

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

**JONATHAN D. GOLDBERG**

The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences

Transcript of an Interview  
Conducted by

William Van Benschoten

at

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center  
New York City, New York

on

26 and 30 December 2003 and 5 January 2004

From the Original Collection of the University of California, Los Angeles



Jonathan D. Goldberg

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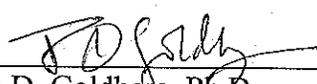
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## **JONATHAN D. GOLDBERG**

1967 Born in Kingsbury, London, Great Britain, on 30 October

### Education

1989 B.Sc., Biochemistry (First Class), University of Liverpool, Liverpool, England

1993 Ph.D., Imperial College of Science Technology & Medicine, London, England

### Professional Experience

1993–1996 The Rockefeller University, New York City, New York  
Postdoctoral Fellow under John Kuriyan

1996–2001 Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York City, New York  
Assistant Member  
2001–2003 Associate Member  
2003–present Member

1996–2001 Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York City, New York  
Assistant Professor  
2001–2003 Associate Professor  
2003–present Professor

2000–2003 Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
Assistant Investigator  
2004–present Investigator

### Honors

1989–1993 Science & Engineering Research Council Fellowship, UK  
1998–2002 Pew Biomedical Scholar  
1999–2002 New York City Council Speakers Award for Biomedical Research  
2000 Boyer Award for Basic Research, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

### Selected Publications

- Mossessova, E., Corpina, R.A. & Goldberg, J. (2003) Crystal structure of ARF1<sup>\*</sup>Sec7 complexed with Brefeldin A and its implications for the guanine nucleotide exchange mechanism. *Mol. Cell* 12:1403-1411.
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## ABSTRACT

**Jonathan D. Goldberg** was born and raised in Hertfordshire, England, one of two children. From the outset, it was clear to his parents that Goldberg was talented academically and so they encouraged him from a young age to attend university. He went through the British state-school system and advanced rapidly through his studies; his interest in science began early, choosing math, chemistry, and biology as his three subjects for A Level exams. Although academically inclined, he also had interests and participated in activities outside of school, including sports, reading, and Boy Scouts. An influential teacher and some interesting lessons on DNA led Goldberg to pursue biology for his undergraduate study.

He attended the University of Liverpool, where he majored in biochemistry and had his first experience with intensive lab work. Despite his focus on microbiology while at Liverpool, Goldberg's own interests drew him to structural biology. He subsequently attended the Imperial College of Science, Technology, and Medicine and received his Ph.D. under David M. Blow, in whose laboratory Goldberg enjoyed a great deal of scientific freedom; his graduate research focused on protein structure and x-ray crystallography. Drawn by John Kuriyan's (Pew Scholar class of 1989) more experimental approach in structural biology, Goldberg joined Kuriyan's lab at Rockefeller University for a postdoctoral position, researching the structural biology of cell signaling. James Rothman convinced him to take a position at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center at which he took a hands-on approach to his small lab.

Goldberg's research has focused on intracellular transport, and he discusses how his research, which has resulted in a number of publications in prestigious journals, may further the field. In this interview, he also reflects on some broader themes that have affected his research and career, including funding, publishing, and, later in the interview, creativity, collaboration, and competition. Additionally he remarks upon how his own laboratory has operated, including his laboratory's approach to structural biology, his management style, and how his intuition has factored into his research. He also spends some time talking about being part of a two-scientist family, and how he has managed to balance career and family, describing his typical day in the laboratory. The interview ends with his beliefs about the ways in which the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences has impacted on his career.

## UCLA INTERVIEW HISTORY

### INTERVIEWER:

William Van Benschoten, Interviewer, UCLA Oral History Program; B.A., History, University of California, Riverside, 1990; M.A., History, University of California, Riverside, 1991; C.Phil., History, University of California, Los Angeles, 1995.

### TIME AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW:

**Place:** Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York City.

**Dates of sessions:** December 26 and 30, 2003, and January 5, 2004.

**Total number of recorded hours:** 6

**Persons present during interview:** Goldberg and Van Benschoten.

### CONDUCT OF INTERVIEW:

This interview is one in a series with Pew Scholars in the Biomedical Sciences conducted by the UCLA Oral History Program in conjunction with the Pew Charitable Trusts's Pew Scholars in the Biomedical Sciences Oral History and Archives Project. The project has been designed to document the backgrounds, education, and research of biomedical scientists awarded four-year Pew scholarships since 1988.

To provide an overall framework for project interviews, the director of the UCLA Oral History Program and three UCLA faculty project consultants developed a topic outline. In preparing for this interview, Van Benschoten held a telephone preinterview conversation with Goldberg to obtain written background information (curriculum vitae, copies of published articles, etc.) and agree on an interviewing schedule. He also reviewed documentation in Goldberg's file at the Pew Scholars Program office in San Francisco, including Goldberg's proposal application, letters of recommendation, and reviews by Pew Scholars Program national advisory committee members.

### ORIGINAL EDITING:

Carol Squires edited the interview. She checked the verbatim transcript of the interview against the original tape recordings, edited for punctuation, paragraphing, and spelling, and verified proper names. Words and phrases inserted by the editor have been bracketed.

Goldberg reviewed the transcript. He verified proper names and made a number of minor corrections and additions.

Carol Squires prepared the table of contents and TechniType Transcripts compiled the guide to proper names.

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