

ALLAN McLEOD CORMACK AND GODFREY NEWBOLD HOUNSFIELD – THE SCIENTISTS WHO INVENTED X-RAY COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY

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Abstract

Method of X-ray computed tomography, which is nowadays widely used in medical practice, was invented in the 70's. A lot of different teams of scientists and engineers worked on it, but major contribution was made by Allan McLeod Cormack and Godfrey Newbold Hounsfield. In 1979 they got the Nobel Prize in medicine and physiology, "for the development of computer assisted tomography". Living thousands miles apart, and even without being familiar, Hounsfield and Cormack almost simultaneously created an outstanding method of examination: Cormack worked to develop algorithms to perform the most effective scanning of parts of the human body, and Hounsfield designed CT-scanner, which at first slowly and then faster and better performed computed tomography scanning. Cormack and Hounsfield first met only in Stockholm the day before getting the Nobel Prize. Scientists were awarded many different titles and prizes than, but to the history of the world they came primarily as the founding fathers of X-ray computed tomography.

There are some biographical data of both of the Nobel laureates in the article. Also there are their portraits and model of the first tomography and tomogram.

Key words: Allan McLeod Cormack, Godfrey Newbold Hounsfield, biography, computed tomography, history of development.

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