



2024 NATIONAL INVENTORS  
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

**Born:** Sept. 30, 1966

**Primary Connections:**

- University of Cambridge: Professor of Medicinal Chemistry; Research Leader, Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute; 1994-present
- Solexa (acquired by Illumina): Co-founder, 1998-2007

**Education:**

- University of Cambridge: B.A., Natural Sciences, 1988; Ph.D., Enzyme Chemistry, 1991

**Key Memberships/Awards:**

- National Academy of Sciences: International Member, 2023
- Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, 2022
- Millennium Technology Prize, 2020
- The Royal Society: Royal Medal, 2018; Fellow, 2012
- Academy of Medical Sciences: Fellow, 2011

10 Things You Need to Know About

# Shankar Balasubramanian

## Sequencing-by-Synthesis (SBS)

U.S. PATENT NO. 6,787,308

1. Balasubramanian was born in 1966 in Madras, India, and his family moved to the United Kingdom in 1967.
2. Spending much of his childhood in Cheshire playing soccer, he dreamed of pursuing the sport professionally.
3. After completing his doctorate in enzyme chemistry from the University of Cambridge, Balasubramanian was a SERC/NATO Research Fellow at Penn State University.
4. Thanks to his and David Klenerman's work, more than 1 million human genomes are sequenced each year.
5. Among his many honors, Balasubramanian has received the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences and the Millennium Technology Prize.
6. He is a fellow of the Royal Society and the Academy of Medical Sciences in the United Kingdom, and an international member of the National Academy of Sciences.
7. Balasubramanian was knighted in 2017 for his contribution to science and medicine.
8. When he was 50, he completed a 100-km (62.1-mile) ultramarathon.
9. "As a scientist, you're always driven by your curiosity," Balasubramanian said. "But deep down, you hope that one day you may play a part in something that makes a difference for other human beings."
10. He has 23 U.S. patents.