



American, Japanese win Nobel for cancer research

By David Keyton and Jim Heintz
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — The Nobel Prize in medicine was awarded to two researchers from the United States and Japan for advances in discovering how the body’s immune system can fight off the scourge of cancer.

The 9-million-kronor (\$1.01 million) prize will be shared by James Allison of the University of Texas at Austin and Tasuku Honjo of Kyoto University.

Their parallel work concerned proteins that act as brakes on the body’s immune system and it constitutes “a landmark in our fight against cancer,” said a statement from the Nobel Assembly of Sweden’s Karolinska Institute, which selects winners of the annual prestigious award.

Allison studied a known protein and developed the concept into a new treatment approach, whereas Honjo discovered a new protein that also operated as a brake on immune cells.

“I’m honored and humbled to receive this prestigious recognition,” Allison said in a statement released by the university’s MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where he is a professor.

“A driving motivation for scientists is simply to push the frontiers of knowledge. I didn’t set out to study cancer, but to understand the biology of T cells, these incredible cells that travel our bodies and



RESEARCHERS HONORED. The Nobel Prize in medicine was awarded during a presentation at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, to two researchers from the United States and Japan for advances in discovering how the body’s immune system can fight off the scourge of cancer. The \$1.01 million prize will be shared by James Allison (top photo, left) of the University of Texas at Austin, and Tasuku Honjo (top photo, right, and bottom photo) of Kyoto University.

work to protect us,” he said.

Last year’s prize went to three Americans for work in identifying genes and proteins that work in the body’s biological clock, which affects functions such as sleep patterns, blood pressure, and eating habits.

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