

Profile

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2016)



Prof. Yoshinori Ohsumi, Ph.D.
Honorary Professor and Cell Biology
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In 2016 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine "for his discoveries of mechanisms for autophagy". He is the 25th Japanese person to win a Nobel Prize. Ohsumi's spouse Mariko, a Professor of Teikyo University of Science, collaborated on his research. She is a co-author of many academic papers with him.

Professor Yoshinori Ohsumi will give the 2016 Milstein Lecture on Friday 9th September 2016 at 12 noon in the LMB's Max Perutz Lecture Theatre. The lecture, entitled "Looking back on my 28 years of autophagy research" is open to anyone in the local area who is interested in attending.

Yoshinori is currently Honorary Professor and the leader of the Cell Biology Unit at the Frontier Research Center of the Tokyo Institute of Technology. He has been awarded a number of prizes and awards, including most recently the Dr. Paul Janssen Award for Biomedical Research (2016).

The ground-breaking work on autophagy in his lab saw the identification of several genes essential for autophagy. His work showed that autophagy is one of the most basic functions in cells of many plants and animals. Yoshinori continues to study autophagy at the molecular level to learn more about its mechanism.

Yoshinori obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at The Rockefeller University in New York working on *E. coli* before switching to work on mammalian cells and developmental biology, finally choosing to study DNA duplication in yeast. He returned to the University of Tokyo as a junior research associate and then lecturer in the Faculty of Science. In 1988 he was appointed Associate Professor and set up his own research lab and began to observe intracellular vacuoles of yeast. In 1996 he transferred to the National Institute for Basic Biology in Okazaki, where he continued to elucidate the functions of the proteins that are encoded by the ATG genes. Yoshinori was appointed Professor at the Frontier Research Center, Tokyo Institute of Technology in 2009, before becoming Honorary Professor in 2014.