Another American Cancer Society Researcher Receives Nobel Prize

Chemistry Award Brings Number of Society Funded Researchers to 44

Atlanta 2009/10/07 -One of the three scientists receiving the 2009 Nobel Prize for Chemistry is a former American Cancer Society research grantee, bringing the number of Nobel Laureates among the Society's funded researchers to 44.

Thomas A. Steitz, Ph.D., of Yale University received two multi-year grants from the American Cancer Society between 1983 and 1997 totaling more than $1 million. Dr. Steitz has also mentored two post-doctoral researchers (Carl Correll, Ph.D. 1993-1995 and Virginia Rath, Ph.D, 1992-1995). He was honored today along with Venkatraman Ramakrishnan of the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, England and Ada E. Yonath of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, for describing the ribosome and its function. Earlier this week, former American Cancer Society research grantee Jack W. Szostak of the Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass., was a co-winner of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

"The Nobel Prizes awarded this week are a powerful indication of the importance and credibility of the American Cancer Society's research department," said Elizabeth "Terry" T.H. Fontham, M.P.H., Dr.P.H., national volunteer president of the American Cancer Society. "This week, we announced 94 new research and training grants totaling more than $45 million that will begin next year. We are confident that among them and the 986 researchers currently receiving American Cancer Society funding totaling $485,114,269, are scientists whose future research discoveries will continue to move us toward a world with less cancer and more birthdays."

About the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society combines an unyielding passion with nearly a century of experience to save lives and end suffering from cancer. As a global grassroots force of more than three million volunteers, we fight for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community. We save lives by helping people stay well by preventing cancer or detecting it early; helping people get well by being there for them during and after a cancer diagnosis; by finding cures through investment in groundbreaking discovery; and by fighting back by rallying lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and by rallying communities worldwide to join the fight. As the nation's largest non-governmental investor in cancer research, contributing about $3.4 billion, we turn what we know about cancer into what we do. As a result, more than 11 million people in America who have had cancer and countless more who have avoided it will be celebrating birthdays this year. To learn more about us or to get help, call us any time, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345.

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David Sampson
Director, Medical & Scientific Communications
American Cancer Society
213 368-8523
david.sampson@cancer.org