

LARGER THAN **LIFE**
A CELEBRATION OF GREATNESS



Alexander Fleming

Antibiotic Revolutionary

(1881 - 1955)

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INTRODUCTION

- Sir Alexander Fleming was a Scottish biologist and pharmacologist. Fleming published many articles on bacteriology, immunology, and chemotherapy.
- **His best-known achievements are the discovery of the enzyme lysozyme in 1922 and isolation of the antibiotic substance penicillin from the fungus *Penicillium notatum* in 1945, for which he shared a Nobel Prize with Florey and Chain.**

BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS

- Alexander Fleming was born in 1881 at Lochfield, a farm outside Darvel, a small town in Ayrshire, Scotland.
- During the war between Britain and Germany in 1914, Fleming joined the British Royal Army Medical Corps to **develop a cure to reduce the number of soldiers dying from infected wounds.**
- **He argued that antiseptics were not effective in preventing wounds from becoming infected. His argument was, however, rejected** and little was done to relieve the suffering of many wounded soldiers.

DISCOVERY OF PENICILLIN

- When World War I was over, Fleming continued working at St. Mary's Hospital.
- One day in 1928, before tossing some old dishes of culture away, he made an accidental discovery of a blue mold growing on the culture of some harmful kind of bacteria. The mold seemed to be able to kill off the bacteria.

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- **A series of experiments later proved his findings and led to the discovery of penicillin.** It was a strain of penicillia, which could kill off bacteria while not causing any damage to wounds. It worked against many kinds of bacteria and was mostly safe for the human body.

ANTIBIOTICS

- **Fleming's accidental discovery and isolation of penicillin in September 1928 marks the start of modern Antibiotics.**
- Fleming also discovered very early that bacteria developed Antibiotic resistance whenever too little penicillin was used or when it was used for too short a period.

ACCOLADES

- **In 1945, Fleming was presented the Nobel Prize for Medicine.** He humbly said, "Nature makes penicillin; I just found it."
- Fleming was knighted in 1944.
- **The discovery of penicillin was ranked as the most important discovery of the millennium** when the year 2000 was approaching by at least 3 large Swedish magazines.

DEATH

Fleming **died in 1955 of a heart attack** in London. He is buried in St. Paul's Cathedral. His discovery of penicillin had changed the world of modern medicine by introducing the age of useful antibiotics; penicillin has saved, and is still saving, lives of millions of people.

Quotes

"It is the lone worker who makes the first advance in a subject; the details may be worked out by a team, but the prime idea is due to enterprise, thought, and perception of an individual."

"Never neglect an extraordinary appearance or happening."

Quiz

- 1) In which year Fleming was presented the Nobel Prize for Medicine?
- 2) Fleming shared his Nobel Prize with other two scientists. Give their names.
- 3) What was the name of Fleming's father?

Send in your answers to one2one@clarislifesciences.com
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