# Elmer Verner Mccollum Encyclopedia Article

## Elmer Verner Mccollum

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# Elmer Verner Mccollum

**1879-1967**

American biochemist who pioneered the study of vitamins. McCollum's research began at the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, where he developed innovative methods of studying animal nutrition with colonies of white rats. His findings exposed shortcomings in the existing understanding of the nutritive value of proteins and fats. This led him to conclude that trace organic substances, now known as vitamins, as well as a number of trace minerals, are essential in animal nutrition. McCollum was also an outspoken advocate for greater public understanding of nutrition issues.