



Prince Mahidol Award Foundation
Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital and Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Press Conference
Announcement of the Prince Mahidol Award 2020

On 12 November 2020, **Professor Dr. Prasit Watanapa**, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, in the capacity of Vice President of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation; **Mr. Tanee Sangrat**, Director-General of the Department of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, in the capacity of the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Public Relations of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation; and **Professor Vicharn Panich**, Chairman of the International Award Committee of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation, held a joint press conference to announce the 29th Prince Mahidol Award for 2020 at the Prince Mahidol Memorial Room, 2nd Floor, Syamindra Building, Siriraj Hospital.

This year, the Prince Mahidol Award in the field of Medicine is awarded to **Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD.**

The Prince Mahidol Award in the field of Public Health is awarded to **Bernard Pécoul, MD, MPH.** (*Please find the attachment*).

There were 44 nominations from 18 countries. The Scientific Advisory Committee carefully screened all candidates from the year 2018 – 2020 and subsequently submitted a short list of candidates to the International Award Committee who made a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on 20 October 2020 during which the final decision on the Prince Mahidol Award 2020 was made.

In the past 28 years, the Prince Mahidol Award has been conferred to 85 individuals, groups of individuals, and institutions. Among them, 4 were Award recipients of Thai nationality, namely (1) Professor Dr. Prasong Tuchinda and (2) Dr. Suchitra Nimmannitya who received the Prince Mahidol Award in the field of Medicine in 1996, and (3) Dr. Wiwat Rojanapithayakorn and (4) Mr. Mechai Viravaidya who received the Prince Mahidol Award in the field of Public Health in 2009.

Among the Awardees of the Prince Mahidol Award, 5 subsequently received the Nobel Prize:

(1) Professor Barry J. Marshall from Australia was conferred the Prince Mahidol Award in the field of Public Health in 2001 for the discovery of the new bacterium identified as *Helicobacter pylori* that caused severe gastritis and its sensitivity to particular antibacterial drugs. He received the Nobel Prize in the field of Medicine in 2005 for the same discovery.

(2) Professor Harald Zur Hausen from Germany was conferred the Prince Mahidol Award in the field of Medicine in 2005 for the discovery of the human papilloma virus HPV16 and HPV18 from the cancer tissue and elucidated how the viruses turn normal cells into cancer cells. He received the Nobel Prize in the field of Medicine in 2008 for the same discovery.

(3) Professor Dr. Satoshi Omura was conferred the Prince Mahidol Award in the field of Medicine in 1997. He is known for the discovery and development of various pharmaceuticals originally occurring in microorganisms. His research group isolated a strain of *Streptomyces Avermitilis* that produce the anti-parasitical compound avermectin which contributed to the development of the drug ivermectin that is currently used against river blindness, lymphatic filariasis, and other parasitic infections. He received the Nobel Prize in the field of Medicine in 2015 for the same discovery.

(4) Professor Tu You You, a member of the China Cooperative Research Group on Qinghaosu and its Derivatives as Antimalarials, was conferred the Prince Mahidol Award in the field of Medicine in 2003 in an organisational category for the discovery of Qinghaosu as a new drug for treatment of the *P.falciparum* malaria. He received the Nobel Prize in the field of Medicine in 2015 for the same discovery.

(5) Sir Gregory Paul Winter was conferred the Prince Mahidol Award in the field of Medicine in 2016. He was a pioneer in the field of antibody engineering and modification technology. He invented techniques to humanise antibodies for therapeutic uses, which later led to the creation of cutting-edge therapeutic drugs. He received the Nobel Prize in the field of Chemistry in 2018 for the same discovery.

The Prince Mahidol Award Foundation under the Royal Patronage was established on 1 January 1992 in commemoration of the centenary of the birth of His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla. The Foundation is under the Royal Patronage, with Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn as President. The Foundation annually confers two Prince Mahidol Awards upon individual(s) or institution(s), who have demonstrated outstanding and exemplary contributions to the advancement of the world's medical and public health services. Each Award consists of a medal, a certificate and a prize to the sum of US \$100,000.

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Tentative Programme
The Announcement of the Prince Mahidol Award 2020
12 November 2020, at 13.30 hrs.
At the Prince Mahidol Memorial Room, 2nd Floor,
Syamindra Building, Siriraj Hospital

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| 13.00 hrs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Distinguished guests and media arrive at the Prince Mahidol Memorial Room, 2nd Floor, Syamindra Building, Siriraj Hospital- Snacks and beverages |
| 13.30 hrs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Press Conference hosted by Clinical Professor Supat Vanichakarn, Secretary-General of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation under the Royal Patronage- Introduction of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation by Professor Dr. Prasit Watanapa, Dean of Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, in the capacity of Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation- Announcement of the Prince Mahidol Laureates 2020 by Mr. Tanee Sangrat, Director-General of the Department of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Public Relations of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation- Explanation on the decision to confer the Prince Mahidol Award 2020 conducted by Professor Vicharn Panich, Chairman of the International Award Committee of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation- Short remarks by Ambassadors or representatives from the Embassies of the countries of which the 2020 Prince Mahidol Award Laureates are citizens |

Dr. John R. MacArthur, Director, Thailand
MOPH-U.S. CDC Collaboration
representative of the Ambassador of the United States
of America to Thailand

Dr. Taraneh Shojaei, Regional Counsellor
in Global Health, South-East Asia
representative of the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the French
Embassy

Clinical Professor Supat Vanichakarn
Secretary-General
Prince Mahidol Award Foundation
12 November 2020