ALL NOBEL PRIZES 2020
The Nobel Prize

“to those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind”

Alfred Nobel (1833-1896)
All Nobel Prizes 2020

Physics Prize: Research on black holes

Chemistry Prize: The discovery of the genetic scissors

Medicine Prize: The discovery of Hepatitis C virus

Literature Prize: American poet Louise Glück

Peace Prize: World Food Programme (WFP)

Economic Sciences Prize: Research on auctions
All 2020 Nobel Laureates
The 2020 Physics Prize

The prize rewards researchers for their discoveries about one of the strangest phenomena in the universe: black holes.
The 2020 Physics Laureates

Roger Penrose
“for the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity”

Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez
“for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy”

Roger Penrose
Born: 1931, United Kingdom

Reinhard Genzel
Born: 1952, Germany

Andrea Ghez
Born: 1965, USA
Black holes

Black holes are incredibly heavy and compact objects.
2020 Chemistry Prize

The prize is awarded for the discovery of one of gene technology’s sharpest tools: the CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors.
The 2020 Chemistry Laureates

“for the development of a method for genome editing”

Emmanuelle Charpentier
Born: 1968, France

Jennifer A. Doudna
Born: 1964, USA
Unlimited possibilities – but also risks

Jennifer A. Doudna, one of the laureates, holding a model of the genetic scissors. The laureates’ discovery offers hope of curing serious diseases.

PHOTO: UC BERKELEY PHOTO BY STEPHEN MCNALLY
2020 Medicine Prize

The prize is awarded for pioneering research that led to the discovery of a new virus that causes the disease hepatitis.
The 2020 Medicine Laureates

“For the discovery of Hepatitis C virus”

Harvey J. Alter
Born: 1935, USA

Michael Houghton
Born: 1949, United Kingdom

Charles M. Rice
Born: 1952, USA
For the greatest benefit to humankind

Sensitive Hepatitis C virus tests

Global inequities remain

Effective anti-viral drugs
2020 Literature Laureate

Louise Glück
Born: 1943, USA

“for her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal”
From the poem “Snowdrops”

I did not expect to survive, 
earth suppressing me. I didn’t expect 
to waken again, to feel 
in damp earth my body 
able to respond again, remembering 
after so long how to open again 
in the cold light 
of earliest spring –
Straightforward and deep at the same time

Louise Glück engages with timeless topics such as isolation, relationships and the confrontation with death.
2020 Peace Laureate

World Food Programme (WFP)
Founded in 1961.

“for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict”
Supports 100 million people in more than 80 countries

WFP is the world’s largest humanitarian organisation working to eliminate hunger.
Link to peace?

Efforts to fight hunger can also contribute to peace and security.
The prize is awarded for research that has contributed new ways to use auctions that benefit sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world.
2020 Economic Sciences Laureates

“for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats”

Paul R. Milgrom
Born: 1948, USA

Robert B. Wilson
Born: 1937, USA
Better auctions in practice

The laureates have not only devoted themselves to auction theory; they have also invented new auction formats.
Awarding the Nobel Prize

On 10 December each year, the Nobel Prize is presented.
FOR THE GREATEST BENEFIT TO HUMANKIND