

Chronicle

Nobel Price 2015 for Dr William C. Campbell

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In the year 2015 the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute has decided to award the Nobel Prize to three scientists, who have contributed in finding the new effective therapeutics against malaria, onchocercosis and lymphatic filariasis. The scientists are: William C. Campbell from USA, Satoshi Ōmura and Youyou Tu from Japan.

Dr William Campbell is well known to Polish scientists for his interest in *Trichinella* and experimental trichinellosis. Working in Merck

Institute for Therapeutic Research in USA he has a good chance to start studying the therapeutics and immunity in experimental trichinellosis as early as in 1963. He joined the International Commission on Trichinellosis (ICT) shortly after its second conference held in Wrocław in 1969. He participated at the fourth conference of ICT in Poznań in 1976 and became the Vice-president of ICT for the years 1976–1980. In 1980 he followed me in position of the President of ICT (1980–1984).



Vth ICT Conference in Noordwijk aan Zee, 1980. From left: Z.S. Pawłowski, E.J. Ruitenberg, W.C. Campbell.

He continues his interest in trichinellosis being the initiator and the editor of a monographic book on "*Trichinella* and trichinosis" 1983. The book was a bible for all interested in various aspects of trichinosis; dr Campbell preferred the shorter name of the disease. He was the first author of the WHO/ISS/ICT Guidelines on Surveillance, Prevention and Control of Trichinellosis in 1988. Working in Merck Institute he evaluated several substances for their efficiency in experimental parasitic infections, among the others thiabendazole, cambendazole and avermectin, the last one in cooperation with Satoshi Ōmura. Avermectin, produced under the name of ivermectin, has been widely used for the control of onchocercosis (River blindness) endemic in West Africa and for lymphatic filariasis, especially in India. Later on ivermectin has shown to be effective against scabies as well. It has to be pointed out that Merck

Company has offered free a large amounts of ivermectin drug for mass-control activities in developing countries.

Dr William C. Campbell was an Irish-born charming person with U.S. citizenship since 1962. In addition to his scientific talents he has a kind personality, direct and simple, ready to do something in cooperation with the others and to help those who may be in need. This in accordance with his opinion that the greatest challenge for science is to think globally, think simply and act accordingly. Dr W.C. Campbell was a well balanced individual, always smiling as in the photograph taken at the Vth Conference of ICT at Noordwijk aan Zee in 1980 in the company of E.J. Ruitenbergh (the President of ICT in years 1984–1988) and myself.

On behalf of Polish parasitologists I am sending Him our sincere congratulations for being awarded with Nobel Prize. "Sto lat!".