

Charles Scott Sherrington



Sir Charles S. Sherrington, Harvey Cushing and William Welch (from left to right). Photograph taken by Arnold Klebs after the First International Neurological Congress in Berne 1931 at his home in Nyon, the town in Switzerland where the Central Office of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies would be located seventy years later. (from J. Fulton: Harvey Cushing: a Biography)

Sir Charles Scott Sherrington (27 November 1857 – 4 March 1952) was an English neurophysiologist, histologist, bacteriologist, and a pathologist, Nobel laureate and president of the Royal Society in the early 1920s. He received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Edgar Adrian, 1st Baron Adrian, in 1932 for their work on the functions of neurons.

Prior to the work of Sherrington and Adrian, it was widely accepted that reflexes occurred as isolated activity within a reflex arc. Sherrington received the prize for showing that reflexes require integrated activation and demonstrated reciprocal innervation of muscles (Sherrington's law).

Through his seminal 1906 publication, *The Integrative Action of the Nervous System*, he had effectively laid to rest the theory that the nervous system, including the brain, can be understood as a single interlinking network. His alternative explanation of synaptic communication between neurons helped shape our understanding of the central nervous system.

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