

**Prince Mahidol Award Laureate 2020
in the Field of Medicine**



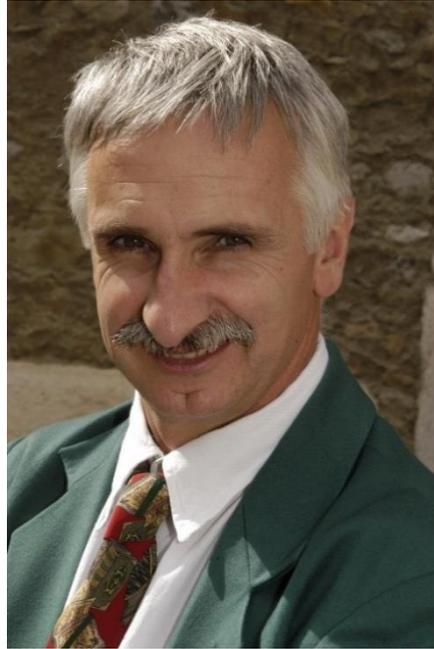
**Professor Dr. Valentin Fuster
Director of Mount Sinai Heart and Physician-in-Chief
of the Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, USA**

Professor Dr. Valentin Fuster received his Doctor of Medicine from University of Barcelona, Spain, and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Edinburgh, the United Kingdom.

Since 1970, Professor Fuster has been researching the role of platelets in the development of coronary thrombosis and the benefits of antiplatelet agents in preventing artery bypass grafting (CABG) occlusion after coronary bypass operation. The research was initially done in animals and later translated into clinical trials. He was the first to demonstrate the benefits of antiplatelet in prevention of graft occlusion. His discoveries have led to the development of drug-eluting stents (DES) concept for the percutaneous coronary interventions in acute myocardial infarction patients. Professor Fuster's research findings have greatly reduced the morbidity and mortality rates and helped improve the care for patients with atherosclerotic coronary disease.

Professor Fuster's effort in translating his findings from basic research into clinical discoveries used for treating patients with coronary artery disease, especially the benefit of antiplatelets in the prevention of graft occlusion, has saved the lives of millions of people with coronary artery disease worldwide.

**Prince Mahidol Award Laureate 2020
in the Field of Public Health**



**Doctor Bernard Pécoul
Executive Director of Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, DNDi**

Doctor Bernard Pécoul received his Doctor of Medicine from Clermont-Ferrand University, France, and Master of Public Health from Tulane University, the United States.

Prior to his involvement with the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), Dr. Pécoul was Executive Director of the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), an international humanitarian and non-governmental organisation engaged in overcoming barriers to access to essential medicines in Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

While working in Uganda, Dr. Pécoul found that Melarsoprol, an arsenic derivative, was used for treating patients with African trypanosomiasis or sleeping sickness, and that 1 out of 20 patients treated with it had died. With this lack of effective treatment and severe side effects, Dr. Pécoul decided to establish the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) in 2003 with the aim to develop a safer, effective and affordable treatment for patients with neglected diseases.

Under Dr. Pécoul's guidance, DNDi has expanded into a non-profit research and development organisation with numerous partners from public and private sectors such as the Bill Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust, and several European agencies and pharmaceutical companies, which, to date, has developed 8 effective treatments for neglected diseases, namely malaria, sleeping sickness, visceral leishmaniasis and chagas disease.

These medicines were later prequalified by WHO as first medicine for neglected tropical diseases in many countries. DNDi is currently working on more than 20 chemical entities and running over 20 clinical trials.

As the Executive Director, Dr. Pécoul has coordinated research and development, and initiated and managed research projects made up of teams and scientists working on projects in different parts of the world, especially in Africa and Latin America with the aim to deliver 16 to 18 new treatments for neglected patients by 2023. Now, DNDi has delivered 8 new treatments that have saved countless lives.

Dr. Pécoul's contribution has played an important role in reducing mortality rate and improving the quality of life of millions of people around the world, especially those in developing or low-income countries with neglected diseases.