

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

JEAN T. GREENBERG

The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

William Van Benschoten

at

The University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

on

17 and 18 June 2002

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This oral history is part of a series supported by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts based on the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences. This collection is an important resource for the history of biomedicine, recording the life and careers of young, distinguished biomedical scientists and of Pew Biomedical Scholar Advisory Committee members.

This oral history was completed under the auspices of the Oral History Project, University of California, Los Angeles (Copyright © 2006, The Regents of the University of California) and is made possible through the generosity of



**From the original collection at the Center for
Oral History Research, UCLA Library, UCLA.**

The following oral history, originally processed at the UCLA Center for Oral History Research, has been reformatted by the Chemical Heritage Foundation. The process involved reformatting the front matter, adding a new abstract, replacing the table of contents, and replacing the index. The paragraph spacing and font of the body of the transcript were altered to conform to the standards of the Oral History Program at the Chemical Heritage Foundation. The text of the oral history remains unaltered; any inadvertent spelling or factual errors in the original manuscript have not been modified. The reformatted version and digital copies of the interview recordings are housed at the Othmer Library, Chemical Heritage Foundation. The original version and research materials remain at the Darling Library, University of California, Los Angeles and at the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

REFORMATTING:

Kim Phan, Program Intern, Oral History, Chemical Heritage Foundation. B.A. expected 2011, Anthropology, Cornell University.

David J. Caruso, Program Manager, Oral History, Chemical Heritage Foundation. B.A., History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, Johns Hopkins University; PhD., Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Oral History Interview Agreement No. R081902G

This Interview Agreement is made and entered into this 18 day of August, 2002 by and between THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, a California corporation, on behalf of the Oral History Program at the UCLA campus, hereinafter called "University," and JEAN T. GREENBERG, having an address at Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology, University of Chicago, 1103 East 57th Street - EBC, Chicago, Illinois 60637, hereinafter called "Interviewee."

Interviewee agrees to participate in a series of University-conducted tape-recorded interviews, commencing on or about June 17, 2002, and tentatively entitled "Interview with Jean T. Greenberg. This Agreement relates to any and all materials originating from the interviews, namely the tape recordings of the interviews and a written manuscript prepared from the tapes, hereinafter collectively called "the Work."

In consideration of the mutual covenants, conditions, and terms set forth below, the parties hereto hereby agree as follows:

1. Interviewee irrevocably assigns to University all her copyright, title and interest in and to the Work. This assignment applies to University, its successors, and assigns, for and during the existence of the copyright and all renewals and extensions thereof.
2. By virtue of this assignment, University will have the right to use the Work for any research, educational, or other purpose, including electronic reproduction, that University may deem appropriate.
3. Interviewee acknowledges that she will receive no remuneration or compensation for her participation in the interviews or for the rights assigned hereunder.
4. Interviewee will receive from University, free of charge, one bound copy of the typewritten manuscript of the interviews.
5. To insure against substantive error or misquotation, Interviewee will have the right to review the manuscript before it is put into final form. University therefore will send Interviewee a copy of the edited transcript for review and comment. Interviewee will return transcript and comments to University within 30 days of receipt of the transcript. In the event that Interviewee does not respond within 30 days, University will assume that Interviewee has given full approval of the transcript.
6. All notices and other official correspondence concerning this Agreement will be sent to the following:

If to University:

Oral History Program
University of California, Los Angeles
Box 951575
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Attention: Janice L. Reiff

If to Interviewee:

Jean T. Greenberg
Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology
University of Chicago
1103 East 57th Street - EBC
Chicago, IL 60637

University and Interviewee have executed this Agreement on the date first written above.

INTERVIEWEE

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA

X Jean Greenberg
(Signature)

Janice L. Reiff
(Signature)

Jean T. Greenberg
(Typed Name)

Janice L. Reiff
(Typed Name)

Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology
(Address)

Interim Director, Oral History Program
(Title)

University of Chicago

1103 East 57th Street - EBC

Chicago, Illinois 60637

X Date 18 June 02

Date 18 Aug 2002

This interview has been designated as **Free Access**.

One may view, quote from, cite, or reproduce the oral history with the permission of CHF.

