



King Faisal
PRIZE

**LAUREATES OF KING
FAISAL PRIZE**

2026



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Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud

Patron of the King Faisal Foundation

Content

	Introduction HRH Khalid Al-Faisal Chairman of KFP Board	7		Islamic Studies Professor Moh'd Wahib Hussein	20
	King Faisal Prize Dr. Abdulaziz Alsebaï Secretary General	9		Islamic Studies Professor Abdelhamid Hussein Hammouda	24
	Countries And Laureates 1979-2026	11		Arabic Language & Literature Professor Pierre Larcher	28
	Service to Islam Sheikh Abdullatif Ahmed Alfozan	12		Medicine Professor Svetlana Mojsov	32
	Service to Islam Professor Mohamed Mohamed Aboumoussa	16		Science Professor Carlos Kenig	36



King Faisal

PRIZE
2026



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 48th 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



King Faisal

PRIZE
2026



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 48 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.

48 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 308 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



King Faisal

PRIZE
2026



Countries And Laureates

1979-2026

ARABIC LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE		ISLAMIC STUDIES		SERVICE TO ISLAM		MEDICINE		SCIENCE	
ALGERIA	1	BANGLADESH	1	AFGHANISTAN	1				
AUSTRALIA	1	EGYPT	8	BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	1				
EGYPT	23	FRANCE	1	EGYPT	7				
FRANCE	1	GERMANY	1	FRANCE	1				
IRAQ	3	INDIA	2	INDIA	2				
JORDEN	4	IRAQ	4	INDONESIA	2				
LEBANON	2	JORDEN	4	JAPAN	1				
MOROCCO	9	KUWAIT	1	KUWAIT	3				
PALESTINE	1	LEBANON	1	LEBANON	2				
SAUDI ARABIA	3	MOROCCO	2	MALAYSIA	3				
SUDAN	1	QATAR	1	NIGER	1				
SYRIA	3	SAUDI ARABIA	10	NIGERIA	2	AUSTRALIA	2	AUSTRIA	1
TUNISIA	2	SUDAN	2	PAKISTAN	2	CANADA	6	CANADA	3
UK	1	SYRIA	2	PALESTINE	1	CHINA	1	FRANCE	1
USA	3	TURKEY	2	PHILIPPINES	1	DENMARK	1	GERMANY	6
		UK	2	RUSSIA	1	FRANCE	4	HUNGARY	1
		USA	1	SAUDI ARABIA	18	GERMANY	3	INDIA	1
				SENEGAL	1	ITALY	5	JAPAN	3
				SOUTH AFRICA	1	JAPAN	3	NETHERLANDS	1
				SOUTH KOREA	1	NETHERLANDS	2	RUSSIA	2
				SUDAN	2	SWEDEN	1	SWITZERLAND	3
				TANZANIA	1	SWITZERLAND	2	TUNISIA	1
				TURKEY	1	UK	14	UK	14
				UAE	3	USA	34	USA	31

TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL	
LAUREATES	COUNTRIES	LAUREATES	COUNTRIES	LAUREATES	COUNTRIES	LAUREATES	COUNTRIES	LAUREATES	COUNTRIES
58	15	45	17	59	24	78	13	68	13

TOTAL LAUREATES 308

TOTAL COUNTRIES 45



King Faisal

PRIZE
2026



Sheikh Abdullatif Ahmed Alfozan

Laureate of King Faisal Prize

Service to Islam

(Co-Laureate)

Abdullatif bin Ahmed Alfozan one of the prominent figures in business and social development in Saudi Arabia. He was born in Al-Zulfi, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in 1937 and grew up in a well-established merchant family, which shaped his early path and exposed him to practical experience from a young age. With direct support from his father, he learned the details of trade and business management during a period when the Gulf region was witnessing strong economic growth. He later moved to Al-Khobar, where he founded Abdullatif and Mohammed Alfozan Company with his brother. Under his leadership and vision, the company grew into a major economic group with more than forty companies operating in industry, commerce, retail, and urban development, in addition to investments through Alfozan Holding. Alongside this growth, Shaikh Abdullatif remained committed to building strong nonprofit institutions Ajwad Endowment was established as a platform for community sustainability, and launched Alfozan Social Foundation, which became a leading platform for social innovation and has reached more than one million direct beneficiaries across Saudi Arabia. His contributions extended to education, health, and urban development, and Alfozan Academy at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals is one of his most notable initiatives, designed to develop leaders for the nonprofit sector. He also founded the Abdullatif Alfozan Autism Center (Afaq), the largest of its kind in the Middle East, in addition to several health and rehabilitation centers in Al-Zulfi and Al-Khobar in the field of architecture and urban development, he launched the Abdullatif Alfozan Award

for Mosque Architecture, which became an international reference in documenting architectural innovation. He also established Mosqpedia, the first digital encyclopedia dedicated to mosque architecture, along with initiatives such as affordable housing programs, Mujassam Watan, and several environmental projects such as Ertiqa association for computer refurbishment.

