

BERT SAKMANN



Nobel Prize-winning German physiologist

Bert Sakmann won the Nobel Prize in Medicine for his discoveries on the function of individual ion channels in cells and for the development of the patch clamp measurement technique. He received the prize together with German physiologist Erwin Neher in 1991.

CAREER

Bert Sakmann was born in Stuttgart in 1942. He began his medical studies in 1967, studying in Tübingen, Freiburg, Berlin, Paris and Munich, and a year later he was a medical assistant at the University of Munich. In the meantime, he worked as a research assistant to Otto Creutzfeldt at the Department of Psychiatry and Neurophysiology at the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry and Neurophysiology in Munich. In 1971 he moved to London, where he worked as a research fellow in the Department of Biophysics at University College. In 1974, he obtained his medical degree at the University of Göttingen and returned to the Department of Biophysics and Chemistry at the Max Planck Institute in Göttingen in the same year. He joined the membrane biology group in 1979 and also taught at the University of Heidelberg.

Since 2008, he is retired head of the research group at the Max Planck Institute for Neurobiology.

From 2012 he played a major role in the establishment of the Szeged Academy of Sciences (SZTA). From 2016 he was the Director General of Training of the SZTA and, following its transformation, from 2021 of the National Academy of Sciences.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- He has been a member of the US National Academy of Sciences since 1993 and of the British Royal Society since 1994.
- 1991 Harvey Prize
- 1991 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine
- 1989 Gairdner Foundation Prize
- 1987 Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize
- 1986 Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize (jointly with Erwin Neher)
- 1983 Spencer Prize (Columbia University)
- 1982 Magnes Prize (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- 1979 Prize of the Feldberg Foundation, UK
- 1977 Nernst Prize (German Society for Physicochemistry)