



2023 NATIONAL INVENTORS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: Feb. 1, 1952

Died: Aug. 24, 2016

Primary Connections:

- Alume Biosciences: Co-founder
- Senomyx: Co-founder
- University of California-San Diego: Professor of Pharmacology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, 1989-2016
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute: Investigator, 1989-2016
- University of Oregon: Institute of Neuroscience, 2015-16
- University of California, Berkeley: Assistant Professor of Physiology and Anatomy, 1982-89

Education:

- Harvard University: B.S., Chemistry and Physics, 1972
- University of Cambridge: Ph.D., Physiology, 1977; Research Fellow, 1977-81

Key Memberships/Awards:

- Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2008
- American Association for Cancer Research Academy: Fellow, 2013
- Society of Molecular Imaging: Imaging Achievement Award, 2009
- Wolf Prize Laureate in Medicine, 2004

10 Things You Need to Know About

Roger Tsien

Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) Variants

U.S. PATENT NO. 5,625,048

1. Tsien was born in 1952 in New York City.
2. In 2008, Tsien, Osamu Shimomura and Martin Chalfie shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
3. The Nobel committee cited Tsien for extending “the color palette beyond green, allowing researchers to give various proteins and cells different colors. This enables scientists to follow several different biological processes at the same time.”
4. As a child, he was a Boy Scout.
5. In 1968, Tsien won the National First Prize in the Westinghouse Talent Search (now called the Regeneron Science Talent Search).
6. He was an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Medicine.
7. In 2002, Tsien received the American Chemical Society Award for Creative Invention.
8. He had an intense interest in colors dating back to childhood, a foreshadowing of his later work.
9. Tsien has over 130 U.S. patents, which includes patents issued after his passing.
10. Clontech Laboratories (now owned by Takara Bio USA Inc.) was the first company to commercialize Tsien’s GFP variants.