

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

KATHLEEN L. COLLINS

The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

Karen A. Frenkel

at

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor, Michigan

on

10, 11, and 12 July 2006

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

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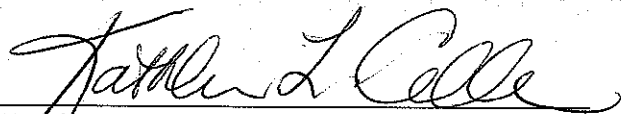
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KATHLEEN L. COLLINS

1963 Born in Boston, Massachusetts, on 10 May

Education

1985 B.A., Wellesley College

1993 M.D., Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Professional Experience

1993-1994 Brigham and Women's Hospital
Intern, Internal Medicine

1994-1995 Brigham and Women's Hospital
Resident, Internal Medicine

1995-1998 Beth Israel Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute, Brockton/West Roxbury VA Medical Center
Clinical Fellow, Infectious Disease

1996-1998 Harvard University
Research Fellow, Medicines

1996-1998 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Postdoctoral Fellow, laboratory of Dr. David Baltimore

1998-present University of Michigan Hospital
Staff Physician

1998-present Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Hospital
Staff Physician

1998-2005 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine, Divisions of Molecular
Medicine & Genetics and Infectious Disease

2005-present University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Associate Professor, Internal Medicine, Divisions of Molecular
Medicine & Genetics and Infectious Disease

Honors

1982 CRC Press Freshman Chemistry Award for Achievement in Chemistry

1984	Phi Beta Kappa
1985	Medical Scientist Training Program Award
1985	M.A. Cartland Shackford Medical Fellowship
1985	Wellesley College Trustee Scholar Award for Study in Medicine
1985	Wellesley College Durant Scholar
1985	B.A., Summa cum laude with departmental honors in Molecular Biology; Thesis: "Characterization of the Interleukin- 1 Gene."
1993	Johns Hopkins' University Young Investigator's Certificate of Merit Research Award
1996-1997	Howard Hughes Medical Institute Postdoctoral Research Fellowship for Physicians
1997-2001	NIH Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award
1998	Biomedical Scholars Program Award, University of Michigan
1998	Massachusetts Infectious Disease Society Maxwell Finland Young Investigator Award for Excellence in Research
1999-2003	Pew Scholars Award
2000	Center For AIDS Research Development Award
2001	Plenary speaker, American Association of Immunology Symposium on Microbial Invasion
2003	Padykula Lecturer, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA
2003	Plenary speaker, 2004 Keystone Symposia on Molecular Mechanisms of HIV Pathogenesis
2004	Chair of the plenary session, Nef Function, 2004 Keystone Symposia on Molecular Mechanisms of HIV Pathogenesis
2004	Elizabeth C. Crosby Award
2005	Plenary speaker, 2005 ASM Symposia on Viral Immune Evasion
2005	Chair of the plenary session, Viral Regulation of Antigen Presentation, ASM Symposia on Viral Immune Evasion
2005	Plenary speaker, 91 st International Titisee Conference "Cell biology meets the immune system: molecular aspects of host pathogen interactions"
2005	Elected to The American Society for Clinical Investigation
2005	Elizabeth C. Crosby Award
2006	Member, NIH AIP study section
2006	Plenary speaker, 13 th annual Palm Springs Symposium on HIV/AIDS
2006	Invited speaker, 2006 Lysosomes and Endocytosis Gordon Conference

Selected Publications

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ABSTRACT

Kathleen L. Collins grew up in Norwell, Massachusetts, a small town near Boston, the second of four children. Her father was a teacher and an assistant principal. Her mother was a nurse until she stayed home with her children; when they were in their teens she became a day care provider. Her parents were devout Roman Catholics, and religion played a large part in Collins' life. Collins attended Norwell's public schools, which she considers very good. She found that she loved chemistry and was strongly influenced by her chemistry teacher. Collins played team sports during her high school years, and she still loves to exercise when she has time.

Her parents felt that education was extremely important, and they helped Collins decide to attend Wellesley College. She began in chemistry but discovered biology, particularly molecular biology, and worked in Andrew C. Webb's molecular biology laboratory for her honor's thesis. She also worked on cloning Interleukin-1 at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and she felt she wanted to be in the lab all the time.

Having wanted to be a doctor since she was a little girl, Collins applied to and was accepted at Johns Hopkins University Medical School; she deferred her start date for a year to finish her lab work and ended up being accepted into the Medical Scientist Training Program, which paid her tuition for a joint MD/PhD degree. After her second year there she did a clinical rotation at Guys Hospital in London. She did her doctoral research on DNA synthesis in Thomas Kelly's molecular genetics laboratory, mentored by Mark Wold.

Collins matched with Brigham and Women's Hospital of Harvard University for her internship and residency and began the process of board certification in internal medicine. She decided to do a postdoctoral fellowship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in David Baltimore's lab. Collins describes her work in the Baltimore lab; the broader applications of her postdoctoral research on HIV and cytotoxic T-lymphocytes; and David Baltimore's mentoring style. It happens that she also married at this time.

Collins accepted a position at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and set up her lab. She discusses the impact of receiving the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences award; gender issues in science; her administrative duties; writing grants; funding, both general and specific; her role in the lab; advice she would give to would-be scientists; publishing; her teaching duties; and her clinical responsibilities.

Collins's current research continues in molecular biology, studying the immune response to HIV infection; she plans future research on the biochemical and biological mechanisms of immune responses and latency during viral infection. Her professional goals include helping improve science education, which she regards as lacking, encouraging women to become scientists, and helping set a national science agenda. Her personal goals emphasize the importance of balancing being with her two young children and husband, a cardiologist, with her work in the lab.

UCLA INTERVIEW HISTORY

INTERVIEWER:

Karen A. Frenkel, Interviewer, UCLA Oral History Program; B.A., Hampshire College, 1978; M.S., Boston University, 1982.

TIME AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW:

Place: Kathleen Collins' office at the University of Michigan, Department of Internal Medicine and Microbiology and Immunology.

Date: July 10, 11 and 12, 2006.

Total number of recorded hours: 6.

Persons present during interview: Collins and Frenkel.

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

Collins did not review the transcript. Consequently, some proper names and other information remain unverified.

Carol Squires prepared the table of contents.

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