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HEADLINE: HOWARD TEMIN; CANCER RESEARCHER SHARED NOBEL

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BODY:

Howard Temin, 59, who shared a Nobel Prize for cancer research in 1975, has died of a rare form of lung cancer, his family said Thursday.

Temin had disclosed in 1992 that he was afflicted with the disease, making it clear at the time he had never used tobacco and abhorred cigarette smoking.

The researcher, who was on the University of Wisconsin faculty, died Wednesday (Feb. 9, 1994), the announcement said. He had worked at the University of Wisconsin for 34 years.

Temin won the Nobel Prize for his role in discovering an enzyme that overturned a central tenet of molecular biology.

The enzyme - reverse transcriptase - later played a crucial role in identifying the AIDS virus.

It also became an important part of the structure of the biotechnology industry and was crucial to the genetic engineering that produced drugs like human insulin and tpa - a clot dissolving agent that stops heart attacks in progress.

The Nobel committee cited Temin for "discoveries concerning the interaction between tumor viruses and the genetic material of the cell."

In 1992 he was awarded a National Medal of Science by former President George Bush at a White House ceremony.

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