

GENERAL SECTION

AWARDS IN MEDICINE AND DERMATOLOGY

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Is there any reward for good other than good? Verse 60, Surah Ar-Rahman, Part 27, Holy Quran

An award is something granted or given in recognition of one's meritorious work. The value of giving prizes to recognize exceptional work, and the need to publicize such awards to enhance their value cannot be disputed. In the field of medicine, there are several international awards. These include, the King Faisal International Prize for Medicine^{1,2}, Nobel Prize³, Prince Mahidol Award⁴ and Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Makhtoum Award for Medical Sciences.⁵ In addition, there are many other international awards for medicine, including the Gairdner Foundation International awards for outstanding biomedical research and the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation's international awards in Medicine and Public Health for Outstanding international service. Kuwait foundation for advancement of sciences also gives several medical awards.

The most famous one is the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. It was first given in 1901. The Nobel Prize is widely regarded as the single most prestigious award given for intellectual achievement in the world. The Nobel Prize was established from a fund bequeathed for that purpose by the Swedish inventor and industrialist Alfred Nobel in his will drafted in 1895 for the award of five prizes annually in the fields of Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature and Peace. A sixth for Economics was added in 1968.

Part of the Nobel Prize's prestige stems from the serious research that goes into the selection of the prizewinners. Prizes may be given only to individuals, except for the Peace Prize, which may be given to an institution. Each Nobel Prize consists of a gold medal, a diploma bearing a citation, and a sum of money, the amount of which depends on the income of the Nobel Foundation. A sum of \$1,120,000 accompanied each prize in 1996. A Nobel Prize is given entirely to one person, divided equally between two persons, or shared by three persons. Table-1 shows the previous winners, in the last five years, of Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine.

Comments

Most awards are given to the outstanding contributions which have the highest impact on human lives by improving their well being. Understandably they are mainly in the field of the

sciences. Some like the King Faisal International Award extend to Arabic Literature and service to the cause of Islam.

Table1: Laureates of a Nobel Prize for physiology or Medicine in the last five years.

Year	Recipients	Country	Area of Research
2000	CARLSSON ARVID	Sweden	Signal transduction in the nervous system
	GREENGARD PAUL	U.S	
	KANDEL ERIC	U.S	
2001	HARTWELL LELAND H	U.S.A	"key regulators of the cell cycle."
	HUNT R. TIMOTHY	U.K	
	NURSE PAUL M.	U.K	
2002	BRENNER SYDNEY	U.K	Genetic regulation of organ development and programmed cell death.
	HORVITZ H. ROBERT	U.S.A	
	SULSTON JOHN E.	U.K	
2003	LAUTERBUR PAUL C.	U.S.A	Magnetic resonance imaging.
	MANSFIELD SIR PETER	U.K	
2004	AXEL RICHARD	U.S.A	Odorant receptors and the organization of the olfactory system
	BUCK LINDA B		
2005	J. Robin Warren	Australia	"for their discovery of the bacterium Helicobacter pylori and its role in gastritis and peptic ulcer disease"
	Barry J. Marshall		

Humanitarian services have also been included by some since they promote health care to the needy. A distinction should also be made between the philosophical and the practical considerations involved in bestowing the awards. Some issues need to be formulated again. For instance, there is duplication of the awards since some laureates have received more than one international medical award. This could be avoided by having an arrangement between the international awards in medicine so that there is scope to consider some other persons. However the

same individual can be selected for some other contribution that was not recognized just like a person can be awarded the Nobel Prize more than once for different areas of research. Part of the award must also go to the institution where the work was done.

The rules framed for the prizes are not rigid and ensure flexibility to benefit the scientists. The statutory rules have on the whole remained unchanged but are somewhat modified in application. For example, Nobel's stipulation that the prizes be awarded for achievements made during "the preceding year" was obviously unworkable in regard to scientists and even writers, the true significance of whose discoveries, research, or writings might not be generally apparent for several years³. Nobel's ambiguous stipulation that the literature prize be awarded to the authors of works of an "idealistic tendency" was interpreted strictly in the beginning but has gradually been interpreted more flexibly. The basis for the economics award has been scientific, i.e. mathematical or statistical, rather than political or social³.

Motives for nonacceptance of an award vary, but the real reason has mostly been the political scenario³. For example, in 1937 Adolf Hitler forbade Germans from accepting the Nobel Prize because he had been infuriated by the award of the 1935 Peace Prize to the anti-Nazi journalist Carl von Ossietzky, who at the time was a political prisoner in Germany. In some cases, the decliner had later explained the situation and on application received the Nobel gold medal and the diploma but not the money, which had reverted to the funds. The Nobel Prizes for physics, chemistry, and physiology or medicine have generally been the least controversial, while those for literature and peace have, by their very nature, been the most exposed to critical differences³.

