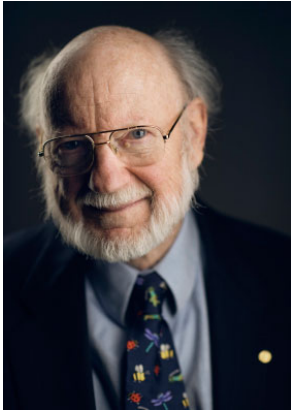


Profile

2015 Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology



Prof. William C. Campbell, Ph.D.

Formerly Senior Director,
Basic Parasitology,
Merck & Company, Inc.
Ireland.

An Irish scientist has been jointly awarded the 2015 Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology.

William C Campbell, who was born in Ramelton, Co Donegal, and colleague Satoshi Ōmura were jointly awarded half the prize for their discoveries concerning a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworm parasites.

Dr. William Campbell is an Irish-born parasitologist at Drew University in New Jersey. In 1987 Dr. Campbell spearheaded the Merck decision to distribute drug ivermectin free to the millions of poor people, especially in tropical areas. This very effective nematocidal anthelmintic drug is usually given once or two times per year. It was one of the first leading examples of a public – private partnership in international health. Currently, the ivermectin is used in eradication programmes coordinated by the World Health Organization for two devastating tropical diseases – Onchocerciasis and Lymphatic filariasis (Bockarie et al., 2013; Keenan et al., 2013). The other major contribution of Dr. Campbell to the parasitology field is *Trichinella* and Trichinosis book (Campbell, 1983).

This publication assembled the contributions of the best specialists on the topic at the time and is still considered as an important reference.