

Melanoma

Research Alliance

MRA APPLAUDS JAMES ALLISON FOR PRESTIGIOUS LASKER AWARD

WASHINGTON, DC, September 8, 2015 – The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA) commends James P. Allison, Ph.D., who today received the prestigious Lasker Award for his pioneering work in immunotherapy. Allison, who is a member of MRA’s Scientific Advisory Panel, received the Lasker DeBaakey Clinical Medical Research Award, which honors those whose work has had significant clinical impact.

Allison is credited with discovering how to “turn off” the brakes on the body’s immune system, thus enabling the body’s own immune system to fight cancer. His pioneering work led to the development of [ipilimumab](#), which blocks the activity of a molecule called CTLA-4, a protein that prevents T cells from attacking normal body cells and cancer cells. The drug, which is approved to treat advanced melanoma, works to activate T cells so they can multiply and attack melanoma cells anywhere in the body.

In addition to serving on MRA’s Scientific Advisory Panel, Allison is a funded investigator and served as a keynote speaker at MRA’s Seventh Annual [Scientific Retreat](#), which was held in February.

“The prestigious Lasker Award is a testament to the tremendous impact Dr. Allison’s research has had on the field of cancer treatment via immunotherapy,” said Louise M. Perkins, Ph.D., Chief Science Officer at MRA. “His research has set in motion fundamental changes in our approach to treating many diseases, including melanoma, and we are only beginning to understand the full potential of the body’s immune system to fight disease.”

Watch the [video on immunotherapy](#) to hear more from Allison and learn about immunotherapy.

About The Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA)

MRA is a public charity formed in 2007 under the auspices of the Milken Institute, with the generous founding support of Debra and Leon Black. MRA is the largest private funder of melanoma research and has provided nearly \$68 million to research seeking to better prevent, diagnose, and treat melanoma, the deadliest type of skin cancer. Due to the ongoing support of its founders, 100 percent of every dollar MRA raises goes to support its melanoma research program. MRA’s ability to fund wide-ranging research in melanoma is amplified by unique collaborations and partnerships with individuals, private foundations, and corporations. Visit www.CureMelanoma.org for more information, or follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

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