



Prince

Mahidol Award

Newsletter

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Royal Speech

by

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

on the Occasion of the Presentation Ceremony

of the Prince Mahidol Award for the Year 1999

on Monday, 31st January B.E. 2543 (A.D. 2000) at Chakri Throne Hall

May it please Your Majesty,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation, as well as the Privy Council, the Cabinet, Diplomats, and distinguished guests who are gathered in this Throne Hall, I feel deeply grateful to His Majesty the King for His gracious kindness in designating Your Majesty to preside over the Presentation Ceremony of the Prince Mahidol Award for the year 1999, today.

Prince Mahidol Awardees for the year 1999 have been selected by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation from nominees worldwide. The results of their excellent works have proven to be of great benefits to all mankind. May I, therefore, ask for Your Majesty's Permission to read the citations and present the three distinguished awardees who are to receive the Prince Mahidol Award for the year 1999. They are as follows:-

In the field of Medicine

Dr. R. Palmer Beasley, Professor of Epidemiology and Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center, United States of America, is a pioneering figure who has successfully done excellent researches on the pathogenesis of the hepatitis B virus infection which is a major viral infection of the liver in hundred millions of people worldwide. Dr. Beasley has demonstrated that hepatitis B virus can be vertically transmitted from mother to fetus and that the chronic hepatitis B virus infection or carrier stage directly associate with carcinoma of the liver. He has also proved his case that these conditions can be prevented by immunization. This achievement

finally paves the way for the use of hepatitis B virus vaccine, leading to dramatically fall of death rate caused by hepatitis B virus as well as liver carcinoma.

The works of Dr. Beasley created tremendous benefit for mankind. Dr. Beasley, thus, very much deserves to receive the Prince Mahidol Award 1999 in the field of Medicine.

Dr. R. Palmer Beasley

In the field of Public Health

Dr. Adetokunbo O. Lucas, from Nigeria, and Dr. Tore Godal, from Norway, the first and second director of WHO Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), respectively. The success of such a program results in scientists in industrial countries paying more attention to researches concerning tropical diseases, thereby helping to increase the potential and the ability of scientists in the less developed countries on the whole. Furthermore, by cooperating with drug and medicine manufacturers, the program has steadily made progress towards the invention and development of many new drugs and vaccines.

It can thus be said that this successful global program, which has proven to be of benefits to people everywhere, is the result of the efficient administrative work of Dr. Adetokunbo O. Lucas and Dr. Tore Godal. Dr. Lucas and Dr. Godal, therefore, truly deserve to be the recipients of the Prince Mahidol Award 1999 in the field of Public Health.

Dr. Adetokunbo O. Lucas
Dr. Tore Godal

**Royal Address of Her Majesty the Queen
on the Occasion of
the Presentation Ceremony of the Prince Mahidol Award for the Year 1999
on Monday, 31st January B.E. 2543 (A.D. 2000)
at Chakri Throne Hall**



His Majesty the King has graciously designated me as His Majesty's Representative to preside over the presentation of the Prince Mahidol Award for the Year 1999. I would like to extend my congratulations to the Board of Trustees and all concerned who have done such good work to honour His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla, so

that his accomplishments are recognized in every part of the world.

In all kinds of researches, particularly those in the fields of medicine and public health for the ultimate benefits of mankind, people concerned need to possess great compassion for their fellow human beings as well as great perseverance, endurance and self-sacrifice in order to achieve their final successes. The discovery by Professor Dr. R. Palmer Beasley of the pathogenesis of hepatitis B virus infection and the fruitful success of the Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases directed by Dr. Adetokunbo O. Lucas and Dr. Tore Godal are all achievements of highest magnitude. You have all physically and mentally devoted yourselves and it is through your untiring perseverance that the resultant benefits have been apparent for all peoples of the world to see.

I should like, therefore, to extend my sincere congratulations to the three of you who have been chosen to receive the Prince Mahidol Award for 1999. I also hope that your good deeds will constitute fine examples for others to follow, in order to inspire an overall faith in the upholding of personal integrity with constant compassion for fellow human beings as well as in always being ready to cooperate with one another for the welfare and prosperity of all mankind.

