

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**  
Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean  
**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE**  
Bureau régional de la Méditerranée orientale



مِنظَرَةُ الصَّحَّةِ الْعَالَمِيَّةِ  
المكتب الإقليمي شرق المتوسط

**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR  
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**Agenda item 12**

**NOMINATIONS FOR JACQUES PARISOT FOUNDATION  
FELLOWSHIP AWARD**

## **NOMINATIONS FOR JACQUES PARISOT FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP AWARD**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Every two years, the Jacques Parisot Foundation awards a fellowship for research in social medicine or public health, and also a medal. The following procedure is followed for the selection of candidates:

1. The Regional Director invites Member States of the Region to propose candidates.
2. The proposals received are submitted to the Eastern Mediterranean Advisory Committee on Health Research for preliminary review and assessment.
3. The Advisory Committee transmits its report to the Regional Committee, which selects up to three candidates.
4. Names of these candidates are submitted to the Foundation Committee accompanied by the Advisory Committee's assessment and the Regional Committee's comments.
5. The Foundation Committee makes recommendations to the Executive Board with which the final decision rests.

Following satisfactory completion of the research project concerned, the medal is presented at the World Health Assembly.

The calendar for the Award is attached as an Annex.

In 1999, in connection with the award of the thirteenth fellowship, it is the turn of the Eastern Mediterranean Region to nominate candidates. In his letter to Member States, the Regional Director suggested that the subject for research be concerned with healthy lifestyles.

Five proposals have been received, summaries of which are given hereunder. Since the Eastern Mediterranean Advisory Committee on Health Research did not meet in 1999, the proposals were reviewed by the chairman who recommended the following order of priority for the five proposals.

### **2. PROPOSED NAMES AND SUBJECTS**

#### **1. Dr Laura Papantoniou**

Department of Medical and Public Health Services, Ministry of Health, Cyprus

***Title:***

Study of the knowledge, attitudes and behaviour in relation to AIDS, sex and sexually transmitted diseases among the adult population of the town of Limassol and rural areas of Cyprus.

***Objectives:***

1. Obtain quantifiable data on the profile of individuals who engage in risky behaviours in relation to AIDS, sex and sexually transmitted diseases.
2. Identify risk factors in relation to sexual transmission of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.
3. Evaluate prevention indicators of the national AIDS programme.

4. Establish base line information for National AIDS Programme monitoring and evaluation.
5. Measure trends over time in relation to knowledge, attitudes and behaviour on AIDS, sex and sexually transmitted diseases.
6. Use the data collected for National AIDS Programme organization, planning and policy-making in relation to control of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.

***Research methodology:***

1. Data collection: through a population-based interview to obtain information on demographic characteristics, habits, knowledge and beliefs, attitudes and behaviour towards AIDS, sex and sexually transmitted diseases.
2. A stratified random sample of 500 persons will be selected from the electoral register.
3. Preparation of questionnaires and training of interviewers.
4. Analysis of data.
5. Use data in policy decisions in relation to prevention and control of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS.

***Comment of chairman ACHR:***

Proposal well written. It deals with an important health problem closely linked to lifestyles.

**2. Mrs Fawzia Al Awadi**

Director, Food and Nutrition Administration, Ministry of Health, Kuwait

***Title:***

Investigation of food habits and dietary patterns of adolescents in Kuwait.

***Objectives:***

1. Investigate food habits and dietary patterns of adolescents in Kuwait.
2. Assess the nutritional status of male and female adolescents.
3. Evaluate the impact of food habits and dietary practices on the nutritional status of adolescents.

***Research and methodology:***

1. Selection of a representative sample of male and female adolescents from five governorates in Kuwait.
2. Collection of data on socioeconomic and educational background, food habits and dietary practices especially in relation to consumption of fast foods.
3. Assessment of nutritional status (height, weight and body mass) to determine underweight, normal or overweight and grade.
4. Assess prevalence of anaemia by haemoglobin measurement
5. Analyse data to assess association between food consumption patterns and nutritional status of adolescents.

***Comments of chairman ACHR:***

The plan is acceptable. It deals with an important lifestyle closely linked with the nutritional status.

### **3. Dr Hicham Al Dabbagh**

Director, Primary Health Care, Hama Province, Syrian Arab Republic

***Title:***

Study of healthy lifestyles in Hama Province, Syrian Arab Republic

***Objectives:***

1. Determine the lifestyles in Hama province particularly those related to health.
2. Identify weaknesses and shortcomings and hence put proposals to improve the situation of adopting healthy lifestyles in the province.