Sheikh Abdullatif's contributions continued beyond Saudi Arabia. His efforts include establishing Islamic centers in various countries, building mosques and digging wells in India and Indonesia, and beyond. He also contributed to restoring dozens of schools in Syria in cooperation with the King Salman Humanitarian Aid And Relief Centre and establishing a housing endowment for students of knowledge in Jordan. In addition, through the award and the academy, he contributed to developing knowledge resources such as national guides for mosque construction, training courses, and professional standards for the nonprofit sector, which are now recognized as national references in Saudi Arabia. Sheikh Abdullatif Alfozan has been widely recognized at the Arab and international levels, including an honorary award from The World Peace and Prosperity Foundation at the British Parliament in 2017, and his selection among the most influential Arab figures in social responsibility in 2020. Sheikh Abdullatif remains a model of a business leader who combined economic vision with a deep human spirit, dedicating his experience to building lasting social influence inside and outside Saudi Arabia.





Speech by
Sheikh Abdullatif Ahmed Alfozan

Praise be to Allah for His grace, guidance, and bounty, and may peace and blessings be upon His Messenger, who calls to His pleasure.

To begin with, I extend my profound thanks and sincere appreciation to all those involved with King Faisal Prize for this precious confidence and gracious gesture, which I highly cherish. I ask the Almighty Allah for help and dedication in fulfilling this responsibility, which I consider a weighty duty before being an exalted honor. Serving Islam is a continuing path and a trust that is renewed; it is the highest goal, the greatest distinction, and the most enduring legacy. For this reason, commercial establishments are a means, not an end, and a path to serving Islam, building homelands, and ensuring human prosperity. True loyalty requires that giving become a deeply rooted principle and a constant endeavor through which we seek divine reward and strive to leave a meaningful impact.

I praise Allah, who has bestowed upon me countless blessings, and I see it as a duty of gratitude to strive in action, together with loyal companions and dutiful descendants, to establish development initiatives that are clear in vision and lofty in purpose. These initiatives are grounded in thoughtful planning to achieve tangible results, drawing their light from the noble faith of Islam, guided by its teachings, extending benefit to people wherever they may be, contributing to the renaissance of the ummah, and serving Islam and Muslims.

We hope these initiatives will become enduring building blocks of goodness and lasting benefit, and a human message that transcends borders and reaches every corner of the earth, by Allah's permission. We firmly believe that reliance on Allah is the best beginning for any goal, that true success comes from Him alone, and that when an endeavor seeks His pleasure, He envelops it in His blessings.

Ultimately, I advise myself first, and all who read these words, to strive in serving their faith, their homeland, and their ummah to the best of their ability. Good deeds are not measured by their size, but by the sincerity of their intention and the depth of their impact. I ask the Almighty Allah to make our intentions purely for His noble sake, to grant acceptance to all that we do and say, to aid us in bearing this trust and fulfilling it well, and to guide us to all that is good, making what has been accomplished beneficial in this life and stored for us in the Hereafter.



King Faisal

PRIZE
2026



Professor Mohamed Mohamed Aboumoussa

Laureate of King Faisal Prize

Service to Islam

(Co-Laureate)

Mohammad Mohammad Aboumoussa was born in Kafr El Sheikh city, Arab Republic of Egypt, in 1937. He memorized the Holy Qur'an at an early age. In 1949, he was enrolled at al-Azhar institute as a young student. He then became an undergraduate student at the faculty of Arabic Language, al-Azhar University - Cairo from 1958 to 1963. He earned his Master's degree in 1967 and his PhD in 1971 both in Arabic rhetoric and criticism from the same faculty.