Please note: Users citing this interview for purposes of publication are obliged under the terms of the Chemical Heritage Foundation Oral History Program to credit CHF using the format below:

Jean T. Greenberg, interview by William Von Benschoten at the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, 17-18 June 2002 (Philadelphia: Chemical Heritage Foundation, Oral History Transcript # 0463).



Chemical Heritage Foundation
Oral History Program
315 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106



The Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) serves the community of the chemical and molecular sciences, and the wider public, by treasuring the past, educating the present, and inspiring the future. CHF maintains a world-class collection of materials that document the history and heritage of the chemical and molecular sciences, technologies, and industries; encourages research in CHF collections; and carries out a program of outreach and interpretation in order to advance an understanding of the role of the chemical and molecular sciences, technologies, and industries in shaping society.

JEAN T. GREENBERG

1961 Born in New York City, New York, on 10 July

Education

1983 B.A., Biochemistry, Barnard College, Columbia University
1989 Ph.D., Biophysics, Harvard University

Professional Experience

1989-1994 Massachusetts General Hospital
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Molecular Biology

1989-1994 Harvard University
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Genetics

1995-1997 University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado
Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular, Cellular and
Developmental Biology

1997-2003 University of Chicago
Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell
Biology and Committee on Genetics

2002-2003 Assistant Professor and Committee on Microbiology

2003-present Associate Professor, Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell
Biology, Committee on Genetics, and Committee on
Microbiology

Honors

1983 Magna Cum Laude, Barnard College
1989-1992 NSF Postdoctoral Fellow in Plant Biology
1996-1999 American Cancer Society Research Fellow
1996-2001 Pew Biomedical Scholar

Selected Publications

- Yao, N. and Greenberg, J.T. (2005) Arabidopsis Accelerated Cell Death2 modulates programmed cell death. *Plant Cell* 30 Dec (epub before print).
- Gabriel, D.W., Allen, C., Schell, M., Denny, T., Greenberg, J.T., Duan, Y.P., Flores-Cruz, Z., Huang, Q., Clifford, J.M., Presting, G., Gonzalez, E.T., Reddy, J., Elphinstone, J., Swanson, J., Yao, J., Malholand, V., Liu, L., Farmerie, W., Patnaikuni, M., Balogh, B., Norman, D., Alvarez, A., Castillo, J.A., Jones, J., Saddler, G., Walunas, T., Zhukov, A., Mikhailova, N. (2005). Identification of open reading frames unique to a select agent: *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2. *MPMI* 19(1):69-79
- Lu, H., Liu, Y. and Greenberg, J.T. (2005) Structure-function analysis of the plasma membrane-localized Arabidopsis defense component ACD6. *Plant J.* 44:798-809
- Lindeberg M, Stavrinides J, Chang JH, Alfano JR, Collmer A, Dangl JL, Greenberg JT, Mansfield JW, Guttman DS. (2005) Proposed guidelines for a unified nomenclature and phylogenetic analysis of type III Hop effector proteins in the plant pathogen *Pseudomonas syringae*. *MPMI* 18:275-282
- Vinatzer, B.A., Jelenska, J., Greenberg, J.T. (2005) Bioinformatics correctly identifies many type III secretion substrates in the plant pathogen *Pseudomonas syringae* and the biocontrol isolate *P. fluorescens* SBW25. *MPMI* 18:877-888.
- Yao, N., Eisfelder, B. J., Marvin, J. and Greenberg, J.T. The mitochondrion, an organelle commonly involved in programmed cell death in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Plant J.* 40:596-610.
- Song, J.T., Lu, H., McDowell, J.M. and Greenberg, J.T. (2004) A key role for ALD1 in activation of local and systemic defenses in *Arabidopsis*. *Plant J.*, 40:200-212
- Song, J.T., Lu, H. and Greenberg, J.T. (2004) Divergent Roles in Arabidopsis Development and Defense of Two Homologous Genes, ABERRANT GROWTH AND DEATH2 and AGD2- LIKE DEFENSE RESPONSE PROTEIN1, Encoding Novel Aminotransferases. *Plant Cell*, 16:353-66
- Liang, H., Yao, N., Song, J.T., Luo, S., Lu, H. and Greenberg, J. T. (2003) Ceramides modulate programmed cell death in plants. *Genes & Development*, 17: 2636-2641.
- Lu, H., Rate, D. N., Song, J.T. and Greenberg, J. T. (2003) ACD6, a novel ankyrin protein, is a regulator and an effector of salicylic acid signaling in the Arabidopsis defense response. *Plant Cell*, 15: 2408-2420.
- Guttman, D. S., Vinatzer, B., Sarkar, S., Ranall, M., Kettler, G. and Greenberg, J. T. (2002) A functional screen for the type III secretome of the plant pathogen *Pseudomonas syringae*. *Science* 295:1722-1726.
- Vanacker, H., Lu, H., Rate, D. N. and Greenberg, J. T. (2001) A Role for Salicylic Acid and NPR1 in Regulating Cell Growth in Arabidopsis. *Plant J.* 28:2209-216.
- Rate, D. N. and Greenberg, J. T. (2001) The Arabidopsis aberrant growth and death2 mutant shows resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* and reveals a role for NPR1 in suppressing hypersensitive cell death. *Plant J.* 27:203-211.
- Mach, J., Castillo, A., Hoogstraten, R., Greenberg, J. T. (2001) The Arabidopsis accelerated cell death gene ACD2 encodes red chlorophyll catabolite reductase and suppresses the spread of disease symptoms. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (USA)* 98:771-776.
- Guttman, D.S. and Greenberg, J. T. (2001) Functional Analysis of Type III Effectors AvrRpt2

