

For Immediate Release



Provost Dallal receives prestigious Kuwaiti prize for the advancement of science

Beirut, Lebanon- 06/12/2013 - AUB Provost Ahmad Dallal was awarded on December 4, 2013 the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) prize for his lifetime research contributions to the field of Arabic and Islamic scientific heritage.

Established in 1976 to “encourage, support, and invest in capacity building and in initiatives that build a solid foundation and an enabling culture for science, innovation, and technology,” the foundation awards prizes on an annual basis to Kuwaiti and Arab scholars, in recognition of their intellectual achievements that serve the interest of scientific advancement.

Prizes are awarded annually in each of the following fields: Basic Sciences, Applied Sciences, Economic and Social Sciences, Arts and Letters, and Arabic and Islamic Scientific Heritage.

Professor Dallal received the KFAS prize for his research on Arabic and Islamic scientific heritage, during a formal ceremony held in Kuwait, under the patronage of the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Ahmed Al-Jaber al-Sabah. Professor Dallal shares the prize with Tunisian researcher Faeza Al-Aridi Bensal.

Professor Dallal praised the Kuwait Foundation for being a pioneer in supporting scientific advancement in the Arab world, noting that without investment in scientific research, there cannot be scientific advancement and knowledge production.

“This is a great honor for me, as this prize is the foremost, internationally refereed, Arab prize recognizing scholarly achievement,” said Dallal.

He added that it is very important to create several hubs for scientific research so that each of these hubs would grow and interconnect to create a larger oasis for the advancement of sciences in the Arab world. At AUB, Provost Dallal hopes that the recently-established Farouk Jabre Center for Arabic and Islamic Science and Philosophy will serve as one of those hubs. Key to the Jabre Center mission is to promote and support research on Arabic and Islamic science and raise awareness about these fields through outreach and education.

“We know Ahmad Dallal to be not only an internationally renowned academic in his own right, but also an individual who has been wholly committed to advancing the capacity, standards, and relevance of research and knowledge dissemination in the Arab world,” said AUB President Peter Dorman. “As Provost at AUB, he has shaped and influenced the academic experience for the faculty at our own university, and for many scholars across the region as well.”

Professor Dallal earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from AUB in 1980. He worked as an engineer for Middle East Airlines from 1980 to 1984, before going on to Columbia University to earn his PhD in Islamic studies in 1990. Between 1990 and 2009, he assumed several academic positions at a number of US universities, including Smith College, Yale University, Stanford University, and Georgetown University, before joining AUB as Provost in 2009.

He has published two books: "An Islamic Response to Greek Astronomy" (Brill, 1995), and "Islam, Science, and the Challenge of History" (Yale University Press, 2010) as well as many articles on Arabic science and Islamic history.

ENDS

PHOTO CAPTION: [L-R] Dallal, Crown Prince Nawwaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber al-Sabah and the general director of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, Dr. Adnan Ahmad Shahab al-Din

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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