



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 69th session in October 2022, based on the recommendation of the Foundation Committee, has decided to award the prize to: Dr Randah Ribhi Hamadeh (Bahrain) in the area of cancer; Dr Arif Abulla Al Nooryani (United Arab Emirates) in the area of cardiovascular diseases; and Dr Afshin Ostovar (Islamic Republic of Iran) in the area of diabetes. The Prize will be presented to the laureates during the 70th session of the Regional Committee in 2023.

2. Dr Randah Ribhi Hamadeh is being honoured for her significant contribution in the field of cancer. She attained her DPhil in Community Medicine from the University of Oxford and a BSc in Environmental Health and MSc in Epidemiology from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. Since 1991, she has been a Professor of Community Medicine and a consultant at the College of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain. She has played a pivotal role in integrating public health issues into the medical curriculum and was instrumental in developing and implementing graduate studies health programmes. A founder of the Bahrain Antismoking Society, much of her work on the national and regional impact of smoking represented the first studies of their kind. Her 195 publications have garnered 106 561 citations to date, earning her an h-index score of 57. Dr Hamadeh has served as an expert, adviser, consultant and focal person for numerous organizations including the World Health Organization, the Ministry of Health, Bahrain, and academic institutions. Stanford University ranked her among the top 2% scientists in the world in both 2021 and 2022 and she was ranked as the Best Scientist at the Arabian Gulf University and in Bahrain in the 2021 Alper-Doger Scientific Index.

3. Dr Arif Abulla Al Nooryani is being honoured for his significant contribution in the field of cardiovascular diseases. He graduated from the University of Ulm, Germany, and is a German Board Certified Cardiologist. He has been the CEO of Al Qassimi Hospital, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, since 2009, head of its Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory since 2004 and head of the Cardiac Centre since 2012. He is Associate Professor of Cardiology and Advisory Council Board member of the University of Sharjah and head of the Interventional Cardiology Working Group of the Emirates Cardiac Society. He has particular expertise in complex coronary artery interventions and coronary imaging. With his research and clinical focus on innovative therapeutics and novel diagnostics, he has introduced more than 50 new medical technologies to the United Arab Emirates. Dr Arif Abulla Al Nooryani's achievements have been recognized by: the Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Medical Sciences (2018); the Hamdan Award for Honoring Individuals working in the field of Medicine & Health (2017–2018); the First GCC Award of Excellence for Remarkable Efforts in Medicine (2015); the Sheikh Hamdan Excellence Award for Medical Service (2011–2012); Pride of Nation (2012); and the Sheikh Rashid Excellence Award for Scientific Achievements (2004).

4. Dr Afshin Ostovar is being honoured for his significant contribution in the field of diabetes. He obtained his medical degree at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences and an MPH and PhD at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. He is Professor of Epidemiology at Tehran University of Medical Sciences and Director of the Endocrinology and Metabolism Research Institute, a WHO collaborating

centre. As Director-General of the Noncommunicable Diseases Department at the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education (2017–2022), he contributed towards better prioritization of diabetes, integration of diabetes services into primary health care, implementation of cost-effective interventions for the prevention and control of diabetes, and strengthening diabetes surveillance. He has also contributed to developing the STEPS and DiaCare nationwide surveys to collect data and produce action plans tailored to national needs. He has successfully collaborated in drafting national and international policies, designing a national service framework for diabetes, developing national guidelines for the management of diabetes, and raising public awareness on diabetes and its risk factors. The author of several publications in high-impact, peer-reviewed medical journals, he is a key member of the Iranian National Committee of NCDs and the National Diabetes Research Network.