

Profile

2015 Nobel Prize in medicine



Prof. Satoshi Ōmura, Ph.D.

Distinguished Emeritus Professor
Drug Discovery from Natural Products
Kitasato Institute for Life Sciences
Kitasato University
Japan.

Satoshi Ōmura delivered his Nobel Lecture on 7 December 2015 at Aula Medica, Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm. He was introduced by Professor Jan Andersson, Adjunct Member of the Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine.

Professor Satoshi Ōmura is widely recognized as a global expert world in the field of Bioorganic Chemistry, particularly for the discovery, development, biosynthesis and manipulation of useful chemicals derived from naturally-occurring microorganisms.

Born in Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan, in 1935, Professor Ōmura received a Masters of Science degree from Tokyo Science University in 1963, followed in 1968 by a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Tokyo. Two years later, he received another Ph.D. – this time in Chemistry – from the Tokyo University of Science.

His first position was as a Research Associate at Yamanashi University (1963-1965). In 1965 he began his career-long association with the Kitasato Institute, initially as a researcher, over the years occupying various posts, culminating in his appointment in 1990 as President. He was President Emeritus of The Kitasato Institute, from 2008 to 2012, and is currently a Distinguished Emeritus Professor and Special Coordinator of the Research Project for Drug Discovery from Natural Products in the Kitasato Institute for Life Sciences, Kitasato University. He was also appointed as inaugural Max Tishler Professor of Chemistry at Wesleyan University (USA) in 2005, a post he still holds.