

Indiana University Department of Biology

2011 Sonneborn Lecture

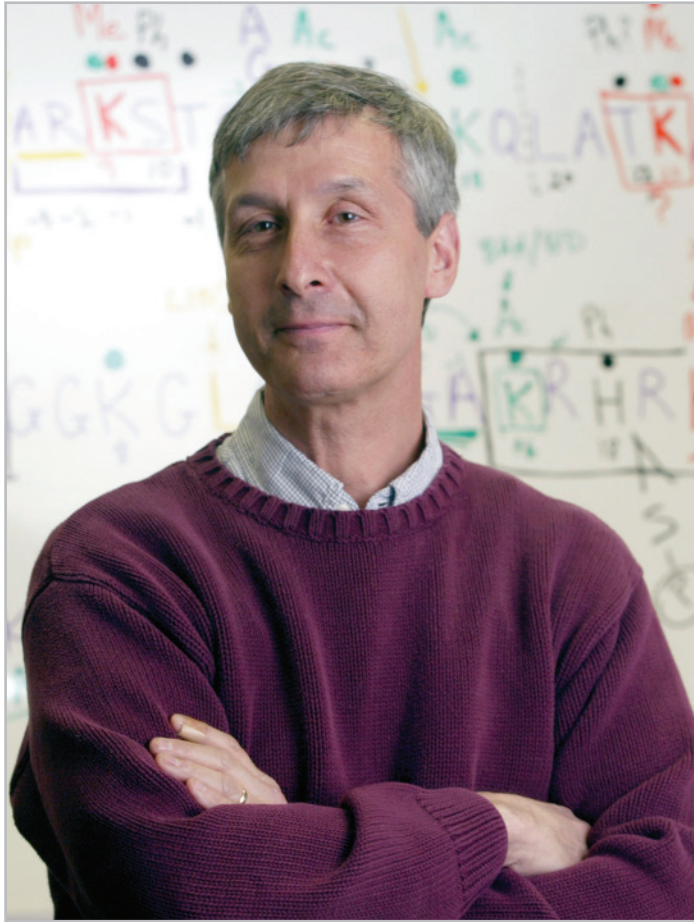


Photo courtesy of The Rockefeller University

C. David Allis
Tri-Institutional Professor
Joy and Jack Fishman Professor
Head, Laboratory of
Chromatin Biology and Epigenetics
The Rockefeller University

***Beyond the Double Helix:
Varying the 'Histone Code'***

**Thursday, April 7
4:00 p.m.
Myers Hall 130**

*After the lecture there will be a
reception outside of Myers Hall 130.*

C. David Allis is the Joy and Jack Fishman Professor and the Tri-Institutional Professor at The Rockefeller University. There, he heads the Laboratory of Chromatin Biology and Epigenetics. Professor Allis has held appointments at the University of Virginia Health System; the University of Rochester; Syracuse University; and Baylor College of Medicine.

He earned a B.S. in Biology, summa cum laude, from the University of Cincinnati in 1973. Professor Allis was awarded an M.S., in Zoology, from Indiana University in 1975; and a Ph.D., in Biology, also from IU, in 1978. He held an NIH-U.S. Public Health Service Predoctoral Fellowship for his work on *Drosophila*, conducted in Dr. Anthony Mahowald's laboratory. Professor Allis was awarded a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Rochester, where he worked with Martin Gorovsky (1978-1981).

Research in the Allis laboratory focuses on the DNA-histone protein complex, chromatin, which packages the genetic information that exists within each cell and serves as a means of gene regulation that lies outside of the DNA itself, which is the basis of epigenetics. Allis and his research team currently investigate different histone modifications and their biological roles in a variety of unicellular and multicellular eukaryotic models.

Professor Allis was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2001. In 2004, he was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and a member of The Harvey Society. Professor Allis was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2005 and the following year he was elected to the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB). He was elected to the "Faculty of 1000" and is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

Professor Allis has been honored for his teaching and research. These awards include Syracuse University's William J. Wasserman Prize for Outstanding Training of Graduate Students (1994); the University of Rochester's student-elected Outstanding Teaching Award (1998); the 2008 ASBMB-Merck Award; the Gairdner Foundation International Award (2007); the 2004 Wiley Prize in Biomedical Sciences; the Massry Prize (2003); and the 2002 Dickson Prize in Biomedical Sciences.

History of the Sonneborn Lectures

To honor his contributions to science and his outstanding career, Tracy Sonneborn's friends and colleagues initiated the Sonneborn Lectureship. This is the 29th lecture in the series.

Aside from a few years at Johns Hopkins University, where he received the Ph.D. degree, Tracy Sonneborn spent his entire career at Indiana University. His devotion to the study of *Paramecium* established him as the world leader in biology and genetics of Protozoa; indeed it is no exaggeration to say that he founded the modern era of study in these areas. One of his major contributions was in demonstrating that preexisting structures in cells can repeatedly determine the patterns of new structures through many generations. Although recognized as an important exception to Mendelian inheritance and a critical element in prion diseases, the mechanism of structural inheritance in biology is not yet understood. "Whatever the final outcome of studies of these phenomena, he must take his place among the most brilliant and devoted experimentalists in the history of biology and a true giant, like no other, in the field of protozoan research," John Preer, <http://newton.nap.edu/html/biomems/tsonneborn.html>. With precision, thoroughness, and infectious enthusiasm, Tracy Sonneborn also contributed unstintingly to teaching at Indiana University. In spite of the many attempts to entice him away, he remained loyal to IU, finding here the environment he thought was best.



Courtesy of the IU Archives

Tracy L. Sonneborn, 1905 – 1981

Note: For more information on Dr. Sonneborn, read John Preer's essay and his 2006 commentary in *Genetics* 172:1373–1377.

Support for this lecture has been provided by the Sonneborn Lecture Fund and the Department of Biology.

Previous Sonneborn Lectures

1981	Charles Yanofsky	1996	Lucy Shapiro
1982	Donald D. Brown	1997	Randy W. Schekman
1983	Philip Leder	1998	James Forney, Eric Meyer, Meng-Chao Yao, and John Preer
1984	Gerald R. Fink	1999	John Kilmartin
1985	David S. Hogness	2000	Elliot Meyerowitz
1986	Mark Ptashne	2001	David Prescott
1987	David Botstein	2002	Philip Hanawalt
1988	Franklin Stahl	2003	Sharon Long
1989	Ira Herskowitz	2005	Cynthia Kenyon
1990	Thomas R. Cech	2006	J. Richard McIntosh
1991	Elizabeth H. Blackburn	2007	David Baulcombe
1992	Melvin I. Simon	2009	Terry L. Orr–Weaver
1993	Christiane Nüsslein–Volhard	2010	Tian Xu
1994	Christine Guthrie		
1995	Gerald M. Rubin		