

WHO-EM/GBS/001/E

17 October 2024

Down Syndrome Research Prize Statutes (revised, October 2021 and 2024)

Statutes of the Down Syndrome Research Prize Foundation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region¹

Article 1

Establishment

Under the title of the “Down Syndrome Research Prize Foundation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region”, a foundation is established within the framework of the World Health Organization, which shall be governed by the following provisions.

Article 2

The Founder

The Foundation is established upon the initiative of, and with funds provided by, Dr Abdel Rahman Abdulla Al-Awadi (hereinafter referred to as “the Founder”).

Article 3

Capital

The Founder endows the Foundation with an initial capital of US\$ 25 000 (twenty-five thousand United States Dollars only), subsequently increased to US\$ 50 000 to institute a grant. The capital of the Foundation may be increased by income from its undistributed reserves or by gifts and bequests.

Article 4

Purpose

The Foundation is established for the purpose of awarding a prize to one or more persons, or one or more nongovernmental organizations or other institutions, that have made an outstanding contribution in the field of research related to Down Syndrome and a grant to one or more persons, or one or more nongovernmental organizations or other institutions for research to be undertaken in the same field. The specific criteria that shall be applied in the assessment of the work done by the candidates, in the case of the Prize, and of the proposed research, in the case of the Grant, shall be determined by the Foundation Committee. The Administrator may propose criteria for consideration of the Foundation Committee

Article 5

The Prize

1. The Down Syndrome Research Prize and Grant shall consist of
 - a) a prize comprising a bronze medal and a cash sum of which shall be awarded once every two years, funds permitting, from the interest accumulated on the Foundation’s capital, after deduction of the total cost of striking the medal and any other costs incurred.
 - b) a grant to be awarded in accordance with Article 7 below, funds permitting, from the interest accumulated on the Foundation’s capital in excess of that required for the Prize awarded and any related costs, or from a designated contribution accepted by the Foundation to cover the cost of awarding the grant.
2. The initial value of the cash prize shall be determined by the Foundation Committee at its first session taking into account the Foundation’s capital and the anticipated annual interest. This amount may be adjusted from time to time by the Committee based on changes in the capital of the Foundation, variation in interest rates and other relevant factors.

¹ The Statutes have been revised five times: in May 2002, February 2010, April 2016, October 2021 and October 2024.

Article 6

The Foundation Committee

The Committee entitled the “Down Syndrome Research Prize Foundation Committee” shall be composed of the following members: the Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, and a representative of the Founder. The Regional Committee may, at its discretion, designate a representative of one of its members to serve as an alternate member of the Foundation Committee in place of the Chairman or either of the Vice Chairmen for the duration of any given session of the Regional Committee. The Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean or his representative shall serve as the Secretary of the Committee.

Article 7

Proposal and selection of candidates

1. Candidates may be proposed for the Prize or Grant by any national health, education or social administration of a Member State of the World Health Organization within the Eastern Mediterranean Region, or any former recipient of the Prize or Grant. The Foundation Committee may also ask relevant WHO staff to proactively search for publications of Down Syndrome-related research studies from scholars in countries of the Region. In addition, with respect to research grants, the Administrator may issue calls for applications for potential research grants. Such calls shall include the eligibility criteria. If any potential candidate(s) are identified through these efforts, the respective countries/institutions will be notified and encouraged to submit an application. All nominations shall be accompanied by a written statement and submission of required documents supporting the reasons on which the statement is based. Proposals shall be submitted to the Administrator who shall submit them to the Foundation Committee together with technical comments.
2. Current and former staff members of the World Health Organization shall be ineligible to receive the Prize and Grant.
3. The Committee shall decide in a private meeting, by a majority of the members present, on the recommendation to be made to the Regional Committee, whose decision shall be final.
4. The presence of at least three members of the Foundation Committee, including the Chairman of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean or a Vice-Chairman acting for the Chairman at that Regional Committee, shall be required for the taking of decisions.
5. The Prize and/or Grant shall be presented during the following session of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean by its Chairman to the recipient or, in his/her absence, to a person representing him/her.

Article 8

The Administrator

1. The Foundation shall be administered by its Administrator, namely the Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, who shall act as Secretary to the Foundation Committee.
2. The Administrator shall be responsible:
 - a) for the execution of the decisions taken by the Foundation Committee within the limits of its powers as defined in these Statutes; and
 - b) for the observance of the present Statutes and generally for the administration of the Foundation in accordance with these Statutes.

Article 9

Revision of the Statutes

On the proposal of one of its members, the Foundation Committee may propose a revision of the present Statutes. Any such proposal, if endorsed by a majority of the Committee, shall be submitted to the Regional Committee for its approval.