

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

GREGORY J. HANNON

The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

Andrea R. Maestrejuan

at

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Cold Spring Harbor, New York

on

16, 17, and 18 December 2002

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



Gregory J. Hannon

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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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.

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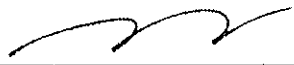
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If to Interviewee: Gregory J. Hannon
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
P.O. Box 100
1 Bungtown Road
Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

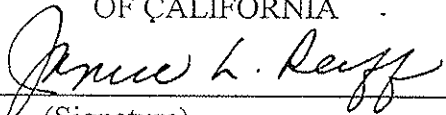
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X 

(Signature)



(Signature)

Gregory J. Hannon

(Typed Name)

Janice L. Reiff

(Typed Name)

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

(Address)

Interim Director, Oral History Program

(Title)

1 Bungtown Road

Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

X Date 12/16/03

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GREGORY J. HANNON

1964 Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on 5 May

Education

1986 B.A., Biochemistry, Case Western Reserve University
1991 Ph.D., Molecular Biology, Case Western Reserve University

Professional Experience

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York
1992-1994 Postdoctoral Fellow
1994-1995 Staff Associate II
1996-2000 Assistant Professor
2000-2002 Associate Professor
2002-present Professor

Honors

1982-1986 Andrew J. Squire Scholar
1986 Phi Beta Kappa
1992-1995 Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Cancer Research Fund Fellowship
1997-2000 Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences Grant
2000 Rita Allen Scholar
2002-2005 U.S. Army Breast Cancer Research Program Innovator Award

Selected Publications

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ABSTRACT

Gregory J. Hannon was raised in New Castle, a town in western Pennsylvania just north of Pittsburgh, the elder of two children in a large Irish-Catholic family. His father worked as a quality inspector at Johnson Bronze Company; his mother was a homemaker.

After completing high school, Hannon attended Case Western Reserve University, choosing to major in biochemistry. During his sophomore year he began working in Joyce E. Jenhofs laboratory, which served as a pivotal moment in his scientific career. The experience of scientific research in the Jenhofs lab encouraged Hannon to participate in a program for early admission to Case Western's graduate school. Upon starting his graduate career, he entered Timothy N. Nilsen's lab and began his work on RNA processing, developing new techniques to answer his research questions. Hannon completed his PhD at Case Western and then chose to continue his studies as a postdoctoral fellow with David Beach at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York. In Beach's lab he worked on cell cycle interacting proteins and RNA interference (RNAi). It was during this time that Hannon began collaborating with Yue Xiong (Pew Scholar, Class of 1995) and Manuel Serrano on CDK.

He accepted a permanent research position at Cold Spring Harbor, and worked through the complexities associated with transitioning from someone else's lab to one's own research lab at the same institution; he also started his work with Genetica, Inc.

Throughout the remainder of the interview, Hannon talks about partnerships and collaborations between academia and industry; the privatization of scientific research; and trademark issues. He also discusses his perspectives on the grant-writing process; the peer review system; and gender issues in science. The interview concludes with his reflections on balancing his career and his family life, his scientific aspirations, and the impact of the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences on his work.

UCLA INTERVIEW HISTORY

INTERVIEWER:

Andrea R. Maestrejuan, Interviewer, UCLA Oral History Program. B.S., Biological Sciences, University of California, Irvine; M.A., History, University of California, Riverside; C. Phil., History, UCLA

TIME AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW:

Place: Hannon's office, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

Dates, length of sessions: December 16, 2002; December 17, 2002; December 18, 2002.

Total number of recorded hours: 4.0

Persons present during interview: Hannon and Maestrejuan.

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, Maestrejuan held a telephone preinterview conversation with Hannon to obtain written background information (curriculum vitae, copies of published articles, etc.) and agree on an interviewing schedule. She also reviewed documentation in Hannon's file at the Pew Scholars Program office in San Francisco, including Hannon'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.

Hannon 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.

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