- and AvrRpm1 of *P. syringae* Using A Single Copy Genomic Integration System *Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact.* 14:145-155.
- Greenberg, J. T., Silverman, F. P., Liang, H. (2000) Uncoupling salicylic acid-dependent cell death and defense-related responses from disease resistance in the *Arabidopsis* mutant *acd5*. *Genetics* 156:341-350.
- Greenberg, J. T. (2000) Positive and Negative Regulation of Salicylic Acid-Dependent Cell Death and Pathogen Resistance in *Arabidopsis lsd6* and *ssi1* Mutants. *Mol. Plant-Microb. Interact.* 13:877-881.
- Rate, D.N., Cuenca, J.V., Bowman, G. R., Guttman, D. S. and Greenberg, J. T. (1999) A gain-of-function *Arabidopsis acd6* mutant reveals novel regulation and function of the salicylic acid signaling pathway in controlling cell death, defenses and cell growth. *Plant Cell* 11:1695-1708.
- Butt, A., Mausley, C., Morris, K., Benyon, J. Can, C. Holub, E., Greenberg, J. T., Buchanan-Wollaston, V. (1998) Differential expression of a senescence-enhanced metallothioneine gene in *Arabidopsis* in response to infection with compatible and incompatible isolates of *Peronospora parasitica* and *Pseudomonas syringae*. *The Plant Journal* 16:209-221.
- Greenberg, J. T., Guo, A., Klessig, D.F. and Ausubel, F. M. (1994) Programmed cell death in plants: a pathogen-triggered response activated coordinately with multiple defense functions. *Cell* 77:55 1-563.
- Greenberg, J. T., and Ausubel, F. M. (1993). *A. thaliana* mutants compromised for the control of cellular damage during pathogenesis and aging. *The Plant Journal* 4:327-341.
- Chou, J. H., Greenberg, J. T., and Demple, B. (1993) Post-transcriptional repression of *Escherichia coli* OmpF protein in response to redox stress: positive control of the *micF* antisense RNA by the *soxRS* locus. *J. Bacteriol.* 175:1026-1031.
- Greenberg, J. T., Chou, J. H., Monach, P. A., and Demple, B. (1991) Activation of oxidative stress genes by mutations at the *soxQ/cfxB/marA* locus of *Escherichia coli*. *J. Bacteriol.* 173:4433-4439.
- Greenberg, J. T., Monach, P., Chou, J., Josephy, P. D., and Demple, B. (1990) Positive control of a multilevel antioxidant defense regulon activated by superoxide-generating agents in *Escherichia coli*. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 87:6181-6185.
- Greenberg, J. T, and Demple, B. (1989) A global response induced in *Escherichia coli* by redox-cycling agents overlaps with that induced by H₂O₂. *J. Bacteriol.* 171:933-939.
- Greenberg, J. T., and Demple, B. (1988) Overproduction of peroxide-scavenging enzymes in *Escherichia coli* suppresses spontaneous mutagenesis and sensitivity to redox-cycling agents in *oxyR*- mutants. *EMBO J.* 7:611-2617.
- Speckthre, L., Greenberg, J., Glucksman, M. J., Diaz, J., and Makowski, L. (1987) Structural responsiveness of filamentous bacteriophage Pf1: comparison of virion structure in fibers and solution. The effect of temperature and ionic strength. *Biophys. J.* 52:199- 214.
- Greenberg, J. T, and Demple, B. (1986) Glutathione in *Escherichia coli* is dispensable for resistance to H₂O₂ and gamma radiation. *J. Bacteriol.* 168:1026-1029.