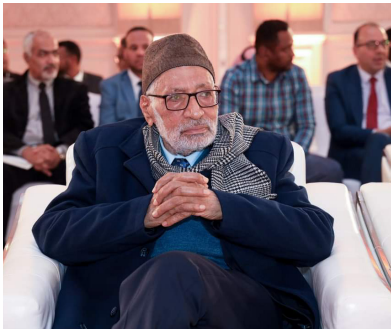
He was appointed as a teaching assistant in the Department of Rhetoric and Criticism at the Faculty of Arabic Language in 1964 and progressed through academic ranks until he became a full professor in 1981. He served as Head of the Department of Rhetoric and Criticism at the Faculty of Arabic Language, and was a member of the Permanent Academic Committee for Promotions. He taught at various universities in Egypt, Libya, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia. He has also been a founding member of the Council of Senior Scholars at Al-Azhar since 2012.

He enriched the linguistic and rhetorical field with 33 books, most of which were published in multiple editions. These books have become essential references for researchers. They most importantly deal with the different branches of rhetoric, rhetorical criticism, textual analysis (poetry, prophetic traditions and the Qur'an), elucidation of medieval books to young generations, and profound investigation of the rhetorical inimitability of the Qur'an.

Professor Aboumoussa has established an original approach in reforming rhetorical study. Furthermore, he has an essential and significant contribution in debunking the westernizing culture that targets the culture of the Islamic nation. He has instructed and nurtured many students and scholars in the Islamic world.

Professor Aboumoussa held a scholarly teaching circle at Al-Azhar mosque since 18/2/2014, in which he taught the two most important books in Arabic rhetoric, Secrets of Eloquence and Proofs of Inimitability by Imam Abd Al-Qahir Al-Jurjani. He finished explaining these books in 28/12/2025 with almost 350 teaching circles, i.e., classes).

In recognition of his scholarly work, 15 theses and academic studies have been written to examine his intellectual contributions. A commemorative volume was published containing 20 articles and research about his works. A section of his biography has been included in Arabic rhetoric textbooks of high schools' pupils. He was selected among the top 10 figures in the Arab and Islamic world in terms of scholarly contribution to be honored in the inaugural session of the Doha Arab Book Award in 2024.





Speech by
Professor Mohamed Mohamed Aboumoussa

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. Praise be to Allah, Lord of all worlds, and may peace and blessings be upon the Master of the first and the last, and upon his family and all who follow them in goodness until the Day of Judgment.

To begin, Allah Almighty knows that I have found nothing with which I can truly repay you for the honor you have bestowed upon me, an honor that came as a surprise and one I had not been seeking, except to pray that Allah have mercy on your departed ones, grant strength and dignity to your living, be with you in His support and victory, and bless you with a love of all that is good and a devotion to righteous deeds for the benefit of this ummah, which our Lord has described as the best ummah ever brought forth for humankind. I ask that Allah make you worthy successors to worthy predecessors. Allah has ennobled this land, choosing the best of His creation from it, may blessings and peace be upon him, and revealing the best of His Books in the tongue of its people, confirming earlier scriptures and standing as a guardian over them. Upon the soil of this land, Allah then raised up the finest generation on earth, the Companions of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, whom He made radiant beacons of light; whichever of them you follow, you will be rightly guided. He also caused the hearts of people to yearn toward this land, which He distinguished with the Two Holy Mosques, and I pray that He continue to pour His bounty upon its all eras.

Allah has honored you and planted in your hearts a love of good for all the people, so that you show compassion to those among them who excel in any branch of knowledge, regardless of religion, gender, or race. He has settled His words in your hearts: “And We have certainly honored the children of Adam.” He has told us that He does not burden any soul beyond its capacity and mentioned “capacity” as the utmost limit of a soul’s strength. This is a clear directive that each of us should expend the best of their ability in the work entrusted to them, and that each of us should be a new building block in the field in which they serve, just as the Prophet, peace be upon him, was a unique cornerstone in his own. The almighty Allah has further guided us to direct that utmost effort toward excellence, informing us that “[He] who created death and life to test you [as to] which of you is best in deed.” Thus, all deeds are alike in form; what truly counts is the quality of excellence. Allah has honored you by making you among the finest leaders of the finest ummah brought forth for humankind, and He has granted you a clear understanding of what produces such a community that is knowledge, excellence, mastery of one’s work, full dedication to it, and love for caring for its people. “And say, “Do [as you will], for Allah will see your deeds, and [so, will] His Messenger and the believers. And you will be returned to the Knower of the unseen and the witnessed, and He will inform you of what you used to do.”

And may the peace, mercy, and blessings of Allah be upon you.



