

Check Up

■ Taking a Bow

Researchers lauded for work in biological therapies



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James P. Allison, PhD

Twenty-five years ago, when the International Society for Biological Therapy of Cancer (iSBTc) was launched, the science of taking biologic approaches to cancer treatment was a relatively unexplored field with plenty of research terrain yet to be charted. On October 3, the organization celebrated its silver anniversary by saluting pioneering researchers who have led the way in translating laboratory insights in immunotherapy and biological therapy from theories to clinical use.

Leading the field of those honored for his accomplishments was **James P. Allison, PhD**, director of the Ludwig Center for Cancer at the

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York. Allison was presented with the Richard V. Smalley, MD, Memorial Award, named in honor of one of iSBTc's founders, during a ceremony at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History held during the group's annual meeting in Washington, DC.

Allison was saluted for his work in developing CTLA-4 blockade, a monoclonal antibody-based treatment for melanoma. His work with CTLA-4 is the latest milestone during a career in which he developed the notion of immune checkpoint blockade as a means to battle cancer cells and has explored T-cell activation and regulation, the iSBTc indicated in awarding the honor.

The iSBTc also recognized 6 groups with Team Science Awards, as well as young investigators and individuals who have helped the organization achieve its goals.

Team Science Award winners:

- **The Cytokine Working Group**, for investigations in interleukin-2 (IL-2) and other immunostimulatory cytokines, with **Michael B. Atkins, MD**, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts, accepting for the team;
- **The Ludwig Institute For Cancer Research**, Brussels Branch of Human Cancer Cell Genetics, Belgium, for research leading to the first target-specific clinical trial of vaccination with MAGE-3 peptides, with **Pierre Coulie, MD, PhD**, and **Pierre van der Bruggen, PhD**, accepting;
- **The National Cancer Institute Biological Response Modifiers Program**, Frederick, Maryland, for research including the first in-human studies of monoclonal antibodies and cytokines and the development of interferon alfa for treatment of hairy cell leukemia, with **Robert H. Wilttrout, MD**, accepting;
- **The National Cancer Institute, The Surgery Branch**, Bethesda, Maryland, for research including the translation of IL-2, lymphokine-activated killer cells and tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes, and the first in-human application of genetic engineering, with **Steven A. Rosenberg, MD, PhD**, accepting;
- **The University of Pittsburgh**, Pennsylvania, for groundbreaking research into natural killer cells and dendritic cells, cytokines, cancer vaccines, gene therapy, antibody therapy, immune trafficking, the tumor microenvironment, and immune monitoring, with **Ronald B. Herberman, MD**, accepting;
- **The University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center**, Seattle, for leading an ongoing revolution to develop T cell-based immunotherapies and achieving significant results in T-cell therapy, vaccine therapy, novel agents that augment T-cell immunity, and hematopoietic cell transplantation, with **Philip D. Greenberg, MD**, and **Martin "Mac" Cheever, MD**, accepting, and posthumous honors for **Alexander Fefer, MD**.

More Info» www.isbtc.org

Seeking to Spread Breast Reconstruction Message

Despite the widespread attention breast cancer receives, most women facing the disease do not know their options for reconstructive surgery, according to doctors at a Louisiana hospital who are seeking to promote awareness of modern techniques.

Frank DellaCroce, MD, FACS, and Scott Sullivan, MD, FACS, of the Center for Restorative Breast Surgery, New Orleans, cited 2 studies to support their contentions. A study released at the 2010 American Society of Breast Surgeons Annual Meeting in April indicated that 4 out of 5 women do not undergo breast reconstruction after a mastectomy. The American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) reported in July 2009 that 7 out of 10 women eligible to receive reconstructive surgery are not informed of the possible procedures that could help them.

The physicians noted in a press release that the ASPS recommends that the members of a breast cancer patient's treatment team, which includes a gynecologist, radiologist, breast surgeon, medical oncologist, and a plastic surgeon, join in developing a treatment plan specifically designed for each patient.

More Info» www.breastcenter.com

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