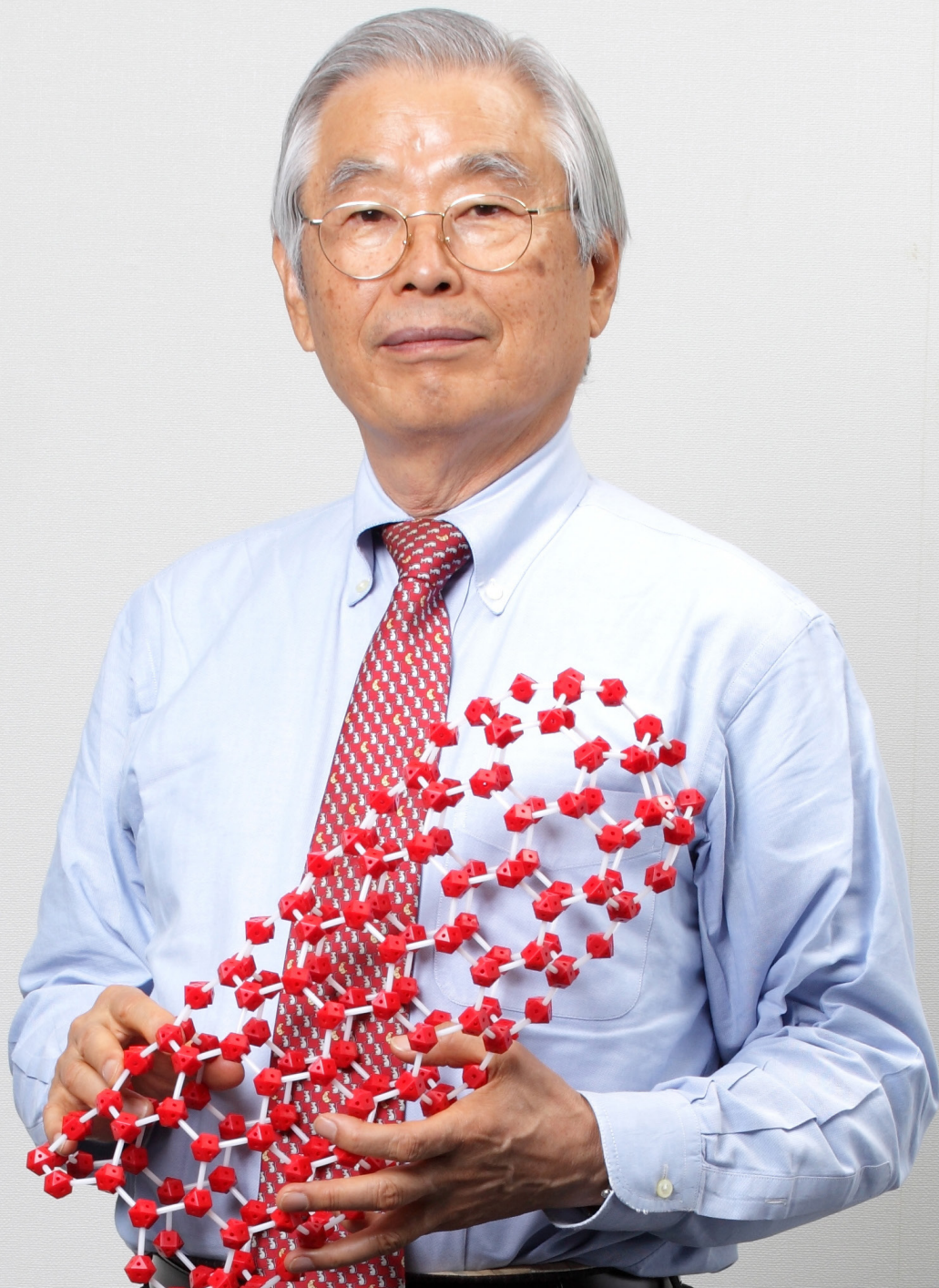
Laureate of King Faisal Prize

Science

Sumio Iijima was born in Saitama Japan on 2 May,1939. He has been a 'University' professor at Meijo University (Nagoya) since 1999 and a Senior Research Fellow at NEC Corporation (Tokyo). He was Former Director of Nanotube Research Center of the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) in Japan and current Honorary Fellow of AIST. After graduating from Electro Communication University in Tokyo, he continued his graduate studies at Tohoku University (Sendai), where he received his Ph.D. in physics in 1968 with a focus on condensed matter physics and electron microscopy. His dissertation was on Print-Out Effects in AgBr Crystals. Later, in 1970, he moved to Arizona State University as a postdoctoral researcher, where he worked with Professor J. Cowley on the development of the high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM) and established the current HRTEM method ahead of the rest of the world. He reported pioneering work on atomic-resolution HRTEM for a variety of materials, including complex oxides, minerals, carbon materials, metal atoms. In the meantime, he was invited to Cambridge University in 1979 and worked on HRTEM imaging of amorphous carbon. After returning to Japan in 1982 and engaged in research on 'Ultra-Fine Particles' for five years as part of the Exploratory Research for Advanced Technology project (National research project), he joined NEC Research Laboratories in1987.

In 1991 he discovered carbon nanotubes, pioneering nanoscience and nanotechnology in the world. The first paper reporting carbon nanotubes currently has 58,000 Google citations and counting. The discovery honored him with numerous invitations to international conferences such as the 2014 KAUST-NSF Conference, as well as awards, prizes and honorary doctates, including the Franklin Medal in physics in 2001, the Agilent Europhysics award, the APS McGroddy prize, the Imperial Prize, the Japan Academy Prize, and Order of Culture Merits (2009). In 2007, he was awarded the Aminoff Prize (Sweden) and the Balzan Prize (Italy), European Inventor Award in 2015. He was elected as Member of the Japan Academy, the foreign member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, the foreign members of the National Academy of Science (USA) and also the Chinese Academy of Sciences.





Speech by
Prof. Sumio Iijima

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia and the King Faisal Foundation for awarding me the 2025 King Faisal Prize in Physics. The late King Faisal supported efforts to alleviate human suffering through advances in research and creative thinking in humans. For now, I don't know if my work is suitable for alleviating human suffering. But I hope so. I received this prestigious prize as a representative of the international scientific community working on nanoscale phenomena in physics and chemistry.

Many researchers from all over the world are making important contributions to nanoscience and nanotechnology. My contribution was the discovery of carbon nanotubes and the elucidation of their atomic structure. They have triggered flourishing nanoscience and nanotechnology. I am honored to be recognized for my achievements today.

My research is based on high resolution electron microscopy, which I have been working on for many years. Without well trained manipulation skill of this instrument there would be no way to find the carbon nanotubes, as they are so small, like on the nanometer scale. I should be grateful to the many researchers and engineers who have developed such an instrument to the point where we can see individual atoms directly. Personally, I also thank my teachers for introducing me to the fascinating unknown world of science, as well to collaborators who helped and inspired me.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife and family for allowing me to stay in a rather challenging and unknown world.