



Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich and Aziz Sancar share the 2015 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Brunswick, New Jersey, and Stephen Elledge of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

WIDER IMPACTS

Speaking to reporters in Stockholm at the Nobel press conference, Lindahl noted that understanding DNA repair has implications for human health. People with faults in their repair system have an increased risk of developing cancers, because damaging mutations

can go uncorrected. Cancer cells themselves survive damage by using enzymes to patch up DNA, and there is now interest in therapies that target DNA-repair pathways in tumour cells. "We need DNA repair but we don't like it that the cancer cells have DNA repair," Lindahl said.

Work in the field has had an impact in other areas, too. Lindahl's research proved influential in the 1980s and 1990s, when scientists were first working to extract and analyse ancient DNA. The patterns of DNA damage that he

first characterized are now used as a stamp of authenticity to show that DNA is ancient, and not modern contamination.

The chemistry prize follows the award of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to William Campbell, Satoshi Ōmura and Youyou Tu for their work on therapies against parasitic infections. The physics Nobel went to Takaaki Kajita and Arthur McDonald for showing that neutrinos have mass. ■

CORRECTIONS

The News story 'Neutrino flip wins physics prize' (*Nature* **526**, 175; 2015) wrongly implied that physicists knew about all three types of neutrino in the 1960s. In fact, the tau neutrino was postulated only in the 1970s. The News Feature 'The impenetrable proof' (*Nature* **526**, 178–181; 2015) wrongly located the University of Antwerp in the Netherlands. It is, of course, in Belgium. In the News Feature 'The mitochondria mystery' (*Nature* **525**, 444–446; 2015), the quote "The standards for a shampoo seem to be harsher" was erroneously attributed to Ted Morrow. When he said these words, he was characterizing the stance of another researcher, not expressing his own opinion, and the quote should not have been included.