
Address for correspondence: Muhammad Osman, Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, Desmond Tutu TB Centre, Paediatrics and Child Health, Stellenbosch University, K Floor, Clinical Bldg, Tygerberg Campus, Francie van Zyl Dr, Tygerberg, Cape Town 7505, South Africa; email: mosman@sun.ac.za

SYNOPSIS

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etymologia

Streptomycin [strep"to-mi'sin]

Ronnie Henry

In the late 1930s, Selman Waksman, a soil microbiologist working at the New Jersey Agricultural Station of Rutgers University, began a large-scale program to screen soil bacteria for antimicrobial activity. By 1943, Albert Schatz, a PhD student working in Waksman’s laboratory, had isolated streptomycin from Streptomyces griseus (from the Greek strepto- [“twisted”] + mykēs [“fungus”] and the Latin griseus, “gray”).

In 1944, Willam H. Feldman and H. Corwin Hinshaw at the Mayo Clinic showed its efficacy against Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Waksman was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1952 for his discovery of streptomycin, although much of the credit for the discovery has since been ascribed to Schatz. Schatz later successfully sued to be legally recognized as a co-discoverer of streptomycin.

Sources

Address for correspondence: Ronnie Henry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd NE, Mailstop E28, Atlanta, GA 30329-4027, USA; email: boq3@cdc.gov

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