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Media Information

Royal Gold Medals for outstanding achievement

The achievements of two individuals whose work has brought about benefits on an international scale have received Royal recognition. Royal Medals were presented by The Royal Society of Edinburgh's President, Lord Sutherland of Houndwood to Professor Sir David Edward and Professor William Hill at a ceremony held in The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) Monday 10 October 2005. The Medallists have been approved by the RSE's Patron, Her Majesty The Queen and were recommended by the RSE's Council, in recognition of intellectual endeavour which has had a profound influence on people's lives, world-wide. Prestigious gold medals, which are designed and produced in Scotland, are to be presented to the Medallists by RSE President Lord Sutherland of Houndwood.

President of The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Sir Michael Atiyah said:

In their respective fields of endeavour, the Royal Medallists have excelled. The impact of their commitment and achievement has transcended academic boundaries, profoundly influencing the lives of people in Scotland and internationally. Recognising and celebrating excellence for public benefit, The Royal Medals capture the spirit of the RSE's Royal Charter of 1783, 'to promote the advancement of learning and useful knowledge'. To Sir David and Professor Hill, I offer my sincere congratulations.

The Royal Medallists:

Professor Sir David Edward KCMG QC FRSE

Sir David Edward has had a unique and exceptionally distinguished career. As judge at the European Court of First Instance from 1989 to '92 and then the sole British judge at the Court of Justice of the European Communities from 1992 till 2004, he has had a long period of service at the top of one of the European Union's principal institutions. He was the second Scot to be British Judge at the Court of Justice and his appointment, together with that of his predecessor Lord Mackenzie Stuart, meant that, of the first three British judges at this Court, two were Scots lawyers. The distinction he achieved in this role and the widespread respect in which he is held was recognised by the award of an honorary LLD by Edinburgh University and by honorary doctorates from several other universities in the UK. His recognition, however, is not confined to the UK but is internationally demonstrated by honorary doctorates from Saarbrücken and Münster and by the award of the Distinguished Cross First Class of the Spanish Order of St Raymond of Penafort.

Prior to his judicial career in Europe, Sir David was a successful advocate for twenty three years and was Clerk and then Treasurer of the Faculty of Advocates for ten years. He had primary responsibility for revising the regulations for admission, reorganising the Faculty's finances and refurbishing the Advocates' Library. He played a decisive part in negotiations among the bars of Europe concerning mutual recognition of legal professional qualifications and rights of audience in

courts throughout Europe. As a representative of the Faculty of Advocates, he played a crucial part in securing agreement for the Scottish legal system to be recognised in Europe on equal terms with that of England and Wales. He was the first British President of the Consultative Committee (now the Council) of the Bars and Law Societies of the European Community (1978-80).

Sir David then entered academic life as Salvesen Professor of European Institutions and Director of the Europa Institute at the University of Edinburgh. He has been a Trustee of the National Library of Scotland, Member of the Law Advisory Committee of the British Council, Adviser to the House of Lords Committee on the European Community, Member of the Panel of Arbitrators, International Centre for Investment Disputes, Chairman of Continental Assets Trust and a Director of the Harris Tweed Association and of Adam & Company. Since returning to Edinburgh from Luxembourg, Sir David has become Chairman of the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland and spends part of his time as a temporary judge in the Inner House of the Court of Session.

He was admitted Advocate in 1962 and QC in 1974. He has published several books and articles in legal journals and continues to make a significant contribution to public life in Scotland. It is for his outstanding contribution to the law both in the European Union and in Scotland, to the legal profession in Scotland, and for his contribution to public life that Sir David Edward is awarded a Royal Society of Edinburgh Royal Medal.

Professor William Hill OBE FRS FRSE

Professor William Hill is one of the world's most eminent quantitative geneticists, with a distinguished research career spanning forty years which is reflected in over two hundred refereed publications in major journals. In addition to his purely scientific work, mostly carried out in Edinburgh, he has made many important contributions to the application of genetics to animal improvement, which have had a major impact on the UK livestock breeding industry. He is a sought-after consultant by both public agencies and private businesses in this area. He has also served with distinction in several important academic administrative posts, culminating in Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering at the University of Edinburgh.

Professor Hill's research is primarily theoretical, using mathematical and computer models of the behaviour of genes in populations to understand the genetic basis of quantitatively varying traits, and their responses to artificial and natural selection. Such traits are of prime importance for both evolution and animal and plant breeding. He has also conducted experiments on the effects of artificial selection on mice, to test the predictions of his theories, and has estimated genetic parameters of quantitative traits in livestock populations for the purpose of designing programmes of improvement of economically important traits. He has made numerous very influential contributions to our understanding of the effects of finite population size and mutation on variability and selection responses, notably the role of mutation in maintaining continued responses to selection. Of special importance has been his work on linkage disequilibrium, the non-random associations between genetic variants at different sites in the genome. Such associations now provide an immensely important tool for human geneticists seeking to map and identify disease-causing genes, and Professor Hill's work provided the basic framework for modeling and analysing linkage disequilibrium, which he went on to apply to the genetic mapping problem. He also developed models of the effects of linkage disequilibrium on the effectiveness of selection, which play a major role in our understanding of genome evolution, and are known as the *Hill-Robertson effect*.

