CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

RICHARD W. CARTHEW

The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences

Transcript of an Interview Conducted by

Helene L. Cohen

at

University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

on

2, 3, and 5 July 2001

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

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REFORMATTING:

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.

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Interviewee agrees to participate in a series of University-conducted tape-recorded interviews, commencing on or about July 2, 2001, and tentatively entitled, "Interview with Richard W. Carthew". 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:

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 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.

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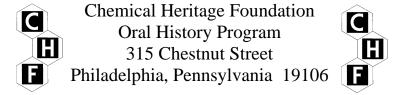
Box 951575 Los Angeles, California 90095-1575 Attention: Victoria Steele, Ph.D. If to Interviewee: Richard W. Carthew Department of Biological Sciences University of Pittsburgh Fifth and Ruskin Avenues Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260 University and Interviewee have executed this Agreement on the date first written above. INTERVIEWEE THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (Signature) (Signature) Richard W. Carthew <u>Victoria</u> Steele (Typed Name) (Typed Name) University of Pittsburgh Head, Department of Special (Address) Collections (Title) Fifth and Ruskin Avenues Pittsburgh, PA 15260

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RICHARD W. CARTHEW

1956	Born in Toronto, Canada, on 5 September			
	Education			
1978 1980 1987	B.Sc., Biology, Queens University M.Sc., Botany, University of Toronto Ph.D., Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology			
	Professional Experience			
1980-1982	University of Toronto Research Technician, Banting and Best Department of Medical Research			
1987-1992	University of California, Berkeley Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology			
1992-1998 1998-2001 2001	University of Pittsburgh Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences Professor, Department of Biological Sciences			
1995-1999	Chiron Corporation Scientific Consultant			
2001-present	Northwestern University Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Cell Biology			
<u>Honors</u>				
1990-1992 1995-2000 1997	Howard Hughes Postdoctoral Fellowship Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award, University of Pittsburgh			

Selected Publications

- Carthew, R.W., 1980. The thermodynamics of photosynthetic adaptation to photon fluence rate in the cyanophyte. *Oscillatoria limnetica*. *Photosynthetica* 14:204-12.
- Sopta, M., R.W. Carthew, and J. Greenblatt, 1985. Isolation of three proteins that bind to RNA polymerase II. Journal of Biological Chemistry 260:10353-360.
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- Chodosh, L.A. et al., 1987. The adenovirus major late transcription factor activates the rat gamma-fibrinogen promoter. *Science* 238:101-04.
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- Kauffmann, R.C. et al., 1995. Activated *Drosophila Ras]* is selectively suppressed by isoprenyltransferase inhibitors. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA* 92:10919-923.
- Li, S. et al., 1997. Photoreceptor cell differentiation requires regulated proteolysis of the transcriptional repressor Tramtrack. Cell 90:469-78.
- Kennerdell J. and R.W. Carthew, 1998. Use of dsRNA-mediated genetic interference to demonstrate that *frizzled* and *frizzled2* act in the Wingless pathway. *Cell* 95:1017-26.
- Kennerdell J. and R.W. Carthew. 2000. Heritable gene silencing in *Drosophila* using double-stranded RNA. *Nature Biotechnology* 18:896-98.
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ABSTRACT

Richard W. Carthew was born and raised in Toronto, Canada, the second youngest, and only son, of four siblings. His father received a degree in civil engineering from Queen's University and worked for the province-run hydro-electric utility, Ontario Hydro; his mother was a homemaker. From an early age he was interested in exploring the great outdoors—studying insects, climbing trees, and the like—he played piano, and tobogganed. He excelled in school until junior high and high school when he found the subjects uninteresting, though he regained his interest during his senior year, especially due to classes in science (chemistry and biology) and mathematics.

Carthew entered Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada with an interest in ecology; he had the opportunity to work for Seward R. Brown, an ecological paleontologist. Though he was hoping to be in the field for his senior thesis work, most of the research on which Brownwanted Carthew to work was laboratory based, serving to further his interest in science and resulting in a publication on the thermodynamics of photosynthetic adaptation to photon fluence rate in the cyanophyte. After completing his undergraduate degree he went on to study at the Royal Conservatory of Music while also pursuing a master's in botany at the University of Toronto. Then he became a research technician in Jack F. Greenblatt's laboratory at the Banting and Best Department of Medical Research at the university and contributed to work isolating three proteins that bind to RNA polymerase II; Greenblatt encouraged him to apply to graduate school. He chose to attend the Massachusetts of Technology and selected to study in Phillip A. Sharp's laboratory, working on transcription regulation (also researching with and training Stephen Buratowski, Pew Class of 1995). While in Sharp's lab, though, Carthew began to develop an interest in neurobiology, deciding, then, to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship with Gerald M. Rubin at the University of California, Berkeley. From there he accepted a faculty position at the University of Pittsburgh, where he studied the ras oncogene; his work on *ras* led to consulting work for the Chiron Corporation.

The interview ends with Carthew's thoughts on the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences; race and gender issues in science; combining the teaching of the history of science with methodological and technical approaches; using kits in the lab; his love of sailing; and the ways in which fatherhood has changed his views about his career. The interview concludes with a discussion of his current research on RNAi and *frizzled*; the application of his work to Alzheimer's disease; patents; competition and collaboration; ethics, laboratory practice, and laboratory research; and his pending move to Northwestern University.

UCLA INTERVIEW HISTORY

INTERVIEWER:

Helene L. Cohen, Interviewer, UCLA Oral History Program. B.S., Nursing, UCLA; P.N.P., University of California, San Diego/UCLA; M.A., Theater, San Diego State University.

TIME AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW:

Place: Carthew's office, University of Pittsburgh.

Dates, length of sessions: July 2, 2001 (115 minutes); July 3, 2011 (149); July 5, 2001 (176).

Total number of recorded hours: 7.3

Persons present during interview: Carthew and Cohen.

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, Cohen held a telephone preinterview conversation with Carthew to obtain written background information (curriculum vitae, copies of published articles, etc.) and agree on an interviewing schedule. She also reviewed prior Pew scholars' interviews and the documentation in Carthew's file at the Pew Scholars Program office in San Francisco, including his/her proposal application, letters of recommendation, and reviews by Pew Scholars Program national advisory committee members. For technical background, Cohen consulted J.D. Watson et al., *Molecular Biology of the Gene.* 4th ed. Menlo Park, California: Benjamin/Cummings, 1987; Bruce Alberts et al., *Molecular Biology of the Cell.* 3rd ed. New York: Garland, 1994; Horace F. Judson, *The Eighth Day of Creation.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 1979; and recent issues of *Science* and *Nature.*

The interview is organized chronologically, beginning with Carthew's childhood in Toronto, Canada, and continuing through his undergraduate work at Queen's University, his master's work at University of Toronto, his work as a research technician in Jack Greenblatt's lab at Banting and Best Department of Medical Research, his Ph.D. studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, his postdoc at University of California, Berkeley, and the establishment of his own lab at University of Pittsburgh. Major topics discussed include his research in Phillip A. Sharp's and Gerald M. Rubin's labs, his work at University of Pittsburgh, and his current research on RNAi and *frizzled*.

ORIGINAL EDITING:

Gail Ostergren, editor, 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

Carthew reviewed the transcript and made a number of corrections.

Gail Ostergren prepared the table of contents. Ostergren assembled the biographical summary and interview history. Victoria Simmons, editorial assistant, compiled the index.

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