

12 November 2018

Major endowment by Dr Salim Yusuf, WHF Past President, will accelerate training the next generation of leaders in cardiovascular health

The World Heart Federation (WHF) is pleased to announce that world-renowned leader in global cardiovascular disease (CVD) research, Executive Director of the Population Health Research Institute (PHRI) in Canada, and WHF Past President, Dr Salim Yusuf, will provide an initial endowment of \$500,000 CAD to support the WHF Emerging Leaders Programme. In light of this generous financial gift, and Dr Yusuf's initiative in establishing this Programme, it will now be known as: the World Heart Federation Salim Yusuf Emerging Leaders Programme.

In addition, WHF has made a commitment to create the 'World Heart Federation Endowment Fund' and to engage in additional efforts through fundraising from diverse sources to preserve and grow Dr Yusuf's generous contribution.

Dr Yusuf commented: "I am honoured to support the WHF Emerging Leaders Programme which will develop and train a new generation of individuals from both developing and developed countries to lead future clinical and population research to prevent and treat heart diseases and stroke. These efforts are aligned with the mission of PHRI and also the WHF. Over the years that I have served on the Board of the World Heart Federation, I have been impressed by the importance of the WHF's global work and impact, despite its modest resources. The WHF's potential reach and impact is enormous, and can benefit millions of people around the world."

Dr Yusuf created the WHF Emerging Leaders Programme in 2014, during his time as President-Elect of the Federation. It is among the first international training programmes on cardiovascular implementation research with its main objective being to build up capacity, professional development, mentorship and networking of CVD Emerging Leaders in 100 countries.

Each year through a competitive process 25 Emerging Leaders are selected. In 2018, the Programme focus was on stroke prevention, treatment and control. Previous cohorts of trainees have focused on access to essential medicines, secondary prevention of cardiovascular diseases, raised blood pressure, and tobacco prevention and control.

Professor David Wood, President, World Heart Federation, commented:

"By developing the next generation of leaders, the World Heart Federation Salim Yusuf Emerging Leaders Programme plays an important role in helping WHF to achieve our mission and vision - we believe in a world where heart health for everyone is a fundamental human right and a crucial element of global health justice. Over the past four years, this Programme has trained more than 100 participants selected from at least 50 countries. These individuals have demonstrated long-term promise through their early career success, and creativity and passion for improving cardiovascular health and preventing CVD. As a consequence of their

participation in the World Heart Federation Salim Yusuf Emerging Leaders Programme, these professionals will have the capacity to effect change over the remainder of their careers.”

Dr Paul O’Byrne, Dean and Vice-President, Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University commented: “Salim Yusuf has not only led some of the most important and impactful studies in cardiovascular disease in the past two decades, but has also been an outstanding mentor for many clinician scientists, who have developed important careers in cardiovascular medicine. The WHF Emerging Leaders Program is another outstanding example of an area where Salim Yusuf has identified an important need and has stepped up to provide support to help generate the next generation of leaders. We, at McMaster University, are very proud of the successes that Salim Yusuf has achieved and the commitment he has for the future of cardiovascular medicine.”

Ends

For more details about the World Heart Federation Salim Yusuf Emerging Leaders Programme, please visit www.world-heart-federation.org/emerging-leaders/

For any further information, please contact communications@worldheart.org

Notes to editors

About Dr Salim Yusuf

Salim Yusuf is an internationally renowned cardiologist and epidemiologist, whose work over 35 years has substantially influenced prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease. Medically qualified in Bangalore 1976, he received a Rhodes Scholarship and obtained a DPhil from Oxford, during which he (along with Richard Peto, Rory Collins and Peter Sleight) initiated the concepts of large, simple trials and meta-analysis. He served as President of the World Heart Federation between 2015 and 2016.

Yusuf holds a Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Research Chair and has received (among others) the Lifetime Research Achievement award of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society; the Paul Wood Silver Medal of the British Cardiac Society; and the European Society of Cardiology gold medal. He has been inducted into the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame; was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada; and received the Canada Gairdner Wightman Award in 2014. Dr Yusuf is Executive Director of the Population Health Research Institute in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; Chief Scientist at Hamilton Health Sciences; and Distinguished University Professor at McMaster University.

Yusuf has published over 1000 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He was the second most cited researcher in the world for 2011 and is among the top 20 most cited scientists in medical history. He continues to conduct research into the societal, behavioural and biologic causes



of cardiovascular diseases and his studies on the prevention and treatment of heart diseases and stroke involve over one hundred countries in every inhabited continent of the world.

About the World Heart Federation

The World Heart Federation is dedicated to leading the global fight against cardiovascular disease (CVD), including heart disease and stroke. For more information, please visit:

www.worldheart.org

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