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October 7, 2003
MSC 225, 7PM

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American, Briton win medical Nobel Prize for work in imaging

By Matt Moore
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — American Paul C. Lauterbur and Briton Sir Peter Mansfield won the 2003 Nobel Prize for medicine Monday for discoveries leading to a technique that reveals images of the body's inner organs.

Magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, has become a routine method for medical diagnosis and treatment. It is used to examine almost all organs without need for surgery, but is especially valuable for detailed examination of the brain and spinal cord.

Lauterbur, 74, discovered the possibility of creating a two-dimensional picture by producing variations in a magnetic field. Lauterbur is at the Biomedical Magnetic Resonance Laboratory at the University of Illinois in Urbana.

"MRI images have an enormous impact on health care in the developed part of the world today."

— Dr. Hans Ringertz
Swedish radiological specialist

Mansfield, 70, showed how the signals the body emits in response to the magnetic field could be mathematically analysed, which made it possible to develop a useful imaging technique. Mansfield also showed how extremely fast imaging could be achieved. This became

technically possible within medicine a decade later.

Mansfield is at the University of Nottingham in Britain.

MRI images "have an enormous impact on health care in the developed part of the world today," said Dr. Hans Ringertz, a Swedish specialist in diagnostic radiology.

Worldwide, more than 60 million investigations with MRI are performed each year, the Nobel Assembly said.

MRI represents "a breakthrough in medical diagnostics and research," the Assembly said. Essentially, MRI turns hydrogen atoms in the body's tissues into tiny radio transmitters. Hydrogen atoms are plentiful because they're found in water molecules, which are very widespread in the body.

By tracking where those atoms are, an MRI machine can build up a picture of internal organs. It's a little like flying over a city at night, and discerning its outlines by noticing where the lights are.

The prize includes a check for 10 million kronor, or \$1.3 million, and bestows a deeper sense of academic and medical integrity upon the winners.

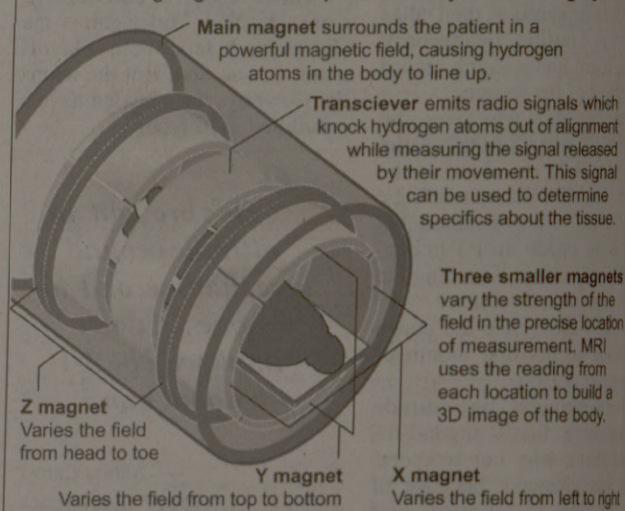
There are no set guidelines for deciding who wins. Alfred Nobel, who endowed the awards that bear his name, simply said the winner "shall have made the most important discovery within the domain of physiology or medicine."

The assembly, which selects the winner, invites nominations from previous recipients, professors of medicine and other professionals worldwide before whittling down its choices in the fall.

Last year's winners were Britons Sydney Brenner and John E. Sulston, and American H. Robert Horvitz for their dis-

Nobel Prize-winning technology

This year's Nobel Prize in Medicine went to developers of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), a technology which allows doctors to see what's going on inside a patient's body without surgery.



SOURCES: GE Medical Systems; Duke University

Dan DeLorenzo/AP

coveries about how genes regulate organ growth and a process of programmed cell suicide. Their findings shed light on the development of many illnesses, including AIDS and strokes. The award for medicine opens a week of Nobel Prizes that culminates Friday with the prestigious peace prize, the only one revealed in Oslo, Norway.

South African writer J.M. Coetzee was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature on Thursday.

Nobel, the Swedish industrialist and inventor of dynamite, left only vague guidelines in his will establishing the prizes, first awarded in 1901.

The five-member awards committee never reveals the candidates, but sometimes those making the nominations announce their choices.

Nobel watchers say there is no clear favorite for this

year's Peace Prize, but some names bandied about include Pope John Paul II, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

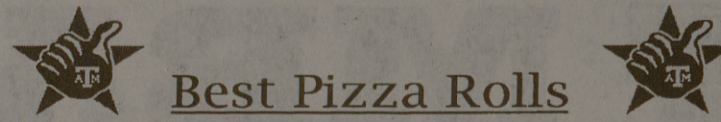
A record 165 nominations were received by the deadline. Even though the committee keeps the names secret, those nominating a candidate often announce their preference.

Other known or likely nominees include Karzai; Cuban human rights activist Oswaldo Paya Sardinias; Chinese dissident Wei Jingsheng; former Illinois Gov. George Ryan for emptying his state's death row of 167 inmates; former Czech President Vaclav Havel; U2 singer Bono; and Mordechai Vanunu, a nuclear scientist held captive by Israel for treason-related charges.

While this may seem like a list of interesting facts, it's not the most interesting part of the story. Inflammation is a natural response to injury, but in some cases, it can become a chronic condition. Inflammation is a natural response to injury, but in some cases, it can become a chronic condition.

The 2003 Pizza Taste-Off results are in!

Congratulations to the following pizza makers:



Best Pizza Rolls

- 1st - Double Dave's Pizzaworks
- 2nd - Hullabaloo! Food Court

Best Thin Crust

- 1st - Cici's Pizza Buffet
- 2nd - Papa John's Pizza
- 3rd - Double Dave's Pizzaworks

Best Thick Crust

- 1st - Double Dave's Pizzaworks
- 2nd - Papa John's Pizza
- 3rd - Domino's Pizza

Best Veggie Pizza

- 1st - Cici's Pizza Buffet
- 2nd - Double Dave's Pizzaworks
- 3rd - Hullabaloo! Food Court

Best Meat Pizza

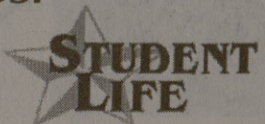
- 1st - Cici's Pizza Buffet
- 2nd - Double Dave's Pizzaworks
- 3rd - Papa John's Pizza

...and Aggies' Favorite

- 1st - Cici's Pizza Buffet
- 2nd - Double Dave's Pizzaworks
- 3rd - Papa John's Pizza

Thanks to all the pizza makers who participated and all of the students who came out for Gig'Em Week 2003!

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