

PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD, YEAR 2002

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The Prince Mahidol Award was established in Thailand in January 1992 in commemoration of the centenary birthday of Prince Mahidol. Prince Mahidol was known as *the Father of Modern Medicine* of Thailand, who contributed greatly in terms of objectives of public health as well as personal development in health in Thailand.

This award consists of two prizes to be given annually. One award is given to individuals who have contributed to the genesis of knowledge which has proven to be of benefit to a large number of people, transcending countries and continents. The other award is for individuals who have made use of medical knowledge in a significant practical way in public health, again transcending countries and continents.

The Foundation has an international award committee comprised of varying individuals during the 11 years of its existence. They include people such as Dr Sune Bergstrom, Dr Joshua Lederberg, Dr John Evans, Dr Nevin Scrimshaw, Dr Frederick Robbins, Dr V Ramalingaswami,

Dr Cesar Milstein, Dr Halfdan Mahler, Dr DA Henderson, Dr Gustav Nossal, Dr AO Lucas and Dr Baruch Blumberg together with five Thai scientists, namely Dr Prawase Wasi, Dr Visith Sitprija, Dr Aree Valyasevi, Dr Kraisid Tontisirin, Dr Vicharn Panich and Dr Natth Bhamarapravati.

The International Award Committee deliberates on nominations of the candidates and recommends the prospective ones to the Executive Committee of the Foundation who finalize the awardees.

The four awardees of this year represent the ideals and the practicability of the prize. In terms of the first award, this went to Dr Thomas Starzl and Dr Roy Calne for their contributions in transplantation science. The second award went to Dr Maurice Hilleman and Dr Helena Makela for their contributions in vaccinology. We hope that their papers published herewith, which represent a brief analysis of their work, will be of contributory value to Prince Mahidol Award for a long time to come.