

Wonders of discovery

There is abundance of evidence right from the stone age that man owing to his innovative aptitude and curious nature has made numerous discoveries, inventions, and incredible progress in various walks of life particularly in the field of science which has proved to be a boon for humanity. Sir Alfred Nobel conducted an experiment on dynamite to turn a huge mountain into a fertile, productive land. This is the testimony and demonstration of human skill and mental power which has played miracles for the betterment of mankind.

The foundation of Nobel Prize was laid in 1895 when Alfred Nobel made his last Will, leaving much of his wealth for the introduction of Nobel Prize in 1901. This was a great initiative which motivated and encouraged many aspirants to work enthusiastically with earnest desire and dedicate their lives to invent and discover novelties and modalities so that human species are benefited most. Nobel Prize has been instituted to reward intellectuals for their rare and extraordinary achievements which were unique in different spheres and subjects. These attainments were significant to the advantage of human welfare and wellbeing. Nobel Prize has brought grace by honoring and gratifying ambitious men and women from all the corners of the world for their outstanding achievements in Physics, Chemistry, Literature, Physiology, Medicine, Humanities, and also for their remarkable work for world peace.

Similarly, in the last few decades, there has been a tremendous evolution and advancement in the field of medical science which has also helped fight diseases and prolong the human life.

Ralph Steinman, a Biologist from Rockefeller University, was announced the winner of Nobel Prize on Monday, October 3rd. However, he expired three days before the announcement of Nobel Prize for him in the field of Medicine. Ralph Steinman was not aware of this honor and credit; neither the Committee Members of Nobel award knew that Ralph Steinman is no more. Generally,



Nobel Prize is not awarded posthumously. But in this case, committee members were not aware and the Nobel Prize was announced. They categorically stated that the committee will honor the commitment as the research of Steinman is unparalleled.

Steinman died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 68 years after having extended the lease of his life by using the therapy designed by him. Steinman discovered dendritic cells in 1973, which regulate and adapt immune system defense mechanism and the potential power of these cells and components of the immune system to curb infection and other communicable diseases. Steinman was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer four years ago and his life term was extended using dendritic cell based immunotherapy of his own design. Nobel Award Committee noted and acknowledged the utility of Steinman's discovery of dendritic cells and its role in adaptive immunity. This discovery by Steinman may be a ray of hope for many sufferers who could get a chance to recover or prolong their life when suffering from such an ailment. Thus, it laid the foundation of Immune Therapy. Steinman has proved that death was helpless and was unable to overshadow Steinman's Will. Rather, Steinman's discovery of protecting life from communicable diseases may prove boon to the future generations. The reality of the above episode reveals and confirms that human species are bestowed and gifted with superhuman caliber and can play wonders for the betterment of humanity.

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