ABSTRACT

Jean T. Greenberg was raised, principally, in New York City with her mother, though she spent weekends in Connecticut with her father; Greenberg had one older brother. Her father was a physician with “the heart” of a scientist; her mother was interested in the arts and worked as a multi-faceted assistant to an author. Greenberg attended private schools in New York City throughout her childhood, but found them unable to cope with students who had interests that went beyond the curriculum or those who were more advanced than their classmates. She maintained strong friendships with peers interested in the humanities and the arts, but found herself much more interested in mathematics and the sciences. Her time outside of school was occupied with enjoying the culture and opportunities of New York City, working, and the weekend commutes to Connecticut.

Greenberg applied early to, and was accepted at, Barnard College, where she continued her New York City life while earning her undergraduate degree. Working in a biophysics lab piqued her interest and she decided to apply to biophysics programs for graduate school, ultimately deciding to attend Harvard University. At Harvard, she chose to work in Bruce Dimple’s laboratory defining the genes involved in the control of the adaptive responses to oxidative stress in bacteria, and appreciating the freedom and personal attention this decision provided, as well as the strong support group of other students and professors in the Boston area. From there, she and her future husband, Adam Driks, decided to remain in Boston and Greenberg began a postdoctoral fellowship in Frederick M. Ausubel’s laboratory at Harvard, studying disease resistance and symptoms in the plant *Arabidopsis*. After her postdoctoral work, she accepted a position at the University of Colorado, Boulder, mapping and characterizing the genes involved in disease resistance, and then at the University at Chicago, working on adaptive resistance to disease, on a pathogen’s ability to elicit disease, and on the biology of disease symptoms.

At the end of the interview, Greenberg talks about the process of writing journal articles; her lab management style and her professional responsibilities; creativity in science; setting the national science agenda; and the role of the scientist to inform the public. She finishes with a discussion of the privatization of research; and the role of the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences in her research.

UCLA INTERVIEW HISTORY

INTERVIEWER:

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

TIME AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW:

Place: Greenberg's office, University of Chicago.

Dates, length of sessions: June 17, 2002 and June 18, 2002

Total number of recorded hours: 4.0

Persons present during interview: Greenberg 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 Greenberg to obtain written background information (curriculum vitae, copies of published articles, etc.) and agree on an interviewing schedule. He also reviewed documentation in Greenberg's file at the Pew Scholars Program office in San Francisco, including Greenberg'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.

Greenberg did not review the transcript. Consequently some names remain unverified.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Childhood	1
<p>Family background. Traits she inherited from her mother. Relationship with her father. Growing up in New York City, New York, and New Haven, Connecticut. Father's interest in science. Early schooling. Childhood experiences and interests. Attending private schools in New York City. Interest in mathematics and science. Influential teachers and mentors. Parental expectations.</p>	
College Years	15
<p>Attends Barnard College. Meets and later marries her husband. Decides to pursue science after working in a laboratory during college. Has a pivotal college experience in an organic chemistry laboratory. The impact of religion. Extracurricular activities in high school.</p>	
Graduate School and Postdoctoral Years	28
<p>Attends Harvard University for graduate school. The biophysics graduate program at Harvard. Bruce Demple's laboratory and management style. Doctoral research defining the genes involved in the control of the adaptive responses to oxidative stress in bacteria. Postdoctoral fellowship in Frederick M. Ausubel's laboratory. The process of writing journal articles. Postdoctoral research on disease resistance and symptoms in the plant, <i>Arabidopsis</i>.</p>	
Faculty Years	34
<p>Greenberg accepts a position at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her husband's career. Setting up her laboratory at Boulder. Mapping and characterizing the genes involved in disease resistance. Moves to the University of Chicago. Tenure at the University at Chicago. Current research on adaptive resistance to disease, on a pathogen's ability to elicit disease, and on the biology of disease symptoms. Teaching responsibilities. Funding history.</p>	
Final Thoughts	46
<p>The process of writing journal articles. Lab management style. Leisure activities. Patents. Creativity in science. Competition and collaboration. Her criteria for pursuing a particular research project. The national science agenda. The role of the scientist to inform the public. Impact of the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences.</p>	
Index	71

