Eminent vet and animal health and welfare champion receives the BVA Chiron Award

Congratulations to WVA Councillor, Dr Sira Abdul RAHMAN on receiving the BVA Chiron Award. The WVA family is proud of you.

Distinguished vet, parasitologist and founder trustee of Rabies in Asia Foundation, Professor Abdul Rahman was today (19 September 2019) announced as the recipient of the British Veterinary Association’s (BVA) prestigious Chiron Award.

Professor Rahman has received the award in recognition of a long list of contributions to the global veterinary profession, and as a champion for advancing animal health and welfare standards worldwide.

He is an executive director and recent past President of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and has published more than 125 scientific papers on subjects ranging from veterinary public health and control of emerging diseases to welfare at slaughter, food security and adaptation to climate change.

The Chiron Award is an acknowledgment of lifetime achievements in veterinary science or outstanding services to the profession and is judged as being of a standard that commands international or inter-professional recognition.

As a retired Professor of Parasitology and former Dean of the Bangalore Veterinary College in India, Professor Rahman has been actively engaged in teaching, supporting and unifying the global veterinary profession for over 50 years, particularly in developing countries. He has also worked with the Indian Veterinary Association as well as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

On discovering that he was the recipient of this year’s Award, Professor Rahman said:

“I have a deep sense of gratitude towards the multitude of people, both within and outside the profession, with whom it has been my great good fortune to work. I owe them all so much and they deservedly share the credit for this award.”
“I have long had a passion for the veterinary profession and was very fortunate to have worked within it as an academician and then in association with its professional organisations. This gave me wonderful opportunities to work with many others towards promoting animal health, animal welfare and the control of zoonotic diseases, especially rabies.

“The veterinary profession is facing many challenges, especially in the developing countries of the world, where poverty and hunger are a cause of major concern. Increasing animal production, tackling emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases, food safety and security, climate change and antimicrobial resistance will be areas of concern that the profession has to address.”

Reading out the citation for the award at BVA Members’ Day in Swansea today, outgoing BVA President Simon Doherty said: “Professor Rahman is a true advocate for the profession and animal welfare. His limitless energy, dedication, and a passion for disease control and prevention, continues to shape ethical and environmental policies globally.

“It is an honour to present this year’s Chiron Award to Professor Rahman.”

Notes for Editors

1. BVA is the largest membership community for the veterinary profession in the UK. We represent the views of over 18,000 vets and vet students on animal health and welfare, and veterinary policy issues to government, parliamentarians and key influencers in the UK and EU.
2. For more information, please contact the BVA media office on 020 7908 6340 or 07503 190 247 or via media@bva.co.uk.
3. The Chiron Award is presented by the British Veterinary Association for outstanding contributions to veterinary science or for outstanding services to the profession, judged in either case as being of a calibre commanding international or inter-professional recognition. This award is made in recognition of a lifetime’s achievements. The Chiron Award was first presented in 1992.
4. Print-ready images of Professor Rahman are available to download from the BVA Flickr stream: https://www.flickr.com/photos/britishvets/albums
5. If you do not want to receive press releases from the BVA media team, please email media@bva.co.uk