***Research and methodology:***

1. Selection of a stratified random sample of 300 houses from the province
2. Collection of data through a questionnaire during a home visit and recording relevant observations:
  - Data about the house and its sanitation
  - Data about children's cleanliness
  - Mother's antenatal care
  - Smoking in the family, etc.
3. Analysis of data
4. Preparation of recommendations to improve lifestyle.

***Comments of chairman ACHR:***

The study design would benefit from the views of a social scientist. It can reveal important aspects that would help in improving lifestyles.

### **4. Dr Ajay Kumar Khara**

Epidemiologist, Ministry of Health, South Batinah Region, Oman

***Title:***

Identifying lifestyle determinants in the causation of fatal and nonfatal myocardial infarction and diabetes mellitus and to assess the progress of affected individuals in terms of their switching to health promoting behaviour.

***Objectives:***

1. To find out the relative importance of the several risk factors tentatively implicated over the years in the causation of myocardial infarction and diabetes mellitus.
2. To find out health behaviour of nationals already afflicted by these diseases in terms of their switching to health promoting behaviour and behaviour preventing secondary complications.

***Research and methodology:***

1. The study will be carried out on all cases of myocardial infarction and all newly detected diabetes cases admitted to a regional hospital in Oman.

2. They will be interviewed to assess their lifestyles in relation to diet, physical activity, stress, hypertension, smoking, alcohol intake and heredity.
3. Repeated monthly assessment of health-promoting behaviour and measurement of some biochemical indicators (total cholesterol, HDL/LDL/VLDL ratio and glycolated Hb).
4. Analysis of data to assess the role of various lifestyle indicators in the causation and progress of these cases.

***Comments of chairman ACHR:***

The design needs revision especially with respect to inclusion of a control group to ensure proper interpretation of any correlation.

**5. Dr Jawad Ahmed Al Lawati**

Health of Noncommunicable Diseases Section, Ministry of Health, Oman

***Title:***

Study of the characteristics of smokers in Oman.

***Objectives:***

1. Increase awareness about tobacco epidemic in Oman for the public and formulate a data base for tobacco in Oman.
2. Employ for the first time, an interactive way with smokers to stimulate them to quit.

***Research and methodology:***

The proposed study will be done in two parts.

1. As part of the international contest of "Quit and win" all adult smokers 18 years or older will be invited to participate in the contest which will start 2 May, 2000. They will fill out an application form with name, age, sex, address and data on smoking and will provide the name and address of a witness. The smoker will be asked to quit for at least 4 weeks starting 2 May, 2000. On 31 May (World No Tobacco Day) the winner will be contacted and verified through a witness and a biological test (cotinine or carbon monoxide) that he/she did not smoke. The winner will be given a prize donated by local companies.
2. The data collected from participants will be analysed to assess the basic characteristics of smokers in the country.

***Comments of chairman ACHR:***

The selective participation in the contest would make any data obtained from the contestants biased and hence would not give the proper picture of smoking/smokers in Oman.

**Annex**

**JACQUES PARISOT FOUNDATION**

**CALENDAR FOR THE AWARD OF THE THIRTEENTH FELLOWSHIP**

1. 1 September 1998 Letter from the Secretary of the Jacques Parisot Foundation Committee to Regional Director, EMRO
2. 30 September 1999 Letter from Regional Director, EMRO, to all Governments in the Eastern Mediterranean Region inviting candidatures for the Award. These are to be reviewed by the Eastern Mediterranean Advisory Committee on Health Research, before submission to the 1999 Regional Committee
3. September 1999 Regional Committee meeting at which up to three proposals are selected for submission to the Jacques Parisot Foundation Committee
4. As soon as possible  
After meeting of  
Regional Committee EMRO informs Secretary of the Foundation Committee of the proposals made by the Regional Committee
5. January 2000 Meeting of the Jacques Parisot Foundation selection panel which recommends to the Executive Board one fellow from among the three candidates proposed by the Regional Committee
6. January 2000 Executive Board takes final decision on choice of fellow
7. January 2000 Regional Director EMRO informs fellow of Executive Board's decision
8. January 2000 Secretary of the Foundation selection panel sends memorandum to Budget, Headquarters, with information concerning the fellowship
9. February 2000 Fellow starts research
10. March 2001 Report on research work presented by fellow to Regional Director, EMRO, who transmits it to the Secretary of the Foundation selection panel with his appraisal
11. May 2001 Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly: fellow presents verbally a report on his research and receives the Jacques Parisot medal. (In his/her absence, this is presented to a person representing him/her)
12. May 2001 Director-General decides whether or not to publish the fellow's report in a WHO publication