In the name of His Majesty the King, I should like to extend to all of you my good wishes for your personal happiness and success as well as good mental and physical health so as to be able to contribute further to the well-being of people the world over. The same good wishes are also extended to all of you who are gathered here today on this happy occasion.



Prince Mahidol Award



The Prince Mahidol Award Foundation

The Prince Mahidol Award Foundation was established on January 1st, 1992 in commemoration of the centenary of the birth of His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol. The Foundation is under Royal Patronage, with Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn as president.



The Award

Two Prince Mahidol Award are conferred annually upon individuals or institutions which have demonstrated outstanding and exemplary contributions to the advancement of medical, public health and human services throughout the world. Each award consists of a medal, a certificate, and the sum of US\$ 50,000.



Nomination

An individual or group of individuals or an institution may be nominated by national medical or health authorities or by individual or group of individuals in non-governmental capacity as candidates for the award. Nominations are submitted to the Secretary General of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation before May 31st each year.

PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD 1999 AWARDEES



Dr. R. Palmer Beasley

Dr. R. Palmer Beasley, an American, received his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College and his medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He has been Dean of The University of Texas-Houston School of Public Health since 1987. Under his leadership, UT-Houston's Center for Infectious Diseases was established in 1989. Along with his administrative role as Dean, Dr. Beasley serves as professor of epidemiology at the School of Public Health, where he is also holder of the Allan C. King Professorship in Public Health.

Dr. Beasley was a director of the American University Medical Center in Taiwan, where he did extensive research on Hepatitis B and Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) during 1972-1986. He began his research on Hepatitis B in 1969 in Taiwan because of the extremely high incidence of infection in the Chinese population. He established a laboratory in Taiwan, and conducting his new pioneering classical studies of HBV, HCC and the control of these diseases. He has acted as consultant in many countries for the World Health Organization and worked with the International Agency for Research on cancer in Leon, France, a sub-division of WHO.

For thirty years Dr. Beasley has been a world leader in research on the Hepatitis B virus (HBV). He is a founding member of the International Task Force on Hepatitis B, funded privately and headquartered at The Program for Appropriate Technology in Health. He is internationally recognized for his groundbreaking work in the most hopeful model for AIDS and Hepatitis B. Both diseases are blood-borne virus infections that progress to chronic illness and death. He was one of the first to show that by immunizing the newborn we can prevent the Hepatitis B infection in the infant. Dr. Beasley has persuaded WHO to adopt HBV immunization into its global immunization program. As a result of the task force's work, WHO has now included the vaccine developed as the 7th vaccine in the Expanded Program on Immunization.

Included among the many awards and honors Dr. Beasley has received are the prestigious King Faisal International Prize in Medicine (1985), and the Charles S. Mott General Motors Prize for discovery leading to understanding of the Cause and Prevention of Cancer (1987).

Dr. Beasley has been selected by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation to receive the Prince Mahidol Award 1999 in the field of Medicine for his well-recognized contribution to the understanding of the pathogenesis of HBV infection. This is a major viral infection of the liver in hundred of million people in different parts of the world. Dr. Beasley has demonstrated the importance of the vertical transmission of HBV infection, the association between the chronic HBV infection and the carrier state, toward the development of HCC, and the other issues relating to the immunization of neonates with Hepatitis B vaccine. Dr. Beasley's effort are now directed at convincing the world that HBV eradication is feasible and should become an international goal.



Dr. Adetokunbo O. Lucas

Born in Lagos, Nigeria, where he received his early education, Dr. Lucas obtained his medical training in Britain, graduating B. Sc. (Physiology), First Class Honours in 1953 and M.B., B.S. with honours from the University of Durham in 1956. His postgraduate training took him to Belfast, London and Harvard University.

Back home in Nigeria Dr. Lucas taught clinical and community medicine in Ibadan where he was appointed professor and head of the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, a position which he held from 1965 to 1976. His publications include papers on clinical and epidemiological aspects of tropical parasitic and infectious diseases – schistosomiasis, malaria, African histoplasmosis, etc. He has served as an external examiner at various institutions in Africa and in Europe.

