

February 24, 2010

RECIPIENT OF 9TH VEHBI KOÇ AWARD IS ANNOUNCED

**PROF. DR. TURGAY DALKARA
RECEIVES THE VEHBI KOÇ AWARD FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO
HEALTHCARE**

Sponsored by the Vehbi Koç Foundation, the first and largest private foundation in Turkey operating for 41 years, the Vehbi Koç Award is granted in the fields of education, healthcare, culture&arts to encourage individuals and institutes that enhance the quality of life. This year's award goes to Prof. Dr. Turgay Dalkara for his international achievements in cerebral and vascular diseases. Mustafa V. Koç, the Chairman of The Board of Koç Holding, spoke during the award ceremony, which also commemorated Mr. Vehbi Koç, the founder of the Vehbi Koç Foundation, on the 14th anniversary of his death. Pointing out that the Vehbi Koç Award this year signaled social prosperity, Mr. Koç emphasized the importance of the healthcare industry, which holds a critical position in economic prosperity since healthcare facilitates greater efficiency in education and production. Mustafa V. Koç recognized the healthcare industry's role in the country's prosperity. "By adopting the vision and insight of my grandfather, Vehbi Koç, we have carried out and continue to promote many projects, through the Vehbi Koç foundation, that focus on a healthy community," he remarked.

Sponsored by the Vehbi Koç Foundation, Turkey's first and largest private foundation, this year's recipient of the 9th Vehbi Koç Award was announced in an award ceremony with the participation of Semahat Arsel, the Chairman of The Board of the Vehbi Koç Foundation, and Mustafa V. Koç, the Chairman of The Board of Koç Holding. The TEV General Manager, Turgut Bozkurt, also delivered a speech during the evening, commemorating Vehbi Koç, the founder of the Koç Group and the Vehbi Koç Foundation, on the 14th anniversary of his death.

The award was granted to Prof. Dr. Turgay Dalkara, world-renowned for his work in cerebral and vascular diseases.

Prof. Dr. Dalkaya was awarded the 9th Vehbi Koç Award for his scientific research and success in cerebral and vascular diseases, which has attracted enormous attention. The award was presented to Dr. Dalkara by Semahat Arsel, the Chairman of The Board of the Vehbi Koç Foundation. Dr. Dalkara also received \$100,000, the largest financial award in Turkey, as part of the Vehbi Koç Award.

A leading figure in encouraging young scientists

A film highlighting Prof. Dr. Dalkara's life was shown during the awards ceremony. He has attained well-deserved recognition in both scientific and medical circles not only in Turkey but around the globe for his research on cerebral ischemia, his specialty, which is a paralysis caused by cerebral embolisms. Receiving the Vehbi Koç Foundation's award, Dr. Dalkara is a name the global medical community recognizes immediately, not only for his studies in

Turkey but also for his positions at select universities to include the Medical Faculty at Harvard University and for the scientific discoveries he has made with his research teams. After the 9th Vehbi Award was handed to Dr. Dalkara, the reasons were clearly stated: the achievements of scientific work in his specialty, which is paralysis due to cerebral embolisms (cerebral ischemia), and his leadership in encouraging and promoting young scientists.

His Harvard lectures on cerebral ischemia have found a place in medical literature

Known the world over as an expert in his field, Prof. Dr. Dalkara primarily focuses on cerebral ischemia, with his research team at Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine. He has authored over 115 published articles in international journals, with over 3,500 references to these articles in worldwide medical literature, gaining a respected name for his research of cerebral ischemia. Dr. Dalkara continues his work as a professor of neurology in the Faculty of Medicine at Hacettepe University, where he graduated. In addition, he is the director of the Institute of Neurological Sciences and Psychiatry and the coordinator of the doctor of medicine and science associate program in the Faculty of Medicine. Holding a doctorate in pharmacology, Dr. Dalkara is also a founding member of the Turkish Academy of Sciences. Moreover, he has held a permanent position at the Harvard Faculty of Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, since 1992, where he also conducts his research. His relationship with Harvard has resulted in many collaborative achievements and has allowed many young Turkish scientists to study at Harvard.

Working on new drug delivery systems for treatment of cerebral diseases

With his teams at Hacettepe University Cerebral Research and Neuroscience Laboratories and at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Prof. Dr. Dalkara is also working on drug delivery systems that target the brain, providing a ray of hope in curing cancer. Because of their new discoveries, Dr. Dalkara and his colleagues are attracting more and more interest in the global medical community, as they continue in their efforts to utilize these new delivery systems at various clinics.

“Health is an indicator of social prosperity and plays a great role in economic prosperity as well,” says Mustafa V. Koç

Mustafa V. Koç, the Chairman of The Board of Koç Holding, noted that granting the Vehbi Koç Award to the healthcare industry not only indicates social prosperity but also prompts greater efficiency in education and production. Mr. Koç stated that he recognized the healthcare industry’s role in the country’s prosperity. “By adopting the vision and insight of Vehbi Koç, we have carried out and continue to promote many projects, through the Vehbi Koç Foundation, that focus on a healthy community,” he said.

“The idea for this award belongs to my late grandfather, Vehbi Koç, and we are proud to fulfill his wishes”

In his speech commemorating Vehbi Koç on the 14th anniversary of his death, Mustafa V. Koç, the Chairman of The Board of Koç Holding, said, “The idea for the Vehbi Koç Awards, which brings us together today, came from the late Vehbi Koç while he was still healthy, and he wanted our foundation to focus on this subject. We are proud to fulfill his wishes with these awards, which we initiated in 2002.” Mr. Koç pointed out that Vehbi Koç had been a leading figure in many projects and ideas in the healthcare industry and said that, as the children and grandchildren of Vehbi Koç, they were diligently performing work in this field. “Thousands of patients are treated along with education and research being conducted at the hospitals and centers we have established. Our plan to create a Faculty of Medicine at Koç University is also underway,” Mr. Koç said.