



Hope Funds for Cancer Research

Press Release

2017 Hope Funds Honoree James P. Allison to Receive Nobel Prize

For Immediate Release

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Newport, RI - October 1, 2018 - The Hope Funds for Cancer Research, dedicated to advancing innovative research for the most difficult-to-treat cancers, congratulates its 2017 Award of Excellence recipient James P. Allison, Ph.D., for being awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work in discovering how the body's immune system can be harnessed to combat cancer.

"We at the Hope Funds for Cancer Research congratulate Dr. James Allison for being named a recipient of the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine," stated Lewis C. Cantley, Ph.D., Chairman of the Hope Funds Board of Trustees.

"Dr. Allison, who received the 2017 Hope Funds Award for Clinical Development, is recognized, with Dr. Tasuku Honjo of Japan, for basic research that has led to the development of immune checkpoint inhibitors, a new class of therapies that are having a major impact in extending lives and even curing a significant fraction of melanomas and other cancers," said Dr. Cantley.

The awards were announced earlier today in Stockholm.

About James P. Allison, Ph.D.

Dr. Allison is the Chair of the Department of Immunology, the Vivian L. Smith Distinguished Chair in Immunology, Director of the Parker Institute for Cancer Research, and the Executive Director of the Immunotherapy Platform at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. For the past 30 years he has been studying T cells and was one of the first to identify the T cell receptor in the early 1980s. He then showed that a molecule known as CD28 functions as the T cell's 'gas pedal', and subsequently discovered the T cell's 'brakes'. This discovery opened up an entire new perspective in cancer treatment. This new treatment approach is called checkpoint blockade which uses antibodies to block the action of the 'braking' molecule and enabling more powerful anti-cancer response. In 2013, Science magazine cited Dr. Allison's work and declared cancer immunotherapy the "breakthrough of the year." Dr. Allison is a



James P. Allison, Ph.D.

member of the National Academies of Science and Medicine and a 2015 recipient of the Lasker-Debakey Clinical Medical Research award.

About Hope Funds for Cancer Research

The Hope Funds for Cancer Research was formed in 2006 by a group of concerned individuals who have experience in oncology, intellectual property law, investment banking, philanthropy, sociology, and the arts to establish a funding vehicle that would take a rational scientific, medical, and investment approach to granting money to the most interesting and promising research efforts to address the most difficult-to-treat cancers, including pancreatic, lung, liver, sarcomas, esophageal, brain, gastric, and ovarian cancers, and rare lymphomas, leukemias and MDS. These cancers are insidiously aggressive illnesses that kill most of their victims within months, even with aggressive chemotherapy. The Trustees of the Hope Funds for Cancer Research believe that funding research that could lead to breakthroughs in these areas and increase life expectancy in these types of cancers is at the core of our mission. The Hope Funds for Cancer Research is a 509 (a)(1) charity under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service's code. For additional information about the organization, please visit <http://www.Hope-Funds.org> or call 401-847-3286.

Hope Funds for Cancer Research: Advancing Innovative Research in Understudied Cancers

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