

Yoshinori Ohsumi wins 2016 Nobel Prize for his work in “self eating” cells

The 2016 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine goes to Yoshinori Ohsumi of Japan for discoveries about the secrets of how cells can remain healthy by recycling waste.

He located genes that regulate the cellular “self eating” process known as autophagy.

Dr Ohsumi’s work is important because it helps explain what goes wrong in a range of illnesses, from cancer to Parkinson’s.

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Prof David Rubinsztein, an expert in autophagy at the University of Cambridge, said he was delighted that Dr Ohsumi’s vital work had been recognised and rewarded.

“His pioneering work in yeast led to the discovery of the key genes and fundamental biochemical processes that are required for autophagy.

“As autophagy is well conserved from yeast to man, his laboratory’s discoveries have also provided the critical tools to many labs to enable the appreciation of the important roles of autophagy in diverse physiological and disease processes.

“These include infectious diseases, cancers, and various neurodegenerative diseases such as Huntington’s disease and forms of Parkinson’s disease. Indeed, autophagy manipulation may provide a key strategy for treating some of these conditions.”

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Medicine Nobel for cell recycling work](#)