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**Award of the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region**

1. The Foundation for the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region was established in 2003. The Regional Committee at its 65th session in October 2018, based on the recommendation of the Foundation Committee, decided to award the prize to: Dr Samar Alhomoud (Saudi Arabia) in the area of cancer; Dr Abba Mehio Sibai (Lebanon) in the area of cardiovascular disease; and Dr Alireza Esteghamati (Islamic Republic of Iran) in the area of diabetes. The Prize will be presented to the laureates during the 66th session of the Regional Committee in 2019.
2. Professor Samar Alhomoud is being honoured for her significant contribution in the field of cancer. She obtained both the Saudi Board and the Arab Board of General Surgery, before completing a fellowship training programme in colorectal surgery at St Mark's Hospital in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2004, and obtaining the European Board of Surgery Qualification in Coloproctology. Professor Alhomoud was one of the first female colorectal surgeons in Saudi Arabia, and is currently working as a consultant in colorectal surgery at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center in Riyadh. She was the first Saudi woman surgeon from the Middle East to be appointed as Chair of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Ethics Committee in 2018. A regional expert in the field of colorectal cancer screening and prevention, Professor Alhomoud has been involved in drafting national and international policies and WHO regional recommendations. She sits on numerous influential committees and has several publications in international medical journals. The King of Saudi Arabia, Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, recently presented Professor Samar Alhomoud with the King Abdulaziz Medal of the First Class in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the fields of cancer and research.
3. Dr Abba Mehio Sibai is being honoured for her significant contribution in the field of cardiovascular diseases. Dr Sibai has a BSc in pharmacy from the American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon, and in 1997 received a PhD in epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Dr Sibai is currently a Professor of Epidemiology and Population Health in the Faculty of Health Sciences at AUB. She is a co-founder of the AUB University for Seniors programme, and a founding director of the Center for Studies on Aging in Lebanon. Dr Sibai is on the editorial board of several international journals, and is a member of the World Economic Forum and a board member of HelpAge International. Her vast experience in researching noncommunicable diseases focuses on cardiovascular health among older adults. She is the author of over 170 scholarly articles in prestigious journals, in addition to book chapters and scientific reports. She has received many national and international awards, including the Dr A.T. Shousha Foundation Prize in 2014.
4. Dr Alireza Esteghamati is being honoured for his significant contribution in the field of diabetes. Dr Esteghamati graduated in 1990, obtaining a Doctorate of Medicine from Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Islamic Republic of Iran. In 2005, he became Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Endocrinology and then Deputy of Education at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. Since 2011, Dr Esteghamati has been Professor of Internal Medicine and Endocrinology at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. Dr Esteghamati served as a consultant to the Director of

Noncommunicable Diseases in the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, and was a main investigator in national surveillance of noncommunicable disease risk factors in the Islamic Republic of Iran. He is a member of several scientific committees and has published numerous articles on cancer, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes prevention and control in medical journals. Dr Esteghamati has received many national awards, including an award for research in diabetes from the Iranian Diabetes Society in 2016.