King Faisal

PRIZE
2026



Professor Moh'd Wahib Hussein

Laureate of King Faisal Prize

Islamic Studies

(Co-Laureate)

Moh'd Waheeb Hussein was born in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in 1962. He earned his bachelor's degree in archaeology from the University of Jordan in 1984, and his master's degree from the same university in 1988. He continued his training with foreign archaeological missions from Canada, Europe, the United States, and Japan, alongside his academic studies. He earned his Ph.D. from Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey, in 1991.

He joined the Department of Antiquities in Amman, where he established the Cultural Resources Management program to serve as a foundation for managing cultural heritage using modern technologies and applying this approach across the Arab world. He supervised excavation and survey projects in the field, including the discovery of the Baptism site (Al-Maghtas), the identification of ancient road networks, and the Islamic palace of Al-Muwaqqar. His work led to several discoveries that supported social, economic, and cultural development in local communities.

Professor Waheeb's research focused heavily on excavations and field studies, especially in the area of technology related to metal production, with a particular focus on copper. He identified ancient manufacturing centers in Wadi Arabah and Feynan, as well as the old trade routes connected to these centers. He helped establish the study of archaeometallurgy in Jordan and published several articles and books on copper mining, its ores, and its production methods throughout history.

His work also concentrated on locating sites of global significance, most notably the discovery of the Baptism site of Jesus (Al-Maghtas) on the eastern bank of the Jordan River. The site was recognized by the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2015.

Professor Waheeb authored more than one hundred peer-reviewed scientific articles and 56 specialized books organized as academic series. His research has produced discoveries of global, regional, and local importance. He discovered forty major findings, including the discovery of the Long Jordan Wall in 2021; the discovery of the homeland of the Prophet Lot on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea along the route of the Elaf Road in 2017; the discovery of the Midian civilization in 2020; and the identification and documentation of historical routes using aerial imaging, such as the Christian Pilgrimage Route in 2023, the International Incense Trade Route, and the Makkah Elaf Route between 2023 and 2024.

He received many awards and certificates of appreciation, including the Abdul Hameed Shoman Regional Award for Young Arab Researchers in 2000; the Distinguished Researcher Award at the Hashemite University in 2007; the Distinguished Researcher Award from the Association of Italian Tourism Organizations, Piacenza in 2012; the Innovation and Excellence Award at the Hashemite University in 2014; the Special Medal for Arab Inspiring Figures in Dubai in 2024 and Jerusalem Award 2025.





Speech by
Professor Mlo'h'd Wahib Hussein

I extend my deepest respect and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, may Allah protect him, the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, for their wise leadership of the Kingdom and their sincere devotion to knowledge and scholars.

I also express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to King Faisal Prize, which, since its establishment, has remained committed to upholding rigorous academic standards and enhancing its presence at the local, Arab, and international levels. It is, in every sense, a prize for dedicated scholars. The prize continues to advance with steady steps that have solidified its stature, making it a distinguished platform for excellence and creativity. It has shed a light on honorable figures who serve as true role models, helping drive progress and build a knowledge-based society founded on innovation and achievement.

My sincerest thanks and profound gratitude go to His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Chairman of King Faisal Prize Board, and His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al-Faisal, Chairman of the Board of the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, as well as to the esteemed members of the Prize Board. Their dedication and thoughtful leadership have played a pivotal role in developing the prize's programs, strengthening its credibility, and ensuring the continuity of its positive impact. I also extend thanks to King Faisal Prize Secretariat, whose tireless efforts in organization and communication have been essential to the success we celebrate today.

This prize stands as proof that excellence knows no geographical boundaries; it is shaped by vision and sustained by hard work. It has reinforced its role as a platform that promotes best practices, upholds shared human values, and emphasizes the importance of investing in people as the true foundation of sustainable development.

I also would like to congratulate my fellow laureates on the 2026 award, who represent shining examples of dedication and excellence, and I wish them continued success. May this recognition serve as both encouragement for greater creativity and achievement, and as an inspiration for others to follow the path of distinction.

Finally, this honor is one I shall always cherish, and a responsibility I accept with sincere commitment to continue contributing toward the goals and noble message of this prize. I pray that Allah grants continued success to all those responsible for this prize, and that it may go on fulfilling its pioneering role locally, regionally, and globally.

I close with the inspiring words of His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, may Allah protect him: "The glory of individuals does not come from status, lineage, or ancestry; it is born of their great deeds that serve their faith, their nation, their country, and all humanity."



