Allvar Gullstrand Encyclopedia Article

Allvar Gullstrand

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Allvar Gullstrand

1862-1930

Swedish ophthalmologist who received the 1911 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for his research on the mechanics of the human eye, especially the process of refraction. Gullstrand completed his medical studies in Stockholm, and held various positions as a doctor and lecturer before being appointed first professor of ophthalmology at Uppsala University in 1894. He employed mathematical calculations to determine how the muscles and ligaments of the eye are used to focus on objects near and far. He also invented the slit lamp, used for focal illumination, and improved the ophthalmoscope.