1. Allison was born in 1948 in Alice, Texas.

2. His sense of curiosity was sparked through reading, engaging in hands-on science experiments, and even accompanying his father, a family doctor, on house calls.

3. The possibility of developing better ways to treat cancer had been in Allison’s mind since his youth, when he lost family members to cancer.

4. After graduating with a doctorate in biological sciences from The University of Austin at Texas, he was a research fellow at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation’s Department of Molecular Immunology.

5. Among Allison’s many honors are the Franklin Institute’s Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science, the NAS Jessie Stevenson Kovalenko Medal for Outstanding Research in Medical Sciences, the American Cancer Society’s Medal of Honor for Basic Research, the Tang Prize in Biopharmaceutical Science and the American Association of Immunologists’ Lifetime Achievement Award.

6. In 2018, he won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work.

7. Allison is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences.

8. Allison worked with Bristol-Myers Squibb to turn his lab discovery into a therapy to help treat cancer patients. The FDA approved Yervoy® (ipilimumab) in 2011 for treatment of patients with advanced melanoma.

9. Allison’s love of music has led him to play harmonica for The Checkpoints, a blues band made up of immunologists and oncologists.

10. He has 12 U.S. patents.