AWARDS IN DERMATOLOGY

The value of the award may be small or large. It can be in the form of a plaque, medal, certificate, diploma, money, lecture, etc. At times, it can be as simple as a toast which brings attention or acclaim to the person¹. Giving an award matters much to the development of any subject. The next discussion is about awards pertaining to dermatology in particular. There are many major awards in dermatology, like Gold Medal Award of American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), Rothman Medal Award by Society for Investigative Dermatology, and Keizo Dohi Lectureship by Japanese Dermatological Association, William J. Cunliffe Scientific Awards, Lila Gruber Cancer Research Award, Marion B. Sulzberger Memorial Award & Lectureship, and the International Pioneer Award for Distinguished

Women in Dermatology. Table 1⁶⁻⁸ shows a selected awards, and its winners in the last five years, which are given in the field of dermatology.

Comments

There is no doubt about the value of awards and prizes in promoting the quality of work. This needs to be reflected at all levels of the profession starting from the department, training programmes, periodicals and research work relating specific aspects like dermatopathology, dermatopharmacology, pediatric dermatology, history of dermatology, etc. A good example is the prize established by the British Association of Dermatologists for the best essay by an undergraduate in the field of dermatology. The paramedical personnel comprising the nurses, pharmacists and other health-delivery personnel must also be considered when granting these awards. Recognition of original work cuts through barriers of nationality, religion, race and sex. Conditions should be as little as possible to enable the best workers to qualify for these awards. When given at an early age (for juniors) they would stimulate the person and other workers. However, it must be mentioned that Awardees are creative and they are likely to receive the awards more than once, Madam Curie had received Nobel prize twice, also, Mark V. Dahl who received the Everett C. Fox Resident/Fellow award (formerly Henry Stelwagon Award) in 1972 also received the Clarence S. Livingood Lectureship Award in 1999.⁶

The awards could be in history, dermatopathology, cancer, or work related to a specific area like the William J. Cunliffe Award for original work in the area of the pilosebaceous unit. Dermatology appears to be less represented in the International Awards in Medicine, the only one being closely related is the work done by Finsen Ryberg of Denmark in 1903, a nondermatologists, for his work on treatment of skin diseases with light.³

Many dermatologists are also unaware of these awards. Media and periodicals should take this up. A number of dermatologists are working in countries with poor facilities and still contributing to the development of the specialty. A committee could be formed to look into such instances so that they do not go unrecognized. Publishers and pharmaceutical companies should also be involved. Maintenance of these awards are important, as few of the awards in dermatology are stopped due to unavailability of fund, and example of this is The International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies (IFPCS) Visiting Scientist Award.⁹ It is the time to upgrade the values of the awards to meet the excellent and exhaustive works of researchers. One may think that

giving a dermatologist a books or a device that he or she may need in his or her researches are more valuable than medal or plaque. It may be worth

considering one famous award that could be given for work in any related field of dermatology.

Table 1 : Winners of a selected Awards in Dermatology,in the last five years.

Name of the Award	Description	Year	Winners
Clarence S.Livingood,M.D Lectureship ⁶	First presented in 1993 annual meeting of AAD, this lectureship and education fund was endowed by Settlor and Doris Giddey in memory of George H.Giddey. The Giddey's were both patients and friends of Dr.Clarence S.Livingood. The recipient,who delivers a 30-minute lecture on the issues in the field of Dermatology including organizational aspects,Socioeconomic issues,ethics,concepts and features specific to the speciality of dermatology,professionalism,and the "art"of dermatology	2000	Capt.Jeffrey S.Ashby
		2001	Lowell A.Goldsmith
		2002	Klaus Wolff
		2003	Marcus A.Conant
		2004	Harry J.Hurley
		2005	Peyton E.Weary
Zakon award ⁷	Presented by The History of Dermatology Society for the best paper sent to the society annually.First given in 1980.	2000	Stella Fatovic-Ferencic
		2001	Ernst Beutner
		2002	Joseph Witkowski
		2003	Michael Albert
		2004	John Savin
		2005	Barry E. Monk
		2006(26 th)	Thomas G. Cropley
Walter R. Nickel Award for Excellence in Teaching of Dermatopathology. ⁸	By American Society of Dermatopathology. First given in 1997.	2000	Wilma F. Bergfeld
		2001	Antoinette F. Hood
		2002	N. Scott McNutt
		2003	Terence J. Harrist
		2004	Bruce R. Smoller
		2005	Ronald P. Rapini

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