

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **MIT Arab Students' Organization Science and Technology Achievement Awards Banquet 2007 (Saturday, April 14, 2007)**

More than 150 Arab-American professionals and college students from the Boston area will participate in the annual Arab-American Science and Technology awards banquet at the MIT University Park Hotel from 7-10:00 pm. on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The program starts with an informal reception followed by dinner and a ceremony to honor this year's Awardees.

"Every Spring the MIT Arab Student's Organization celebrates exceptional Arab and Arab Americans who have made noteworthy contributions to science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century," said Mariam Kandil, President of the MIT Arab Students' Organization. "This year's award recipients have set high goals for themselves and successfully pursued these goals. We aim to increase awareness of the achievements of these brilliant role models among members of the MIT and Boston community."

The winner of this year's life-time achievement award is Dr. Huda Zoghbi, a professor of Pediatrics in Neurology and Neuroscience at the Baylor College of Medicine, an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. The young professional award winner is Dr. Hayat Sindi, a leading medical researcher who invented a machine combining the effects of light and ultra-sound for use in the esoteric field of biotechnology. The graduate and undergraduate student award winners are Dr. Saleh Al-Tuwaijri and Mr. Ali Al-Hassani, respectively. The Awardees were selected by a panel of distinguished judges: Dr. Mujid Kazimi, Director of MIT Center for Advanced Nuclear Studies, Dr. Ahmed Ghoniem, Director of the MIT Reacting Gas Dynamics Laboratory, Dr. Shihab AlBorai, President of the MIT Arab Alumni Association, and Mr. Omar Al-Madhi, MBA student at the MIT Sloan School of Management and former President of the MIT ASO.

Guests of honor at the Banquet include: MIT President, Susan Hockfield, MIT Dean of Graduate Students, Isaac Colbert, and Institute Chaplain, Robert Randolph. The awards banquet links different generations of Arab and Arab American Science and Technology specialists and presents a valuable opportunity for Arab American students to interact with accomplished professionals from the community.

Last year's Awards Banquet held in the Omni Parker House Hotel, honored Dr. Charles Elachi, the director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Vice President of the California Institute of Technology with the life-time achievement award and Dr. Hisham Kassab, founder and current President & CTO of MobiLaps LLC project with the young professional award. Mr. Ahmed Ghazi and Mr. Amjad Afanah were the student award winners.

On-line registration and ticket-sales are available at the MIT Arab Students' Organization website (<http://web.mit.edu/arab/>). A limited number of subsidized tickets are available for students. For more detailed information on the awards, consult the Arab Students' Organization website or contact Samer Abdin at [arab-comm@mit.edu](mailto:arab-comm@mit.edu) or 626-340-9585.