For four years prior to his appointment as Professor of International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Lucas served as chair of Carnegie Corporation's grant programme concerned with Strengthening Human Resources in Developing Countries. For the ten years preceding his work at Carnegie, he directed the UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases.

Dr. Lucas has served on the expert committees and advisory boards of various national organisations and international agencies – Rockefeller Foundation, Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, Carter Center, the Wellcome Trust Scientific Group on Tropical Medicine and the Governing Board of

the Centers for Agriculture and Biosciences International. Currently, he chairs the Global Forum for Health Research, a new entity that was established to promote international health research.

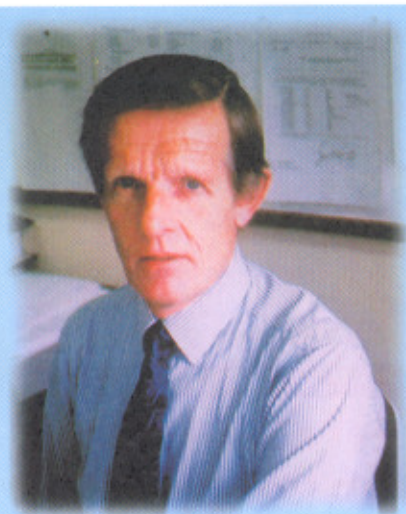
Dr. Lucas has been elected an honorary member of various professional organisations including: American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, British Society of Parasitology, International Epidemiological Association, Swiss Society of Tropical Medicine and Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria.

Dr. Lucas was elected to the Institute of Medicine as one of the eight persons in a new category of membership – *foreign associate*. He also holds honorary degrees from Emory (D. Sc.), Tulane (D. Sc.) and Ibadan universities (F.U.I.). He was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FRCOG) *ad eundem*.

Dr. Lucas has been awarded various academic honours including the Harvard Medal, the Mary Kingsley Medal of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and the Honorary Fellowship of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He is the honorary President of the Alumni Association of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

By calling attention to the burden of tropical diseases and the need for the development of new tools, Dr. Lucas was able to launch Training in Tropical diseases (TDR) in the international research world. During his decade-long mandate as Director, TDR was firmly established as a major player in the global tropical disease research agenda. With strong advocacy for promoting tropical disease research and research capacity strengthening, TDR provided substantial support to individual training and institution development in developing countries. Centres of excellence were promoted in developing countries in collaboration with research groups.

In recognition of outstanding research leading to the improvement of health in tropical countries, Dr. Lucas has been selected by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation to jointly receive the Prince Mahidol Award 1999 with Dr. Tore Godal in the field of the Public Health.



Dr. Tore Godal

Dr. Tore Godal, a Norwegian, began his medical studies in 1958 and received Master of Science from Department of Microbiology, University of Rochester, New York, USA in 1964. Back home in Norway, he obtained M.D. and Ph.D., in 1966 and 1967, respectively, from the University of Oslo.

Focusing his interest on international health care, infectious disease research, and immunological discovery, Dr. Godal started his first employment as Director of the Armauer Hansen Research Institute in Ethiopia. After that he became consultant to the Immunology Unit of the World Health Organization (WHO) and came back to his hometown assuming responsibility of Head to the Department of Immunology, the Norwegian Radium Hospital in Oslo. Recently, he served as Special Advisor to Dr. G. Havlem Brundtland, Director General of the WHO in Geneva. At present, he assumes the position of Executive Secretary to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) of the UNICEF in Geneva.

Dr. Godal's pioneering efforts for the betterment of global community are wide varied and the UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) is no exception. From June 1986 to July 1988, Dr. Godal consolidated and expanded the initial work of Dr. Adetokunbo O. Lucas by establishing a global leadership focused on vector-borne diseases research, with particular attention to disease-endemic countries. The recognition of excellence and the catalytic effect of TDR under his mandate contributed to the development, evaluation, and implementation of several products and intervention strategies against tropical diseases in developing countries.

With an impetus for innovation, Dr. Godal managed TDR as a strong science-driven competitive programme

introducing a functional metrix which is now fully operational to promote research and research capability strengthening in an integrated functional fashion across diseases. The Special Programme has awarded more than 2,500 grants in over 80 developing disease-endemic countries, including individual postgraduate training, as well as institutional research development across basic and applied disciplines to support discovery, development, and implementation of control tools for tropical disease.

