

DRUG PIONEERS -- George Hitchings and Gertrude Elion pose at a press conference after winning the 1988 Nobel Prize in Medicine. Hitchings, 83, and Elion, 70, have worked together developing new drugs since 1945 at the Burroughs Wellcome Company in North Carolina. Their pioneering research in cellular functions has led to the development of drugs to treat leukemia, malaria, heart disease, peptic ulcers and other ailments. They developed the drug acyclovir for the treatment of herpes, the first time a drug was successfully used to stop a virus after it infected the human body. That laid the ground work for the development of AZT, the only drug approved by the U.S. government for treatment of AIDS. They share the prize with Sir James Black of Great Britian.

(88-1980)

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