

PRESS STATEMENT AND MEDIA AVAILABILITY

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ASTMH applauds awarding of Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to discoverers of key drugs to combat malaria, river blindness, and elephantiasis

Oakbrook Terrace, Ill. (October 5, 2015)—The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) is very pleased to offer its congratulations to the three outstanding scientists who received [this year's Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine](#): ASTMH member William C. Campbell, Satoshi Omura and Youyou Tu. Dr. Campbell and Dr. Omura were awarded for their discovery of a new drug to treat infections caused by roundworm parasites. The Nobel Prize was also awarded to Dr. Tu for her work using traditional herbal medicine to find a new kind of antimalarial agent.

“Sometimes the Nobel Prize is awarded for a brilliant discovery that advances basic science in a way that may someday result in a tangible benefit to mankind. This year's Prize recognizes scientists who isolated compounds from bacteria and plants and developed them into drugs that have saved countless lives from malaria and prevented millions of cases of blindness and disfiguring swelling from parasitic worms worldwide,” said Christopher V. Plowe, MD, President of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH), and Director, Institute for Global Health, University of Maryland School of Medicine. “These three scientists have had a massive positive impact on global health. This was a great choice by the Nobel Committee.”

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About the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, founded in 1903, is the largest international scientific organization of experts dedicated to reducing the worldwide burden of tropical infectious diseases and improving global health. We accomplish this through generating and sharing scientific evidence, informing health policies and practices, fostering career development, recognizing excellence, and advocating for investment in tropical medicine/global health research. For more information, visit www.astmh.org