In recognition of his strong commitment and selfless dedication to the Special Programme which has truly become the embodiment for hopes and survival of millions of people in tropical arena, Dr. Godal has been selected by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation to jointly receive the Prince Mahidol Award 1999 with Dr. Adetokunbo O. Lucas in the field of Public Health.



Mrs. Anne K. Godal, wife of Dr. Tore Godal

Speech by Mrs. Anne K. Godal

Your Royal Highness, Excellencies, Distinguished Health Researchers and Guests,

It is indeed a great pleasure, on behalf of my husband Tore Godal and Dr. Gro Hariem Brundtland, Director-General of WHO, to accept this highly prestigious award. My husband has asked me to convey the following to your Royal Highness; I quote my husband:

- "I grew up in a small isolated valley in Norway. At the time of my birth there was much poverty, malnutrition, TB, and we still had leprosy in

Norway. My mother was a champion in promoting public health. In the dark evenings, my mother told us fairy tales in front of the fireplace. I learnt to dream.

- Therefore, when I finished medical school I decided not to pursue an academic career at the University of Oslo, but to go to Ethiopia to do research on leprosy.
- That had a profound impact on my life and created a deep commitment to the health of the poor in general and to tropical diseases in particular.
- My fairy tale dream, was to make those countries suffering from tropical diseases able to do the research required to combat their own diseases. This also became an important objective of TDR.
- As a director of TDR, for the 12 years from 1986-1998, I could observe first hand the growth of research capacity in many countries. Among them, and in the lead, was your own country.
- To see TDR trainees in leading Thai academic and research positions, a strong Thai build-up of

research support and independent scientific thought has been one of the most gratifying experiences of my life.

- Today I would have liked to be with you, but unfortunately duty requires me to be at the World Economic Forum in Davos to Launch the new Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization. This is a new development in a new millennium which links health to poverty reduction and to economic prosperity.
- Thus the Prince Mahidol Award to TDR, and to capacity strengthening, gives an important message to the world from Thailand today. During the Second World War, there were many freedom fighters in my home valley. I recall that in one of his speeches president Roosevelt said: 'Look to Norway.' Today in health research we say: 'Look to Thailand.'"

Your Royal Highness, in conclusion, my husband asked me to say how proud he was to receive this award on his own behalf and that of his staff and to thank you most sincerely for it.

Note from the Editor

Welcome to the second issue of Prince Mahidol Award Newsletter.

Since the publishing of our first issue in September 1999 we have had both delightful and the sad news.

The delightful news was that His Majesty the King of Thailand had designated Her Majesty the Queen to preside over the presentation of the Prince Mahidol Award for the year 1999 in Bangkok on 31 January 2000. The distinguished awardees for the year 1999 were Dr. R. Palmer Beasley (American), who received the Award in the field of Medicine and Dr. Adetokunbo O. Lucas (Nigerian) and Dr. Tore Godal (Norwegian) who were awarded the honours in the field of Public Health. Numerous dignitaries including the politicians, well known academicians, diplomats as well as a good number of Thai business sector's members attended the ceremony.

The sad news was about the sudden demise of one of our previous awardees, Dr. Rene Favaloro, a well known Argentine heart surgeon who shocked the world of medicines in July this year with a suicide. It's hard for any acquaintance of his to believe that a hand that performed well over 13,000 bypass operations and saved a tremendous numbers of those suffering from heart problems could

ironically be the same hand that took his own life. On behalf of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation, I wish to join the friends of Dr. Favaloro to express my heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family and all other relatives and to the Favaloro Foundation for having lost such a great and able person.

As we are moving closer to another of such honourable occasion for the year 2000 Award, it should be noted that we have altogether received 55 nominations for this year award. The Board of Trustees of the Prince Mahidol Award Foundation is now deliberating on the credentials of the most eligible nominees who will deservedly become the awardees of the year 2000.

As always, I welcome all comments and suggestions on information pertaining to medicine, public health and related matters for possible publishing here in this newsletter.

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