
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 70th session in October 2023, based on the recommendation of the Foundation Committee, decided to increase the amount of the Prize from US\$ 5000 to US\$ 10 000 and to award the prize for the year 2023 to: Dr Asem Hamzeh Mansour (Jordan) in the area of cancer; and Dr Davood Khalili (Islamic Republic of Iran) in the area of cardiovascular diseases. The Prize will be presented to the laureates during the 71st session of the Regional Committee in October 2024.

2. Dr Asem Hamzeh Mansour is being honoured for his significant contribution in the field of cancer. A renowned diagnostic radiologist with a subspecialty in neuroradiology, Dr Mansour attained his medical doctorate at the Vitebsk State Medical University. He completed a Fellowship with the Royal College of Radiologists in London, as well as the Master in Medical Management programme of Carnegie Mellon University in the United States. In 2022, the American Association for Physician Leadership named him a Certified Physician Executive, and in 2023 he received an MSc in International Public Health from Liverpool John Moores University. Since 2012, Dr Mansour has served as the CEO and Director General of Jordan's King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC), the largest standalone cancer centre in the Middle East. In this role, he leads over 3000 staff, including 400 oncologists and consultants, to execute KHCC's vision of providing the highest quality care to cancer patients throughout the region. Dr Mansour is also the Executive Chairman of the Jordan Breast Cancer Program, a nation-wide initiative to provide comprehensive services for the early detection of breast cancer. Under his leadership, in 2019, KHCC became the first specialized oncology centre outside the United States to earn the Magnet distinction from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and was also recognized as an accredited academic institution by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AHAARP). Dr Mansour published his first book in 2021 and has co-authored over 80 peer-reviewed publications and medical journal articles. He is currently serving as a Board Member (2022–2024) for the Union for International Cancer Control and as a Commissioner for the Lancet Commission on cancer and health systems.

3. Dr Davood Khalili is being honoured for his significant contribution in the field of cardiovascular diseases. Dr Khalili holds a MSc in public health and a PhD in epidemiology. He is currently a professor at the Research Institute for Endocrine Sciences at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran. He also serves as the Director of the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the Institute. In addition, he holds the position of Lown Scholar in cardiovascular health at the Department of Global Health and Population at Harvard T.H Chan School of Public Health in Boston. His primary research focus is on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, with a particular emphasis on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. Notably, Dr Khalili established the Iran Cohort Consortium (ICC), a virtual network of research centres that aims to foster research collaboration in the country. His expertise in developing clinical prediction models has led to the creation of a national cardiovascular disease mortality risk scoring system, using pooled cohort data from the ICC. Dr Khalili was also actively involved in the validation of Globorisk, a cardiovascular disease risk score that predicts risk of heart attack or stroke in healthy individuals for countries worldwide. He was a member of the WHO CVD Risk Chart Working Group to revise cardiovascular disease risk charts in 21 global regions and, in 2016–2018, he was on the international advisory board of the Cardiovascular Clinical

Trialists organization for the Middle East, Mediterranean and Africa. Currently, he is dedicated to the IRAN-HEARTS project, which aims to adapt and implement the WHO HEARTS technical package at the primary health care level. In 2020, he was among the 1% of highly cited scientists in the field of endocrinology and metabolism in the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) rankings.