King Faisal

PRIZE
2026



Professor Abdelhamid Hussein Hammouda

Laureate of King Faisal Prize

Islamic Studies

(Co-Laureate)

Abdelhamid Hussein Mahmoud Hammouda was born in Faqus city, Ash Sharqiyah Governorate, Arab Republic of Egypt in 1961. He studied in the Faculty of Arts at Zagazig University, Department of History, from 1979 to 1983, then received his master's degree in Islamic history in 1988 with excellent distinction. He completed his Ph.D. in Islamic history at the Faculty of Arts, Minia University, graduating with excellent distinction and first-class honors.

In 1989, he was appointed as a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Arts, Cairo University – Khartoum Branch, and in 1994, he moved to the Fayoum Branch of Cairo University. He held several administrative positions within the university, including Head of the History Department in both the Faculties of Education and Arts from 2003 until 2006, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Arts for Post-Graduate Studies and Research in 2009, and Dean of the Faculty of Arts from 2011 until 2018. He also supervised the Departments of English, Chinese, Libraries, and Information Systems. He served as a member on the editorial boards of several peer-reviewed academic journals. In 2009, he was selected by the university on an academic mission as a visiting researcher at S.O.A.S., University of London in the United Kingdom.

Professor Hammouda authored several encyclopedias, including The Encyclopedia of the History of Islamic States in the East, in ten volumes; The Encyclopedia of the Early Islamic Period and Its Civilization, in six volumes; and The Encyclopedia of Trade Routes in the Islamic World,

in five volumes. The Encyclopedia of the frontier cities of the Islamic state, in six volumes. He also authored around sixteen books on various fields of Islamic history and Islamic civilization that were all published in Cairo. His books include International Relations in Islam, The History of Andalusia in the Islamic Era, The History of the Umayyad State, Entertainment and Leisure Means among Muslims from the Rise of Islam to the Late Eighth Century AH, and The Treatment of Prisoners in Islam.

He published more than 20 research papers on different aspects of Islamic history in the journals of Faculties of Arts at Egyptian universities and in the Union of Arab Historians.

In 2019, he was selected as a member of the Committee of wise Men at Fayoum University and was awarded the Encouragement Prize in scientific writing and translation from the same University in 2014. He also participated in several conferences in many countries.





Speech by
Professor Abdelhamid Hussein Hammouda

Praise be to Allah, Lord of all worlds, and may peace and blessings be upon our Master Muhammad, the Arab Prophet who taught the learners, and the Messenger who instilled hope in the hearts of the hopeless.

At the outset, I wish to express my sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to those responsible for King Faisal Prize, for their dedicated and continuous efforts that have earned this prize a distinguished position among leading academic institutions and universities across the Arab and international worlds.

This prize embodies the pioneering role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its esteemed stature as the Land of the Two Holy Mosques, toward which the hearts of Muslims from every corner of the globe yearn.

One of the significant topics addressed by the prize in the field of Islamic Studies in its forty-eighth session is Trade Routes in the Islamic World. These routes have always represented the lifelines connecting people and nations throughout history. Along these routes caravans of merchants traveled eastward, westward, northward, and southward, laden with goods of every kind. Commercial exchange flourished along these routes, and they became conduits through which ideas, beliefs, and cultures were transmitted. They became the arteries linking civilizations. Traveling those routes were merchants and seekers of wealth, pilgrims, soldiers, adventurers, and migrants. It was also along these same routes that the Islamic conquests advanced to distant lands, carrying the noble message of Islam.

The caliphs of the Islamic state, throughout successive eras, gave great care to maintaining the land and sea trade routes. Ensuring safety for merchants and caravans was regarded as an essential condition for commercial activity, so they took measures to maintain, supervise, and secure the routes from bandits and thieves. They also built caravanserais, hostels, bridges, and wells along these routes. Tribunes were established in frontier regions to facilitate travel, encourage settlement, and maintain the routes. Naval fleets were constructed to defend the coast from pirate raids.

These efforts had a profound impact on the vitality of both local and regional trade. Muslim caravans navigated land and sea routes alike, leading to the continued growth and prosperity of commerce throughout Islamic civilization. Diverse means of transport, especially camels, mules, and donkeys, served as the backbone of overland trade across the eastern Islamic world and beyond.



