

The Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health Award Winner

Professor Mohammad Abul Faiz receiving the Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health at the World Health Assembly, Geneva, 2026.

Professor (Dr.) Mohammad Abul Faiz, one of Bangladesh's most distinguished physicians, researchers, and public health leaders, has been awarded the Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health 2026 by the World Health Organization (WHO). The prestigious award, presented during the 79th World Health Assembly, recognizes his lifelong commitment to improving the health and well-being of vulnerable and marginalized populations, particularly in Bangladesh.

Born in 1953 in Bairag, Anwara, Chattogram, Bangladesh, Professor Faiz has dedicated more than four decades to advancing medical education, clinical excellence, public health policy, and scientific research. He graduated with an MBBS from Chittagong Medical College in 1978, obtained FCPS in Internal Medicine in 1982, and later earned a PhD from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom, in 1993 as a World Health Organization Fellow. His distinguished academic achievements were further recognized through the conferment of an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (FRCP).

Professor Faiz has served in several key positions in Bangladesh's healthcare system, including at Chittagong Medical College, Dhaka Medical College, Sir Salimullah Medical College, Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, Chittagong General Hospital, and Bangladesh Medical University (formerly IPGMR). He later assumed national leadership roles as Principal of Dhaka Medical College, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Dhaka, and Director General of Health Services (DGHS), Bangladesh.

A globally recognized authority in infectious diseases, tropical medicine, and medical toxicology, Professor Faiz has made exceptional contributions to the development of national and international treatment guidelines.

Among his most influential achievements is his pioneering work on snakebite envenoming, a neglected tropical health problem that disproportionately affects poor rural communities. As Co-Chair of the WHO Snakebite Envenoming Working Group, he played a major role in shaping global strategies for the prevention and management of snakebite.

His contributions extend to the formulation of Bangladesh's treatment strategies for malaria, kala-azar, dengue, poisoning, and snakebite, significantly strengthening the country's public health response. He has served in advisory and leadership capacities for WHO, SEARO, the Global Fund, DNDi, and several international scientific organizations.

A prolific researcher, Professor Faiz has authored more than 350 scientific publications and numerous medical texts. His work has influenced clinical practice and public health policy both nationally and internationally. His landmark malaria research published in *The Lancet* received international acclaim and earned the BMJ Research Paper of the Year Award in 2010.

The Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health is among WHO's highest honors in public health. Named after the late WHO Director-General Dr. Lee Jong-wook, the award recognizes individuals or institutions whose work has made outstanding contributions to public health, especially for underserved and vulnerable populations. The selection of Professor Faiz reflects international recognition of his lifelong dedication to improving healthcare access, disease control, medical education, and scientific research.

In addition to this prestigious WHO recognition, Professor Faiz has received several national honors, including the Gold Medal of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, the Chikitschok Padak, and the Shadhinota

Podok awarded by the Chattogram City Corporation. He currently serves as President of the Toxicology Society of Bangladesh (TSB) and Chairman of Dev Care Foundation, continuing to contribute actively to public health and medical advancement.

The award of the Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health is not only a personal achievement for Professor M. A. Faiz, but also a proud moment for Bangladesh. It celebrates a lifetime devoted to the service of humanity through excellence in medicine,

research, education, and public health leadership.

“His lifelong dedication to combating diseases affecting rural, poor, and marginalized populations stands as an inspiring example of how science, compassion, and leadership can transform public health and save lives.”

Prof. MA Faiz is a fellow of the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons and also the Chairman of the Journal Committee. BCPS is deeply honored with this remarkable achievement and heartily congratulates this Legendary Physician.



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