

**ARRIGO RECORDATI INTERNATIONAL PRIZE  
FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AWARDED TO  
JOHN JOSEPH VALENTINE MCMURRAY  
AND SALIM YUSUF**

**Secondary prevention and risk  
reduction strategies for patients  
with cardiovascular diseases**

**2015 Jury**

**M. John Chapman B.Sc. (Hons),  
Ph.D., D.Sc., FESC**  
Research Professor Medical  
Faculty of the Pierre and Marie  
Curie University, Paris  
Director Emeritus of the Dyslipidemia  
and Atherosclerosis Research Unit,  
(INSERM), Pitié-Salpêtrière University  
Hospital, Paris, France  
Past-President of the European  
Atherosclerosis Society (EAS)

**Thomas F. Lüscher MD, FRCP**  
Professor and Chairman  
of Cardiology, University  
Heart Center, Zurich  
Director of Center for Molecular  
Cardiology, University of Zurich,  
Switzerland

**Chris J. Packard CBE,  
Ph.D., FRCPath, D.Sc.  
FRCP(Gla), FRSE**  
R&D Director, NHS Greater  
Glasgow & Clyde  
Honorary Professor  
of Vascular Biochemistry,  
University of Glasgow  
Consultant Clinical Scientist,  
Dept. of Biochemistry,  
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde,  
Scotland, UK

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The Prize was awarded to the two scientists for their contribution in researching secondary prevention and risk reduction strategies for patients with cardiovascular diseases.

The theme of the 2017 Edition of the Arrigo Recordati Prize will be: *"Biological therapies for the treatment of diseases and conditions with high cardiovascular risk"*.

*Milan, June 13, 2015*

Today the Eighth Edition of the Arrigo Recordati International Prize for Scientific Research came to its conclusion with 100,000 Euros being awarded to Professor **John Joseph Valentine McMurray**, Professor of Medical Cardiology and convener for clinical research in the Institute of Cardiovascular & Medical Sciences at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK and Professor **Salim Yusuf**, Professor of Medicine, Executive Director of the Population Health Research Institute (PHRI), McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada. The ceremony took place during the 25<sup>th</sup> European Society of Hypertension (ESH) Annual Meeting in Milan.

The Arrigo Recordati International Prize for Scientific Research was established in 2000, in memory of the Italian pharmaceutical entrepreneur Arrigo Recordati, who led the homonymous company through a period of intense growth and development for 48 years until his premature death in February 1999. The Prize recognizes the seminal work of an individual who has demonstrated, through dedication to research, the values recognized by Arrigo Recordati, by granting every two years a prize of 100,000 Euros to a distinguished scientist, of any nationality, working in an institutional setting and not affiliated with pharmaceutical or medical device companies, for his/her commitment and accomplishments in the field of cardiovascular disease. Each edition of the Prize is devoted to a specific theme in this field.

For the 2015 Edition of the Prize, relevant International Societies and organizations specializing in the areas of Cardiology and Internal Medicine were invited to nominate candidates that they felt merited the Award for lifetime

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achievement in researching secondary prevention and risk reduction strategies for patients with cardiovascular diseases. Self-nominations were not considered.

The Jury panel of the 2015 Edition of the Prize, who announced the final decision, is composed of experts who have provided leadership throughout their long careers in the field of cardiology and secondary prevention and risk reduction strategies for patients with cardiovascular diseases. The Jury is chaired by **M. John Chapman B.Sc. (Hons), Ph.D., D.Sc., FESC**, Research Professor, Medical Faculty of the Pierre and Marie Curie University (UPMC), Paris, Director Emeritus of the Dyslipidemia and Atherosclerosis Research Unit, (INSERM), Pitié-Salpêtrière University Hospital, Paris, France, Past-President of the European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS). Members of the Jury are **Thomas F. Lüscher MD, FRCP**, Professor and Chairman of Cardiology, University Heart Center, Zurich, Director of Center for Molecular Cardiology, University of Zurich, Switzerland and **Chris J. Packard CBE, Ph.D., FRCPATH, D.Sc. FRCP(Gla), FRSE**, Director of Research and Development, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Honorary Professor of Vascular Biochemistry at the University of Glasgow, Consultant Clinical Scientist, Department of Biochemistry, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, Scotland, UK.

Professor Chapman, on behalf of the Jury, officially awarded the winners with the following motivation: *"Unique and exceptional contributions of each candidate to studies and clinical trials in secondary prevention, to the impact of their works on development of new strategies for risk reduction in subjects with CVD"*.

The winners of the Arrigo Recordati Prize, after expressing their satisfaction for the important Award, gave a brief lecture summarizing their research efforts and results in the study of the secondary prevention and risk reduction strategies for patients with cardiovascular diseases.

Over the last 3 decades, Professor Salim Yusuf has built capacity for clinical and population research across the world by establishing networks at over 1500 sites in 85 countries, spanning all inhabited continents of the world. He

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has trained over 100 researchers, many of whom are internationally renowned leaders in medical research. He has helped develop major research institutes or programs in Canada, India, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and China.

