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Abstract

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**Nobel Laureate, Dr Luc Montagnier
(18 August 1932– 8 February 2022).**

The Nobel Prize laureate, Dr Luc Montagnier departed for heavenly abode on 8 February 2022 in Paris. Montagnier was born on 8 August 1932 in Central France. He was a science enthusiast and a PhD holder in virology from the University of Paris. He joined the Institute Pasteur in France as a professor and headed their Viral Oncology Unit for over two decades until 2000. It was at the Pasteur Institute that Montagnier undertook the crucial research that eventually earned him the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2008.

In 1983, Montagnier was roped in by Dr Willy Rozenbaum, a Parisian doctor, to look into a lymph node of an acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)-infected man. The AIDS was a mystery at this point, and the scientists were in the dark about its aetiology, diagnosis and treatment. Montagnier and fellow scientist Françoise Barré-Sinoussi successfully isolated the retrovirus from this sample and named it lymphadenopathy associated virus (LAV). Barré-Sinoussi and Montagnier published their findings, but they could not prove that LAV caused AIDS.^[1] The discovery was one prerequisite for the current understanding of the biology of the disease and its antiretroviral treatment, thus allowing the rapid diagnosis of affected patients, and helping curb the spread of the AIDS pandemic.^[2]

Montagnier and his team discovered a novel property of DNA – the capacity of some sequences to emit electromagnetic waves in resonance after excitation by the ambient

electromagnetic background. The DNA extracted from the plasma of patients suffering from Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis, suggested that bacterial infections are present in these diseases. In patients infected with HIV, electromagnetic signals (EMSs) can be detected mostly in patients treated by antiretroviral therapy, despite having a very low viral load in their plasma. Such nanostructures persisting in the plasma may contribute to the viral reservoir, which escapes the antiviral treatment, assuming that they carry genetic information of the virus. Professor Montagnier further found out that these EMSs can be transduced in highly diluted aqueous solutions originally containing some bacterial or viral DNA. In fact, he inferred that agitation of preparations during their dilution (= succussion in homoeopathy) was essential for this transduction. The emission of such waves is likely to represent a resonance phenomenon depending on excitation by the ambient electromagnetic noise and is associated with the presence of polymeric nanostructures of defined size in the aqueous dilutions.^[3]

On 28 June 2010, speaking at the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Germany, Montagnier presented a new method for detecting viral infections. He stated that when sufficiently diluted in water, the nanometric structures of some DNA sequences could emit a spectrum of electromagnetic waves of low frequencies (ranging from 1000 to 3000 Hz).^[4] Montagnier’s comments in the meeting bore close parallels to the basic tenets of homoeopathy. Cristal Sumner, of the British Homeopathic Association, said that Montagnier’s work gave homeopathy ‘a true scientific ethos.’ In a popular interview, he said, ‘*I can’t say that homoeopathy is right in everything. What I can say now is that the high dilutions (used in homeopathy) are right. High dilutions of something are not*

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nothing. They are water structures which mimic the original molecules.^[5] In further experiments, it was shown that the EMSs and nanostructures induced in water carry the DNA information, suggesting that coherent long-range molecular interaction must be present in water.^[6]

Dr Montagnier was most deservedly the recipient of several prestigious awards – CNRS Silver Medal, the Rosen Prize of Cancerology (1971), Légion d’Honneur, the Lasker Award and the Gairdner Award (1987). He received more than 20 major awards, including the National Order of Merit (Commander, 1986). He was a recipient of the Scheele Award (1986), the Louis-Jeantet Prize for medicine (1986), the Prize of Japan (1988), the Golden Plate Award of the American Academy of Achievement (1987), King Faisal International Prize (1993) (known as the Arab Nobel Prize), the Amsterdam Foundation Prize (1994), the Warren Alpert Prize (1998), the Prince of Asturias Award (2000) and the introduction to the National Invention Hall of Fame (2004). He was also awarded the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) from Whittier College in 2010.^[7]

His valuable works on electromagnetic emissions and HIV gave the entire medical fraternity a new direction. Montagnier left his permanent footprints in the field of medicine which will guide the present and future scientists to evolve further studies. While thanking Dr Montagnier for his breakthrough research in nanostructure being capable of emitting EMS, thus substantiating the principles of Homoeopathy, Central

Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) expresses deep condolence on the demise of the great scientist. His works shall keep the scientists of CCRH committed toward more revelations in the field of nanoscience, thus bridging the gap between biology and physics.

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