



Award of the Down Syndrome Research Prize

1. The Down Syndrome Research Prize was established in 1999. Following the recommendations of the Down Syndrome Prize Committee which met at the 66th session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, the Regional Committee decided to award the prize for 2019 to Dr Saeed Dastgiri (Islamic Republic of Iran). The prize will be presented to the laureate during the 67th session of the Regional Committee in 2020.
2. Dr Saeed Dastgiri is being honoured for his significant contribution in the field of community genetics including community-oriented health programmes and congenital anomalies. He obtained his PhD degree in community genetics and epidemiology from the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in 2002. Dr Dastgiri is currently a professor at Tabriz University of Medical Sciences in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and is a member of the WHO advisory group on adolescent health metrics.
3. Dr Dastgiri has 20 years of experience in the field of service provision for the control and epidemiology of birth defects. He is the founder and director of the Tabriz Registry of Congenital Anomalies. The registry is a member of the International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research (ICBDSR) and a world affiliate member of EUROCAT, the European network of registries for the epidemiologic surveillance of congenital anomalies. Dr Dastgiri is also co-founder of the national surveillance programme of birth defects in the Islamic Republic of Iran. He has received international awards, and is the author or co-author of numerous publications in medical journals.