The 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

William C. Campbell
Born 1930, Ireland
Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, USA

Satoshi Ōmura
Born 1935, Japan
Kitasato University, Tokyo, Japan

Youyou Tu
Born 1930, China
China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Beijing, China
Qing Hao 青蒿 Herba Artemisiae Annuae (Artemisia)
Qing Hao 青蒿 Herba Artemisiae Annuae (Artemisia)
Coartem

Generic name: Artemether and Lumefantrine

US$1.5 billion market per year.
The discovery of artemisinin (qinghaosu) and gifts from Chinese medicine

Youyou Tu

Joseph Goldstein has written in this journal that creation (through invention) and revelation (through discovery) are two different routes to advancement in the biomedical sciences\(^1\). In my work as a phytochemist, particularly during the period from the late 1960s to the 1980s, I have been fortunate enough to travel both routes.

I graduated from the Beijing Medical University School of Pharmacy in 1955. Since then, I have been involved in research on Chinese herbal medicine in the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences (previously known as the Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine). From 1959 to 1962, I was released from work to participate in a training course in Chinese medicine that was especially designed for professionals with backgrounds in Western medicine. The 2.5-year training guided me to the wonderful treasure to be found in Chinese medicine and toward understanding the beauty in the philosophical thinking that underlies a holistic view of human beings and the universe.

Figure 1  A Handbook of Prescriptions for Emergencies by Ge Hong (284–346 CE). (a) Ming dynasty version (1574 CE) of the handbook. (b) “A handful of qinghao immersed with 2 liters of water, wring out the juice and drink it all” is printed in the fifth line from the right. (From volume 3.)
Artemisine – Lasker Award 2011 (USA) and Nobel Prize 2015 Winner

- Lasker Award -- American Medical Award

- 80 of 300 Lasker Award winners got Nobel Prize

- 2011 Lasker Award Winner: TU Youyou

- Research and Invention of Artemisine

- Nobel Prize 2015 Winner the first TCM Scientist.
Vice President of Comores presented award to Professor Li Guoqiao, Guangzhou University of TCM, for his great contribution in controlling of 400,000 population of malaria with QING HAO drugs since 2007, China People’s Daily, 22 August 2013
The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2015 was divided, one half jointly to William C. Campbell and Satoshi Ōmura "for their discoveries concerning a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworm parasites" and the other half to Youyou Tu "for her discoveries concerning a novel therapy against Malaria".