

American Cancer Society Funded Researchers Awarded Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and Chemistry

Victor Ambros, Gary Ruvkun and David Baker were given Nobel Prizes for work on microRNA and computational protein design, which can impact cancer research and treatment. They were awarded ACS grants early in their careers.

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The 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to Dr. David Baker. He was honored for his work in computational protein design. Baker joins scientists Dr. Victor Ambros and Dr. Gary Ruvkun, who were awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their work on the discovery of microRNA, a molecule that governs how cells in the body function. They join 50 other investigators funded by the [American Cancer Society](#) (ACS) who have previously received this prestigious honor. The Nobel Prize is seen as the pinnacle of scientific achievement.

Dr. David Baker received an ACS grant in 1995--1996. Dr. Ambros also received several early career grants from ACS between 1980-1990 and Dr. Ruvkun was given a faculty research award grant from ACS from 1991-1995. Both researchers have also served as mentors on awarded grants from ACS.

"The discovery of microRNA has led to a greater understanding of the impact gene regulation can have on diseases such as cancer. Dr. Ambros' and Dr. Ruvkun's work has proven to be essential to our understanding of how organisms develop and function and will continue to play a pivotal role in future cancer research and treatment methods," said [Dr. Karen Knudsen](#), chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). "Dr. Baker's work on computational protein design has helped open up new vaccine applications and aided in the creation of new drugs that have had a tremendous impact on cancer treatment. ACS prides itself on identifying and funding talented investigators, and we are so proud to have supported this important work."

The Nobel Prize is awarded in memory of Alfred Nobel since 1901 and celebrates achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, peace, and economic sciences. An awards ceremony will be held in December for the honorees.

The American Cancer Society is honored to have now funded [53 investigators who went on to win](#)

[the Nobel Prize](#). This is a tribute to the ACS research program and the strength of its peer-review process.

Learn more about ACS-funded research on [cancer.org](#).

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