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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. Based on the recommendation of the Foundation Committee, the Regional Committee decided at its 71st session in October 2024 to award the Prize for the year 2024 to Dr Majid Ghayour-Mobarhan (Islamic Republic of Iran) in the area of cardiovascular diseases and Dr Noor Badar Al Busaidi (Oman) in the area of diabetes. The Prize will be presented to the laureates during the 72nd session of the Regional Committee in October 2025.
2. Dr Majid Ghayour-Mobarhan is being honoured for his significant contribution in the field of cardiovascular diseases. Professor of Clinical Nutrition at the Medical School of Mashhad University of Medical Sciences (MUMS), he graduated from MUMS and completed a Master's degree in Nutritional Medicine and a PhD in Clinical Nutrition at the University of Surrey, United Kingdom. He served as a Research Fellow in Molecular and Metabolic Medicine at Royal Surrey County Hospital and worked in clinical nutrition at Ghaem Hospital, Islamic Republic of Iran. He has collaborated with colleagues in universities around the world and is currently an honorary professor at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. Dr Ghayour-Mobarhan is the founder of the Centre for Health-related Basic Sciences and Human Nutrition, a UNESCO Category 2 centre, in Mashhad, Islamic Republic of Iran. He has extensive experience of organizing international nutrition congresses. He has also acted as President of the BuAli Research Institute and Vice Chancellor of Research of MUMS.
3. Throughout his career, Dr Ghayour-Mobarhan has focused on public health, cardiovascular disease, diet and lifestyle, reference intervals, artificial intelligence and obesity registries. He serves as the principal investigator of the Mashhad Stroke and Heart Atherosclerosis Disorder cohort study, the Iranian National Obesity Registry and the Vitamin D project. He has supervised over 400 students at MSc and PhD levels and participated in more than 50 clinical trials. He has authored 26 books in the field of clinical nutrition and published more than 1000 scientific papers. He was ranked among the top 1% of the world's most highly cited scientists, according to Essential Science Indicators (ESI). He has received several national and international awards, including from the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the Razi Scientific Festival and the Academy of Medical Sciences of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Professor Fereidoun Azizi Award).
4. Dr Noor Badar Al Busaidi is being honoured for her significant contribution in the field of diabetes. She is a senior consultant endocrinologist and health policy expert with over 30 years' experience of advancing diabetes care, endocrine services and public health in Oman. A graduate of Sultan Qaboos University, she completed her internal medicine residency and endocrinology fellowship at George Washington Medical Center and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Washington, DC, United States of America. She has served as a Senior Consultant at the Royal Hospital for more than 20 years, during which she led the Endocrinology and Diabetes Department and contributed to institutional quality efforts as a member of the Clinical Audit Committee. She previously chaired the Ministry of Health's National Diabetes Management Service Development Committee and is a member of the National Noncommunicable Disease (NCD) Committee, contributing to strategic planning for chronic disease prevention and control.

5. Dr Al Busaidi has played a central role in shaping Oman's national diabetes and obesity programmes spanning education, training, research and the implementation of best practices. Her public engagement efforts include leading awareness campaigns such as Healthy Oman and Know Your Numbers, which promote preventive health practices through schools, workplaces and community networks. In addition to her clinical and policy leadership, Dr Al Busaidi has contributed significantly to the development of national and regional medical guidelines. She was a key author of Oman's primary care protocols for diabetes and helped lead the creation of the *Diabetes Mellitus: National Clinical Management Guidelines* in 2021. Most recently, she contributed to the *National Obesity Clinical Management Guidelines* in 2024. At the regional level, she was part of the expert group that produced the *Regional Recommendations for the Treatment and Management of Adult Obesity in the Gulf and Lebanon*, published in 2020. She led the development of Oman's first diabetes fellowship programme, the first specialized diabetes training initiative in the Region. Internationally, she was a member of the Lancet global commission that redefined obesity as a disease, contributing to a major report advocating for a more nuanced clinical approach to obesity beyond BMI. She is also a member of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinology and the American Diabetes Association. Dr Al Busaidi's career reflects a sustained commitment to clinical excellence, continuous education, research, public health leadership and the development of sustainable, high-impact health systems across Oman and the wider Region.