



2024 NATIONAL INVENTORS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: Nov. 3, 1854

Died: July 22, 1922

Primary Connections:

- Sankyo Pharmaceutical Co. (now Daiichi-Sankyo Inc.): President
- Takamine Laboratory (acquired by Bayer): Founder
- Parke Davis: Consulting Chemist
- Tokyo Artificial Fertilizer Co. (now Nissan Chemical Corp.): Co-founder and Technical Director
- Japanese Patent Office: Temporary Chief, 1885
- Japan Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, 1883-88

Education:

- University of Tokyo: Degree in Applied Chemistry, 1879; Ph.D., Chemical Engineering, 1899; Ph.D., Pharmacology, 1906

Key Memberships/Awards:

- Order of the Rising Sun, Fourth Class, 1915
- Japan Academy: Imperial Academy Prize, 1912

10 Things You Need to Know About

Jokichi Takamine

Adrenaline (Adrenalin®)

U.S. PATENT NO. 730,176

1. Takamine was born in 1854 in Takaoka, Toyama Prefecture, Japan.
2. His father was a doctor and his mother came from a family of sake makers.
3. In his native Japan, Takamine received the Japan Academy's Imperial Academy Prize, and the Order of the Rising Sun, Fourth Class.
4. He developed the digestive supplement Taka-Diastase. Patented in 1894, it was perhaps the world's first patent on a microbial enzyme, as well as the first commercially produced microbial enzyme in the U.S.
5. Takamine moved to the U.S. and began working for a distillery in Peoria, Illinois, where he used koji mold to make whisky.
6. In 1905 in New York City, he established the Nippon Club as a social club for Japanese Americans and Japanese nationals.
7. In 1912, Takamine supported efforts to beautify the tidal basin area around the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., by arranging for the shipment of several thousand cherry trees. After more than a century, these trees remain well-known symbols of friendship between Japan and the U.S.
8. He was the first president of Sankyo Pharmaceutical Co., now Daiichi-Sankyo.
9. A widely used medical device containing adrenaline (also called epinephrine) is the EpiPen® autoinjector, which was invented by Takamine's fellow National Inventors Hall of Fame® Inductee Sheldon Kaplan.
10. He had over 20 U.S. patents.