Professor Hill was Vice President and then President of the British Society of Animal Science between 1997 and 2000. He was awarded the OBE in 2004 and is currently Emeritus Professor of

Animal Genetics at the University of Edinburgh. Professor Hill's outstanding achievements in the field of Life Sciences richly merit his receiving a Royal Medal from the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

The Royal Medals

The distinguished designer and engraver Malcolm Appleby of Grandtully near Aberfeldy has designed and created the Royal Medals. Mr Appleby's work has been exhibited in many of the world's most prestigious museums and galleries. His commissions include engraving work on an orb for His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales' coronet, and pieces for The Royal Armouries, The Victoria & Albert Museum, and National Museums of Scotland. As the Royal Medals recognise outstanding achievement in all intellectual fields, it was decided to unify them by commissioning one design for all three medals.

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Notes for News & Features Editors & Pictures Editors:

- 1 .jpgs of the President of the RSE, the Medallists and the Medals are available from the Society.
- 2 This top accolade is open to all men and women who have achieved international excellence in any field of intellectual endeavour. Medallists should preferably have a Scottish connection, but do not need to reside in Scotland, or be RSE Fellows.
- 3 The Royal Medals were presented for the first time in July 2000, when Her Majesty The Queen awarded them, in person, at The Royal Society of Edinburgh to:
 - **Professor Sir Kenneth Murray**, FRS, FRSE for his groundbreaking work in developing a vaccine for Hepatitis B, improving healthcare world-wide.
 - **Professor Peter Higgs**, FRS, FRSE for offering a key to the problem of the origin of Mass. The Higgs boson has been a crucial step towards a unified theory of the forces of Nature.
 - **The Rt Hon The Lord Perry of Walton**, OBE, FRS, FRSE for his outstanding career in science and education, and for his pioneering work in developing the Open University, which has been a model for similar institutions around the world. Lord Perry died in 2003.

In 2001 HRH The Duke of Edinburgh presented Royal Medals in The Palace of Holyroodhouse to:

- **Professor Sir James Black**, OM, FRS, Hon FRSE, for his discovery & development of two blockbuster drugs: the renowned “ β -blocker” drugs, notably propranolol, which changed cardiovascular therapeutics beyond recognition and cimetidine, which profoundly improved the therapy of the peptic ulcer with cimetidine.
- **Professor Tom Devine**, FRSE, Hon MRIA, FBA for his distinguished and highly-acclaimed work on Irish and Scottish economic and social history which impacted upon the “peace process”.
- **Professor Ian Scott**, FRS, FRSE for his revolutionary work on the way in which vitamin B₁₂, the essential life pigments chlorophyll and heme, and the important anti-tumour agent taxol, are produced.

In 2002 HRH The Princess Royal presented Royal Medals at a Jubilee Dinner ceremony held in the Signet Library to:

- **Professor Sir Alfred Cuschieri** FRSE, for his outstanding contribution to the practice of medicine and pioneering developments in minimal access or ‘keyhole’ surgery.
- **Professor John R Mallard** OBE FRSE, for his outstanding, pioneering work in the field of medical imaging and diagnosis; developing two of the most important diagnostic technologies of the 20th century, namely Nuclear Medicine and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Imaging (NMRI).
- **Professor Sir Alan Peacock** DSC FBA FRSE, for his outstanding contribution to Social Science and Public Policy; having achieved international distinction on a range of fiscal issues where he has enhanced our understanding of key problems in both taxation and public expenditure.

In 2003 HRH The Duke of Edinburgh presented Royal Medals in The Royal Society of Edinburgh to:

- **Sir Michael Atiyah** OM, PPRS, HonFRSE, for his profound and beneficial effect on the development of mathematics and science in the UK and Europe..
- **Lord Mackay of Clashfern** KT, PC, QC, FRSE, for his outstanding contributions to Scots Law and public service, both within the UK and internationally.
- **Professor Sir Paul Nurse** FRS, HonFRSE, for his outstanding contribution to genetics research, in particular its relevance to cancer, in which he has become a leading figure nationally and internationally.

In 2004 HRSE President, Lord Sutherland of Houndwood presented Royal Medals in The Royal Society of Edinburgh to:

- **Professor Sir Philip Cohen** FRS, FRSE for his outstanding contribution to Life Sciences.
- **Professor Sir Neil MacCormick** FRSE, FBA, QC for his outstanding contribution to academic life in Scotland and internationally, particularly in the field of legal philosophy.

- **Professor Robin Milner** FRS, FRSE for his outstanding contributions to software engineering which have changed the face of modern computer science.

4. The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) is Scotland's National Academy of Science & Letters. An independent body with charitable status, its multidisciplinary fellowship of 1300 men and women of international standing represents a knowledge resource for the people of Scotland. Committed to its Royal Charter of 1783 for the “advancement of learning and useful knowledge” the Society recognises the important role it can play in today’s Scotland. Working as part of the UK and within a global context, the RSE seeks to contribute to Scotland's social, economic and cultural wellbeing by:

- organising conferences and lectures for the specialist and for the general public on topics of national and international importance
- providing independent, expert advice to key decision makers in Scotland
- awarding over £1.7 million annually to Scotland’s top young academics to promote research in Scotland
- enabling leading Scottish-based researchers to collaborate with the best of their international counterparts
- Inspiring school children in classrooms from the Borders to the Northern Isles and promoting their interest in science, society and culture.
- Producing academic journals of international standing

Full details: www.royalsoced.org.uk

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