Throughout his professional career, Professor John Joseph Valentine McMurray has published approximately 700 original papers, reviews, and book chapters, including several in leading medical (e.g. *Goldman Cecil's*) and cardiology textbooks (e.g. *The ESC Textbook on Cardiovascular Medicine*). He is the primary author or editor of thirteen books.

Professor McMurray was recently identified as one of the 400 most influential biomedical researchers in the world and the only cardiovascular researcher on this list from the UK (Boyack KW, Klavans R, Sorensen AA, Ioannidis JP. *A list of highly influential biomedical researchers, 1996-2011*. Eur J Clin Invest. 2013;43:1339-65). He was also included in the new 2014 Highly Cited Researchers listing and one of The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds.

Finally, Giovanni Recordati, Arrigo Recordati's son and current Chairman and CEO of the Recordati pharmaceutical company, renewed the Company's strong commitment to research and officially announced that the theme chosen for the Ninth Edition of the Arrigo Recordati Prize is: "*Biological therapies for the treatment of diseases and conditions with high cardiovascular risk*".

A large body of evidence now indicates that several chronic diseases and conditions are associated with a high cardiovascular (CV) risk. This is largely documented also for autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, spondyloarthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus.

Indeed, it is now well established that in rheumatoid arthritis (RA) the risk of CV morbidity and mortality is increased by almost 50%, as compared with the general population, and that CV disease is the leading cause of death in these patients. Large studies in RA patients have shown an almost 2-fold increase in their risk for myocardial infarction, to a level comparable to that observed in patients with type-2 diabetes. Recognized CV risk factors (such as

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hypertension, smoking and type-2 diabetes) certainly contribute to the increased CV risk level in RA patients, but do not fully explain it. Rather, growing evidence suggests that the chronic systemic inflammatory burden associated with RA is a key element of the increased CV risk.

In the past decade, important new findings have emerged linking also psoriasis with chronic systemic inflammation and a subsequent increase in CV risk. High-need psoriatic patients show a high prevalence of CV risk factors, and may consequently be predisposed to CV diseases. A significantly higher prevalence of obesity, smoking, and hypertension was found for high-need psoriatic patients compared with controls. Striking differences were found with respect to body mass index and obesity (more than 35% of all high-need psoriatic patients were found to be obese). Furthermore, the associations between psoriasis and CV risk factors are reported to be stronger as psoriasis severity increases. As this is relevant for therapy management in everyday clinical practice, CV risk should be evaluated for each high-need psoriasis patient, before and during systemic treatment.

All the above evidence indicates that the study and survey of the prevalence of CV risk factors in patients with chronic diseases and conditions, and in particular with autoimmune diseases, is highly relevant.

It has been proposed that an effective control of inflammation could help reduce CV risk and illness in patients with autoimmune diseases. Growing clinical evidence has shown the increasing efficacy of therapies and therapeutic strategies, largely based on the use of biological products, in significantly reducing disease activity and the CV risk level in autoimmune diseases.

On the other hand, it also has to be carefully assessed whether these biological therapies are safe for the treatment of diseases and conditions with high CV risk. At this point, it is encouraging that a recent meta-analysis evaluating a possible association between biological therapies for psoriasis and major adverse cardiovascular events (MACEs) did not show a significant increase in risk associated with the use of biological therapies.

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Since CV risk and CV disease represent a considerable part of the burden and premature mortality in chronic diseases and conditions, and in particular in autoimmune diseases, the clinical importance of the potential implications of the use of biological therapies needs to be thoroughly evaluated and highlighted.

The Arrigo Recordati Prize in its next edition of 2017 will seek to identify a leading contributor in this highly relevant area of medical research.

**About Recordati**

Recordati, established in 1926, is an international pharmaceutical group, dedicated to the research, development, manufacturing and marketing of pharmaceuticals. Listed on the Italian Stock Exchange since 1984, with a total staff of around 4,000, headquartered in Milan, Italy, Recordati has operations in the main European countries, in Russia, in other Central and Eastern European countries, in Turkey, in North Africa and in the United States of America. An efficient field force of medical representatives promotes a wide range of innovative pharmaceuticals, both proprietary and under license, in a number of therapeutic areas including a specialized business dedicated to treatments for rare diseases. Recordati is a partner of choice for new product licenses for its territories. Recordati is committed to the research and development of new specialties within the urogenital therapeutic area and of treatments for rare diseases.

For more information on the Arrigo Recordati International Prize, please contact the Organizing Secretariat: AIM Group International – AIM Congress - Ms Dafne Sfoggia - Phone +39 02 56601.1; Fax +39 02 56609045 - e-mail: [recordatiprize2015@aimgroup.eu](mailto:recordatiprize2015@aimgroup.eu) or visit [www.recordati.com/prize](http://www.recordati.com/prize)