



2024 NATIONAL INVENTORS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: Aug. 7, 1948

Primary Connections:

- The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center: Director, James P. Allison Institute; Regental Professor and Chair of the Department of Immunology; Olga Keith Weiss Distinguished University Chair for Cancer Research; Director, Parker Institute for Cancer Research; Executive Director, Immunotherapy Platform; 2012-present. Biochemist and Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Science Park, Smithville, 1977-83
- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center: Director, Ludwig Center for Cancer Immunotherapy, 2004-12
- University of California, Berkeley: Director, Department of Cancer Research Laboratory, 1985-2004

Education:

- The University of Texas at Austin: B.S., Microbiology, 1969; Ph.D., Biological Sciences, 1973

Key Awards:

- Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 2018
- Albany Medical Center Prize, 2018
- Warren Alpert Foundation Prize, 2017
- Wolf Prize Laureate in Medicine, 2017
- Harvey Prize, 2015
- Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, 2015
- Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, 2014

10 Things You Need to Know About

James Allison

Immune Checkpoint Blockade Therapy

U.S. PATENT NO. 5,811,097

1. Allison was born in 1948 in Alice, Texas.
2. His sense of curiosity was sparked through reading, engaging in hands-on science experiments, and even accompanying his father, a family doctor, on house calls.
3. The possibility of developing better ways to treat cancer had been in Allison's mind since his youth, when he lost family members to cancer.
4. After graduating with a doctorate in biological sciences from The University of Austin at Texas, he was a research fellow at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation's Department of Molecular Immunology.
5. Among Allison's many honors are the Franklin Institute's Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science, the NAS Jessie Stevenson Kovalenko Medal for Outstanding Research in Medical Sciences, the American Cancer Society's Medal of Honor for Basic Research, the Tang Prize in Biopharmaceutical Science and the American Association of Immunologists' Lifetime Achievement Award.
6. In 2018, he won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work.
7. Allison is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences.
8. Allison worked with Bristol-Myers Squibb to turn his lab discovery into a therapy to help treat cancer patients. The FDA approved Yervoy® (ipilimumab) in 2011 for treatment of patients with advanced melanoma.
9. Allison's love of music has led him to play harmonica for The Checkpoints, a blues band made up of immunologists and oncologists.
10. He has 12 U.S. patents.