

TU YOUYOU

Occupation
Pharmaceutical Chemist

Nationality
Chinese

Famous Quote
'Every scientist dreams of doing something that can help the world.'



Tu Youyou was a Chinese scientist born on the 30th of December 1930. She studied ancient Chinese medicine texts and discovered a chemical that could be used to treat Malaria, resulting in millions of lives being saved. She won a Nobel prize for her contribution to science.

BIRTH

Tu Youyou was born in Ningbo, Zhejiang, China, on 30th of December 1930.

CHILDHOOD TUBERCULOSIS

Tu contracted tuberculosis as a teenager. This sparked a strong interest in studying medicine to find cures for diseases like the one she suffered from.

PROJECT 523

During the Vietnam war, malaria was causing casualties amongst Vietnamese soldiers. In response China assembled a task force called project 523 to help find a treatment, and put Tu in charge. She travelled to rainforest areas of southern China to examine the devastating effects of the disease.

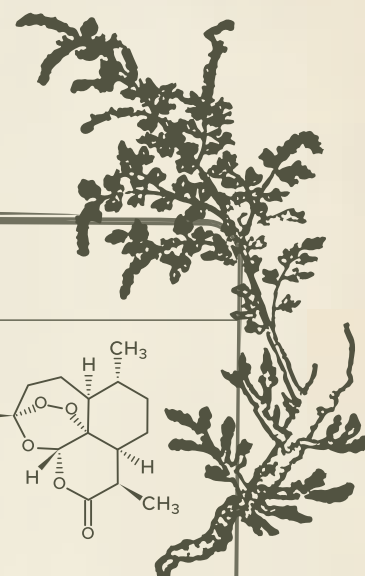


ANCIENT CHINESE MEDICAL TEXTS

Tu and her research team turned to ancient Chinese medical texts. The team find reference to 'sweet wormwood' that was used to in 400 AD to treat intermittent fever, a symptom of malaria.

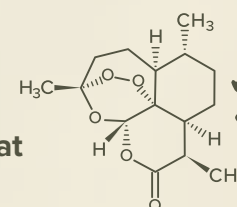


Tu Youyou



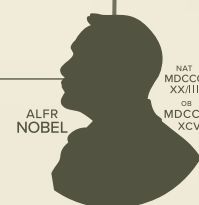
ISOLATES ARTEMISININ FROM SWEET WORMWOOD

Tu developed a new process that removed an active ingredient from the sweet wormwood that could be used to treat malaria. Tu and two colleagues tested the treatment on themselves before testing 21 patients. All of them recovered.



NOBEL PRIZE AWARDED IN 2015

In 2015, Tu was awarded a Nobel Prize in medicine for her discovery of the malaria treatment which saved millions. She was the first woman and first Chinese person to win the award. On top of this Tu had no doctorate, medical degree or training abroad.



"Artemisinin... is a true gift from old Chinese medicine. But this is not the only instance in which the wisdom of Chinese medicine has borne fruit."

Tu Youyou



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