

## Taiwan scientists awarded for novel drug discovery

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**Singapore:** In a grand ceremony held at the National Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall in Taipei, two professors Mr Tasuku Honjo and Mr James P Allison, from Kyoto University and the M D Anderson Cancer Center respectively, received the inaugural Tang Prize for their novel discovery in biosciences.

The two immunologists were awarded for their breakthrough research in melanoma and lung cancer. The duo, together have developed antibodies that have improved survival rates in cancer patients. Molecules CTLA-4 and PD-1 play a major role in cancer development. Antibodies against both molecules have been developed and are currently under clinical trials in cancer patients.

Named after the Tang Dynasty (AD 618-907), the Tang Prize was first announced in 2012. It was established by the founder Dr Samuel Yin Yen-Liang, chairman of the Ruentex business empire to recognize the contribution of scientists to global challenges.