

Professor Mehmet Haberal presented with the award of *Ihsan Dođramacı Family Health Foundation Prize* by the World Health Organization (WHO)



World Health Organization

WHA75 President, Dr. Ahmed Robleh Abdilleh, Minister of Health of Djibouti, presented the award to Professor Mehmet Haberal. When accepting the award, Professor Haberal said:

Professor Mehmet Haberal presented with the award of *Ihsan Dođramacı Family Health Foundation Prize* by the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board in recognition of his long-term and outstanding contributions to the global public health.

The award ceremony was held on Friday, May 27th, 2022 at the Palace of Nations, during the Plenary of the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly (WHA 75) in Geneva, Switzerland with the participation of delegations and Health Ministers from all WHO Member States.

Opening the award ceremony, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, said: "The 2022 public health prizes and awards celebrate people and institutions for successfully addressing a huge array of health challenges around the world. It is an honour for us to come together to acknowledge these true champions of health. I thank the foundations and institutions who so generally support these awards."

"I accept this honor with pride and humility because it is given by WHO and carries the name of Professor İhsan Dođramacı, a monumental international figure in child health. He was my visionary mentor who guided me through the long journey of becoming a transplant surgeon. He devoted his entire life and energy to the advancement of medicine in Turkey and beyond. A global citizen, he was a friend and lifelong supporter of WHO from Day one as he was a signatory to the Constitution of WHO when it was established in New York in 1946. Throughout my career, I have been inspired by the wisdom, energy and courage of this extraordinary leader and have followed his footsteps."

Many of the prizes awarded have been established by, or set up in memory of, an eminent public health professional and the winners were selected by the WHO Executive Board on the basis of recommendations made by the dedicated selection panels for each prize.

Professor Haberal has been heralded as a pioneer in the fields of general surgery, transplantation, and burn treatment in Turkey and the world since 1975 and is renowned internationally in the medical community. He performed the first living-related kidney transplantation in Turkey on November 3, 1975, the first cadaver-kidney transplantation in Turkey on October 10, 1978, with a kidney donated by Eurotransplant, and the first domestic cadaver-kidney transplantation in Turkey on July 27, 1979, immediately after enabling the laws on harvesting, storage, grafting, and transplantation of organs and tissues to be enacted on June 3, 1979. He is the first person to perform the first successful cadaver-liver transplantation in Turkey, in the Middle East and in Northern Africa on December 8, 1988. Professor Haberal followed this on March 15, 1990 with the first pediatric segmental living-related liver transplantation in Turkey, the region, and in Europe

immediately succeeded by the first adult segmental living-related liver transplantation (left lobe) in the world on April 24, 1990. On May 16, 1992, Professor Haberal performed combined liver-kidney transplantation from a living-related donor, which was the first operation of its kind anywhere in the world.

He has helped establish a legal framework for organ transplantation, while enhancing its social acceptability through a holistic approach to family and community health, working with families of patients with terminal conditions and with religious leaders. His leadership and collaboration with national, regional and global institutions have led to the creation of numerous organ transplantation centres in Turkey and the training of many health professionals interested in this field of work.

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Professor Mehmet Haberal during his speech

