

PRESS RELEASE



For immediate release:

**MSD Congratulates Awardees of 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine
for Discovery Leading to River Blindness Treatment**

***Co-recipient Dr. William C. Campbell Conducted his Nobel Prize-winning Work at MSD
Research Laboratories***

Hoddesdon, Wednesday 7th October 2015 — MSD proudly congratulates William C. Campbell, a retired scientist from the MSD Research Laboratories, MRL, who was jointly named the 2015 Nobel Prize winner in Physiology or Medicine with Satoshi Omura for the discovery of avermectin, which led to MSD's development of Mectizan (ivermectin), a treatment for river blindness (also known as onchocerciasis) in Africa, Latin America and Yemen.

They will share the prize with Youyou Tu for her discoveries concerning a novel therapy against malaria.

River blindness is a parasitic infection that can cause intense itching, skin discoloration, rashes, and eye disease that often leads to permanent blindness. It is spread by the bites of infected black flies that breed in rapidly flowing rivers in the affected countries.

"We are particularly proud of our colleague Dr. Campbell whose innovation, passion and dedication to fighting diseases during his 30-year career at MSD enabled the development of Mectizan," said Kenneth C. Frazier, chairman and chief executive officer, MSD. "Through our Mectizan Donation Program we have been working with partners for nearly three decades to make this medicine available, free of charge, to all those affected by river blindness. At MSD, we remain committed to bringing the best that our science and innovation have to offer to solve the world's global health challenges."

Established more than 25 years ago, the Mectizan Donation Program is the longest-running disease-specific drug donation programme and public-private partnership of its kind. In 1998, the programme was expanded to include the elimination of another disease, lymphatic - 2 - filariasis. The programme reaches more than 250 million people in the affected areas annually, with more than 2 billion treatments donated since 1987.

More information on the Mectizan Donation Program:

- MSD Corporate Responsibility report: <https://www.msdrresponsibility.com/access-to-health/key-initiatives/mectizan-donation-program/>
- Website Mectizan Donation Program: <http://www.mectizan.org/>

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About MSD

At MSD we believe the most important thing we make is a difference. We operate in more than 140 countries and through our prescription medicines, including biologic therapies, and animal health products we work with customers to bring innovative healthcare solutions to those who need them the most. We also demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to healthcare through far-reaching policies, programmes and partnerships. For more information visit www.msd-uk.com. We are called MSD everywhere, except in the United States and Canada, where we are known as Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA.

Notes to editors:

'Mectizan[®]' is a Registered Trademark of Merck and Co., Inc., Kenilworth, New Jersey, USA.

A copy of this press release is attached to this email in pdf format as a record of the material issued.

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