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International Prize for Biology
国際生物学賞

Awardees

The 37th (2021) International Prize for Biology is awarded to Dr. Timothy Douglas White, (Professor of Integrative Biology, University of California at Berkeley, USA)

On August 31, the Committee on the International Prize for Biology (chaired by Dr. FUJIYOSHI Yoshinori, Distinguished Professor, Tokyo Medical and Dental University) decided to award the 37th (2021) International Prize for Biology to Dr. Timothy Douglas White, Professor of Integrative Biology and Director of Human Evolution Research Center, University of California at Berkeley, USA. This year's Prize is awarded in the field of the Biology of Human Evolution.

Name: Timothy Douglas White
Birthdate: August 24, 1950
Nationality: USA
Present Position: Professor of Integrative Biology and Director of Human Evolution Research Center, The University of California at Berkeley

Education and Professional Positions:

	Professor of Integrative Biology, University of California, Berkeley (UCB)
1995–Present	Research Paleoanthropologist and Director, Human Evolution Research Center, UCB Distinguished Chair in Life and Physical Sciences, UCB
1986–1995	Professor of Anthropology, UCB
1982–1986	Associate Professor, UCB
1978–1982	Assistant Professor, UCB
1977–1978	Visiting Lecturer, UCB

1976–1977	Lecturer, Anthropology, The University of Michigan
1972–1975	Teaching Fellow and Laboratory Supervisor, The University of Michigan
1977	PhD, Biological Anthropology, The University of Michigan,

Achievements Recognized by the Award

Dr. Timothy Douglas White, professor of integrative biology at the University of California, Berkeley, is widely known as a highly successful paleoanthropologist. Dr. White has had an enormous influence on our understanding of human evolution through his discovery and analysis of human fossils at various stages and the surrounding faunal specimens and other paleoenvironmental data.

Dr. White first played a central role in the detailed analytical study of *Australopithecus* afarensis fossils dated to 3.7 to 3 million years ago. His achievement in showing that *A. afarensis* was recognizable as a single species is highly regarded. The interpretive model for *A. afarensis* fossils that Dr. White provided continues to influence research in the field of paleoanthropology to this day.

In addition, since 1990 Dr. White has been co-leader with Ethiopian researchers of the Middle Awash Project in Ethiopia. Thus far, this project has succeeded in discovering an extremely wide variety of fossils including *Ardipithecus kadabba* dated to 5.7 million years ago, *Australopithecus anamensis*, the possible genus *Homo* ancestor *Australopithecus garhi, Homo erectus*, and the 160,000-year-old *Homo sapiens idaltu*. The new evidence and interpretations obtained from analytical research on these fossils has significantly advanced the study of several important stages in human evolution.

Of particular note is the discovery of 4.4 million-year-old *Ardipithecus ramidus* fossils. It is no exaggeration to say that this discovery, which revealed a pre-Australopithecus phase in human evolution that had previously been completely unknown, has taken the study of human evolution as a whole to an entirely new level. The findings on various facets of *Ardipithecus ramidus* that Dr. White and an international research team elucidated —its mode of locomotion, foraging adaptations, sexual dimorphism (individual traits that differ according to gender) and its socio-ecological significance, as well as the paleoenvironment and habitat choices—have given us an unprecedented perspective not only on the earliest ancestors of humankind, but also on the ancestors of chimpanzees and gorillas, the living species most closely related to us. The eleven papers published by Dr. White and his colleagues in the American Association for the Advancement of Science's journal *Science* in 2009, summarizing the results of their detailed and extensive analyses of the *Ardipithecus ramidus* fossils, including whole-body skeletal specimens, were subsequently recognized by that magazine as the "Breakthrough of the Year."

As described above, Dr. White's research to date has dramatically advanced our understanding of the different stages of the human evolutionary process by presenting direct evidence of the fossil record and providing a meticulous interpretation of it. In particular, his achievements in clarifying the image of our early human ancestors at a period close to their origins are highly regarded and have been judged to be most suitable to be awarded the 37th International Prize for Biology in the field of the "biology of human evolution."

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