INDEX

A

African Americans, 65
Alzheimer's disease, 5, 50
Arabidopsis, 28
Austria, 2
Ausubel, Frederick M., 28, 29, 32, 47, 48

B

Bacillus subtilis, 35
Barnard College, 15, 20, 21
Beautiful Mind, A, 56
Belostok, Poland, 1
Berlin, Germany, 1, 4
biophysics, 21, 22, 23
Boston, Massachusetts, 21, 22, 25, 28, 35, 36
Boulder, Colorado, 34, 35, 36, 38
Brandeis University, 22
Bronx High School of Science, 6
Brooklyn, New York, 2

C

California, 22, 28, 29, 53, 59
Cambridge, Massachusetts, 28
Canada, 69
Chicago, Illinois, 3, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 51
Colorado, 34, 37, 41
Connecticut, 7

D

Demple, Bruce, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 47, 48
DNA, 24
Driks, Adam (husband), 15, 18, 21, 26, 28, 29, 34, 38, 50

E

England, 2, 3, 4, 21
Equal Rights Amendment, 19
ERA. *See* Equal Rights Amendment

Europe, 17, 20

F

France, 21

G

gefilte fish, 3
Germany, 3
Gordon Research Conferences, 25
Greenberg, Bonnie (stepmother), 8
Greenberg, Clara (paternal grandmother), 2
Greenberg, Irwin (father), 2, 6, 14, 32, 36
Greenberg, Mark (brother), 2, 6, 32
Greenberg, Max (paternal grandfather), 2
Greenberg, Silvia Rozanski (mother), 1, 5, 14, 49
Guttman, David S., 41, 55, 59

H

Harvard University, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28
Hispanics, 65

I

Israel, 2, 49
Italy, 63

J

Jewish/Jews/Judaism, 1, 3, 17
Johnson, Arlan W., 23, 25

K

Korea, 63
kreplach, 3

L

London, England, 3
Loyola University Medical Center, 34, 35, 51

M

Massachusetts General Hospital, 30

Maywood, Illinois, 35
Ms Magazine, 19

N

National Institutes of Health, 4, 45, 46, 49, 69
National Science Foundation, 46, 49, 59, 69
New Haven, Connecticut, 7, 9, 10
New School, 5
New York City, New York, 1, 4, 7, 8, 12, 21, 32, 35
New Zealand, 49
NIH. *See* National Institutes of Health
NSF. *See* National Science Foundation

O

Our Bodies, Ourselves, 19

P

Passover, 17
Pastore, Nick, 14
patents, 54
Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences, 27, 68
Poland, 1, 2

Q

Queens College, 5

R

Rocky Mountains, 36
Rozanski, Aaron (maternal grandfather), 1,

2

Rozanski, Freida (maternal grandmother), 1
Russia, 1

S

Stein, Ellen (maternal aunt), 1
Steinem, Gloria, 19

U

U.N.. *See* United Nations
U.S. *See* United States of America
United Nations, 2
United States Congress, 61
United States Department of Agriculture, 46
United States of America, 2, 4, 62, 63, 69
University of California, Berkeley, 21
University of Chicago, 34, 38, 44, 54, 65
University of Chicago School of Divinity, 51
University of Colorado, 34, 35, 36, 38
University of Toronto, 41
USDA. *See* United States Department of Agriculture

W

Washington, D.C., 4
Westchester County, New York, 18
World Cup, 63

Y

yeshiva, 6, 17