

# **Aziz Sancar Summary**

Aziz Sancar, born on September 8, 1946, in Savur, Turkey, is a distinguished biochemist renowned for his groundbreaking contributions to the field of DNA repair. He embarked on his academic journey at Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine, earning his medical degree in 1969. Sancar's early interest in molecular biology led him to pursue further studies in the United States.

In the U.S., Sancar obtained a Master's degree in Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Texas at Dallas. He continued his academic pursuits with a Ph.D. in Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston, completing his doctoral studies in 1977.

Sancar's groundbreaking research focused on elucidating the mechanisms involved in DNA repair, particularly the processes that mend damage caused by exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation. His work has significantly contributed to our understanding of the intricate molecular pathways that safeguard the integrity of genetic information.

In recognition of his exceptional contributions, Aziz Sancar was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2015. Alongside Tomas Lindahl and Paul L. Modrich, he was honored for his mechanistic studies of DNA repair, emphasizing the crucial role these processes play in maintaining genomic stability.

Throughout his career, Sancar has held esteemed positions, including the Sarah Graham Kenan Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. His dedication to advancing scientific knowledge and unraveling the complexities of DNA repair mechanisms has left an indelible mark on the field of biochemistry.

Aziz Sancar's remarkable journey from a medical student in Turkey to a Nobel laureate reflects not only his individual brilliance but also his commitment to pushing the boundaries of scientific exploration. His legacy continues to inspire future generations of researchers and scientists worldwide.