King Faisal

PRIZE
2026



Professor Pierre Larcher

Laureate of King Faisal Prize

Arabic Language and Literature

Pierre Larcher was born on May 23, 1948 in Paris, France. He graduated from Sorbonne University in 1969 with a BA in Classics (French, Latin and Greek), and from Sorbonne Nouvelle University in 1972 with a BA and MA in Arabic. In 1980, he defended a 3rd cycle thesis in Arabic linguistics, and in 1996, a state thesis in letters and humanities. Between 1971 and 1982, he worked as a teacher and researcher in various countries of the Arab world (Syria, Libya, Morocco). From 1983 to 2016, he taught at various French universities (Lille, Rennes, Avignon, and Aix-en-Provence), during that period he went on a sabbatical year (1989-1990) at the French Institute for Arabic Studies in Damascus. Since 2016, he has been Emeritus Professor of Arabic Linguistics at Aix-Marseille University and Emeritus Researcher at the Institute for Studies and Research on the Arab and Muslim Worlds in Aix.

Pierre Larcher's scientific activity focuses on two main areas. Firstly, linguistics, mainly Arabic in addition to Semitic and General linguistics, and secondly, the analysis and translation of Arabic literature, mainly pre-Islamic Arabic poetry. In the first field, his work, often considered innovative, covers the history of the Arabic linguistic tradition, pragmatics, the verbal system, syntax, sociolinguistics and language history, and lexicology. In the second field, his translations have been well received in France and throughout the world,

particularly that of the *Mu'allaqât* : published in 2000, and republished in 2015, which was invited to be part of the French version of *The Mu'allaqât for the Millennials of Ithra*, published in 2022.

Pierre Larcher's bibliography comprises 350 items, including 10 personal works, twelve editor or coeditor of collective works, 180 articles and 95 reviews. He is a member of the editorial board of ten French and foreign scientific journals and a member of several learned societies. He was honored in 2016 for his work in the field of Arabic Linguistics, and in 2008 and 2014 for his work in the field of translation. Since 2015, he has been a member of the *Accademia Ambrosiana (Classis Orientalis)* in Milan (Italy).





Speech by
Professor Pierre Larcher

I feel immense pride and honor for receiving the 2026 King Faisal Prize for Arabic Language and Literature, whose topic this year is Arabic Literature in French. I also wish to express my deep appreciation to King Faisal Prize board and the refereeing members who have bestowed this distinction upon me.

I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Institute for Research and Studies on Arab and Muslim Worlds, affiliated with Aix-Marseille University, where I serve as Professor Emeritus, for nominating and supporting my candidacy for King Faisal Prize.

Winning such an international prize is a tribute to half a century of continuous academic work in the fields of Arabic linguistics and the translation of Arabic literature, particularly pre-Islamic Arabic poetry; two disciplines closely intertwined. Pre-Islamic poetry occupies in the Arab civilization a place comparable to that of Homer's works in the Greek civilization.

Through my experience as a translator and my specialization in Arabic classics, I am convinced that poetry can only be truly translated through poetry itself. My translations, above all, rest on a linguistic analysis of the poems, carried out using the tools of modern textual linguistics.

Finally, I dedicate this prize to the memory of my mentor, André Miquel (1929-2022), who held the Chair of Classical Arabic Language and Literature at the Collège de France in Paris. He supervised all my academic work, beginning with my master's thesis in 1972, devoted to the structural analysis of the Mu'allaqat. He also wrote the preface to my translation of The Mu'allaqat, first published in 2000 and republished in 2015. That translation later enabled me to contribute to the French edition of the Mu'allaqat, Millennium Generation, issued by Ithra Center in 2022.



King Faisal

PRIZE
2026



Professor Svetlana Mojsob

Laureate of King Faisal Prize

Medicine

Svetlana Mojsov was born in Skopje in Northern Macedonia on 8 December, 1947. She obtained her B.S in Physical Chemistry from the University of Belgrade in 1971, and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from The Rockefeller University in 1978. Mojsov studied solid phase peptide chemistry with Dr. R. B. Merrifield at Rockefeller University. In her thesis she reported the first solid phase synthesis of crystalline Glucagon. She remained in the Merrifield laboratory as a postdoctoral fellow from 1978-1981 and a research associate from 1981-1983. In 1983 she was appointed a Member of the Endocrine Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital and an Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School. In 1983 she was also appointed as an Associate in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Director of the HHMI peptide core facility. In 1990 she returned to Rockefeller University as an Assistant Professor and in 2002 she was promoted to Research Associate Professor.

