Speech by

Professor Svetlana Mojsov

I want to thank King Faisal Prize, King Faisal Foundation and the international selection committee for this honor recognizing my contribution to the discovery of GLP-1 that laid the foundation for the development of effective therapies for diabetes and obesity.

In the fall of 1983, I initiated experiments at the Endocrine unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston that proved that GLP-1 is an incretin, a peptide secreted in intestine when we eat a meal and stimulates insulin release from the pancreas and thereby regulate glucose metabolism. In subsequent experiments with Dr. David Nathan at the Massachusetts General Hospital, we established that GLP-1 has therapeutic potential for treatment of diabetes.

Twenty five years after we published our findings Novo Nordisk Pharmaceutical Company developed long lasting injectable GLP-1 analogs for diabetes and obesity.

I am humbled that my work that started over 40 years ago with a hypothesis has benefited the health and lives of millions of people worldwide.

Thank you very much.