



## **MSD Congratulates Irishman and former MSD Scientist on Nobel Award**

***Co-recipient Dr. William C. Campbell conducted his Nobel Prize-winning Work at MSD Research Laboratories which lead to the discovery of a treatment for River Blindness***

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2015** — MSD proudly congratulates Donegal-born 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 ivermectin, 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 program and public-private partnership of its kind. In 1998, MSD expanded the program to include the elimination of another disease, lymphatic - 2 - filariasis. The program reaches more than 250 million people in the affected areas annually, with more than 2 billion treatments donated since 1987.

### **ENDS**

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#### **For more information on MSD's Mectizan Donation Program:**

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

#### **About MSD**

MSD, known as Merck in the United States and Canada, has operations in more than 140 countries. In Ireland, MSD employs over 2,000 people across its five sites in Dublin, Carlow, Cork, Tipperary and Wicklow.

Its extensive Irish operations encompass manufacturing, commercial and marketing facilities. MSD is a leader in healthcare, dedicated to helping the world be well through a wide range of innovative health solutions. This includes the development, production and distribution of prescription medicines, vaccines and biologic therapies as well as animal health products.

MSD's commitment to research and to increasing access to healthcare across the world is demonstrated by clearly focused policies, far-reaching programmes and life-enhancing partnerships.