In 1983 the sequence of the human pre-proglucagon gene was published, and Dr. Mojsov then postulated that the encoded polyprotein would be cleaved to produce a biologically active GLP-1 (7-37) peptide. This was a unique and critical insight. Starting 1983, as an independent Harvard and HHMI scientist, she synthesized the glucagon-like peptides that she predicted. She then developed analytical methods to separate the peptides and develop a radioimmunoassay for their detection.

Mojsov used these methods to detect GLP-1 (7-37) in the intestines of rats, establishing it as a candidate incretin and reported her results in a landmark JBC paper. She collaborated with Habener and Weir to show that GLP1 (7-37) elicited insulin secretion from the pancreas and with Nathans to show that it did so in humans suffering from type II diabetes. Her experiments established the therapeutic potential of GLP-1 (7-37) and led to co-inventorship with Joel Habener on patents on the use of GLP-1 for treatment of Type 2 diabetes and obesity.

Her fundamental contributions have been recognized by the Vinfuture prize 2024; Pearl Meister Greengard award 2024; Time magazine 100 Most Influential People 2024; Tang prize 2024; Princess of Asturias Prize 2024; Lasker Award 2024; Warren Tri-annual prize 2025; Breakthrough Prize 2025; BBVA Frontiers of Knowledge Award 2025.





Speech by
Professor Svetlana Alojsov

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.



King Faisal

PRIZE
2026



Professor Carlos Kenig

Laureate of King Faisal Prize

Science

Carlos E Kenig was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 25 November 1953. He obtained his B.Sc. in Mathematics from the University of Buenos Aires in 1973, and his M.Sc. in 1975 and Ph.D. in 1978 from the University of Chicago in Mathematics. In 1978 he was appointed as an instructor at Princeton University and then moved to the University of Minnesota as an assistant Professor where he rose to the rank of Professor in 1985. Later in 1985 he moved to the University of Chicago, and in 1999 he was elected as the Louis Block Distinguished Service Professor in the Mathematics Department. He has served as President of the International Mathematical Union from 2019 to 2022.

Kenig is recognized for his applications of tools and techniques of harmonic analysis to a number of different areas of partial differential equations. In particular, in the last 30 years Kenig has made pioneering contributions to the study of nonlinear dispersive equation, including his recent research on the long-time behavior of large solutions to critical nonlinear wave equations.

Kenig was awarded the Salem Prize in 1984 and the Bocher Prize of the American Mathematical Society in 2008. Kenig received the Solomon Lefschetz medal of the Mathematical Council of the Americas in 2021 and the ICMAM Latin America Prize in 2024.

He was an invited speaker at the International Congress of Mathematicians in 1984 and 2002 and a plenary speaker in 2010. In 2017 Kenig delivered the American Mathematical Society's colloquium lectures.

Kenig is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Mathematical Society. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences of the US, a Foreign Member of the Istituto Lombardo, a Foreign Academician of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Spain, a Corresponding Member of the Academia Nacional de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales of Argentina, and a past vice-president of the American Mathematical Society. Kenig has received doctorates honoris causa from the Université de Cergy-Pontoise and from the Universidad del País Vasco.





Speech by
Professor Carlos Kenig

Your Majesty the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaz Al Saud, I'm honored and deeply grateful to be awarded the 2026 King Faisal Prize in Science on the topic of Mathematics. I also thank the Chairman of the Prize's Board, His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, and the Selection Committee of the King Faisal Prize for having selected me for this sterling distinction.

I became interested in mathematics at the age of 12, when in my first year of high school in my native country Argentina, our math teacher taught us Euclidean geometry, and how to prove rigorously theorems about triangles. I was hooked from that time on! I then had the very good fortune to study at the University of Chicago, and to be a postdoc at Princeton University, under some of the most outstanding mathematicians of the 20th century. These experiences influenced the direction of my research, which turned to topics in mathematical analysis, and eventually mostly to the study of the partial differential equations that govern our physical world.

My style of work has always been collaborative, sharing the research enterprise with many outstanding collaborators, postdocs and students. I single out here Gustavo Ponce, Luis Vega, Thomas Duyckaerts and Frank Merle.

Personally, I have had the invaluable support of my parents, Natalio and Aida, and of my brother Jorge. My wife Sarah and our daughters Lucy and Anna's love and unconditional support have been indispensable for all aspects of my life.

