

Prize

I think there is nobody who will not be happy after winning a prize. This judgment of mine is confirmed by the joy in Aziz Sancar's voice, which I easily felt while listening to his interview with Adam Smith, Chief Scientific Officer of Nobel Media. Even the interviewer Adam Smith could not stop himself to express this tone as "I can hear it in your voice".

If you check the list below you will figure out that Aziz Sancar is used to win prizes, in other words he experienced this happiness several times before:

- 1969 MD, Summa Cum Laude (1st in class of 625)
- 1977 PhD, University of Texas at Dallas
- 1984 NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award
- 1995 NIH MERIT Award
- 2004 American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- 2005 National Academy of Sciences, USA
- 2006 Turkish Academy of Sciences
- 2007 Turkish Koç Award
- 2009 University of Texas at Dallas Distinguished Alumni Award
- 2014 Distinguished Visiting Professor – Academia Sinica
- 2015 ASBMB Vallee Award

In every field of life, prizes motivate the smart people. This is valid for science and scientists as well. And that is how success and progress come. If instead of being motivated Aziz Sancar was satisfied with the previous awards, medicine would miss the progress (DNA repair) and he would miss winning the top prize on the Globe, the Nobel Prize.

I briefly mentioned the success story of Aziz Sancar, as an introduction to this editorial because I want to set the stage for our annual traditional prize, the Best Original Investigation Published in Anatolian Journal of Cardiology. I can see you smiling but please do not. I can assure you that my intention is not to establish any parallelism with Nobel Prize. Rather I am trying to emphasize the main principle, "prizes motivate".

This year more than one hundred original investigations, printed in last 12 months, were evaluated. As we nominate only those articles with a first author younger than 40 years of age for the prize, about 30 of them were sent to the initial jury. With the scores given by Associate Editors, the members of the initial jury, the top ten investigations were determined. These were sent to the final jury for re-evaluation. Without being aware of the ranking provided by the initial jury, the final jury scored the articles and thus the first three were chosen.

With their works titled "Acute effect of primary percutaneous coronary intervention on left ventricular dyssynchrony in ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction" Sinan İnci won the third, "The relationship between atrial electromechanical delay and left atrial mechanical function in stroke patients" Mehmet Ata Akıl won the second and "Evaluation of early subclinical cardiotoxicity of chemotherapy in breast cancer" Hayri Alıcı won the first prize.

The prizes were presented to the winners in the opening ceremony of the 31st Turkish Cardiology Congress with International Participation. All of the attendees of the ceremony witnessed their happiness. Of course this happiness can be accepted as an award to all of the mem-

bers of the juries who made a meticulous evaluation by sparing substantial time. However, for the sake of the Chief Editor, the associate editors and all of the members of the juries, I can frankly say that we are not satisfied with this award. The real satisfaction will be seeing the escalation in the quality of science in of all the winners' and nominees' investigations. When this is achieved, it will be the occasion to judge that our prize is functional.

It is not the birthplace but it is the scientific environment that brings success and progress. Aziz Sancar proved that. Here I have to quote Murat Tuzcu, another internationally prominent figure from Turkey, but living abroad in a scientific environment. In his interview published in August 2015 in this journal he discusses the issue as "I agree with you that environment, resources, and the scientific climate are as important, probably more important, than an individual's effort. Unfortunately, little more than lip service is afforded to health research and clinical investigation and to scientific research in Turkey. Furthermore, we are paying dearly for this. It is very telling that only 18 of the 3216 (0.56%) highly cited scientists are originally from Turkey. A more noteworthy and truly sad statistic is that less than half of these people work in Turkey. This means that our country (Turkey), with a lot of well-educated, hard-working, brilliant, academicians contribute only 1 in 400 to this list. This is not because of a lack of world-class minds. It is because of a decade-long neglect of science. This unfortunate situation is most striking in the field of medicine. There is a lack of support for basic research or for consistent long-term commitment to translational and clinical research. Under these circumstances, it would be naïve to expect the young people to dedicate their life to medical research." I do not think that there is more to say on top of this.

I am not going to conclude this editorial with the discouraging reality of our country in science. Rather I am going to stick to the light that Aziz Sancar lit. If a scientific environment is constructed, the scientists of this country can succeed as well. As a scientific journal we are willing to contribute to this construction. Although we are very well aware of its tininess, we hope our prize will motivate young cardiologists to do high quality investigations and make them to raise their voice of expectations for more and better opportunities, which might reach to the administrators.

As an epilogue on behalf of our Editor-in-Chief Bilgin Timuralp and all of the associate editors, the nominees and the winners I want to express our gratefulness to Mr. Firuz Kanatlı. His unlimited contribution made this prize traditional.

Zeki Öngen
Editor
Istanbul-Turkey

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- 2015 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

