



## Wilder Penfield (1891-1976)

Dr. Penfield's higher education began at Princeton, after which he went to Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship. There he was deeply influenced by Osler and Sherrington. He then returned to the USA and graduated in medicine from Johns Hopkins in 1918. The following year he was an intern in Boston under the tutelage of Harvey Cushing.

From 1921-1928 Penfield was a surgical associate at Columbia and during this period he took time to work with Cajal and Hortega and brought back Spanish microscopic techniques to North America.

From Foerster in Germany he learned how precise brain mapping by electrical stimulation during surgery under local anesthesia allowed exact excision of cortical scars to treat focal epilepsy – an approach that became a major focus in his life's work.

In 1934 Penfield and his associates founded the Montreal Neurological Institute – his greatest achievement. From there he and colleagues published numerous studies that have become classics.