



James E. (Jim) Womack was born March 30, 1941 to Charles E. and Eva Mae Womack in the West Texas town of Anson. A standout on his father's high basketball school team, Womack entered Abilene Christian University, where he played basketball and majored in Mathematics Education. He received a BS in 1964 and led his team to two NCAA postseason tournaments. He married his college sweetheart Raby Beakley in 1963, who been by his side for the past 49 years.

Jim earned a PhD in 1968, working with Ralph Bogart in the Department of Animal Sciences at Oregon State University. His distinguished career included research and faculty positions at Abilene Christian College and the Jackson Laboratory before joining the Texas A&M University faculty in 1977 where he holds the W. P. Luse Endowed Professorship

and was named a Distinguished Professor in 2001.

Dr. Womack's scientific contributions have spanned more than 44 years, from the earliest days of comparative mammalian genetics to the sequencing of the cattle genome. His major contribution was the development of the first comparative synteny map of the cattle genome, which was instrumental in anchoring linkage groups to their proper chromosomes. These studies revealed the deep conservation of chromosome organization in mammals, opening the door to the explosion in comparative genomics in farm animals and other species.

Dr. Womack has received many awards and recognitions, including: CIBA Prize for Research in Animal Health, 1993; Distinguished Service Award, Texas Genetics Society, 2006; Outstanding Alumnus of the Year, Abilene Christian University, 2006; Bush Excellence Award for Faculty in International Research, Texas A&M University, 2008; Student-Led Award for Teaching Excellence, Texas A&M University System, 2009; Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award for Graduate Student Mentoring, Texas A&M University, 2010. Dr. Womack was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1999 and received the Wolf Prize in Agriculture in 2001. In 2010, Dr. Womack was elected to the Sports Hall of Fame at Abilene Christian University.

Dr. Womack is widely appreciated for his outstanding service to the scientific community. He served as President of the Texas Genetics Society (1989), the first Coordinator of the USDA-NRSP8 Bovine Genome Program (1993-2008); Executive Vice President, American Genetic Association (1996-2003), and President of the International Society for Animal Genetics (2000-2006).

Dr. Womack and Raby currently reside on their ranch outside of College Station Texas, where they raise cattle, horses and look after their dogs. The Womacks have two children, Wendy and James M. and two grandsons who spend long weekends at the ranch being entertained by their enthusiastic grandparents. Dr. Womack remains active at Texas A & M University, where he teaches genetics to more than 80 undergraduate students each year, and maintains an active research program.