CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

ANN MARIE CRAIG

The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

Andrea R. Maestrejuan

at

Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, Missouri

on

8-10 April 2003

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Marnie Berkowitz, Consultant to the Chemical Heritage Foundation. B.A. Classical Languages and Literatures, University of Minnesota; Ford Foundation Fellowship for Ph.D. work, Classical Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago.

David J. Caruso, Program Manager, Biomedical Sciences and Technologies, 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. R061103E

This Interview Agreement is made and entered into this 11 day of June, 2003 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 ANN MARIE CRAIG, having an address at Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, Washington University School of Medicine, Campus Box 8108, 961 McDonnell Sciences Building, 660 South Euclid Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63110-1093, hereinafter called "Interviewee."

Interviewee agrees to participate in a series of University-conducted tape-recorded interviews, commencing on or about April 8, 2003, and tentatively entitled "Interview with Ann Marie Craig. 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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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:

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

INTERVIEWEE	THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
A M Craig	Janice L. Reiff
(Signature)	(Signature)
Ann Marie Craig	Janice L. Reiff
(Typed Name)	(Typed Name)
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ANN MARIE CRAIG

1961 Born in Ithaca, New York on 4 June

Education

1984 B.Sc., Biochemistry, Carleton University
1989 Ph.D., Biochemistry, University of Western Ontario

Professional Experience

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke,
National Institutes of Health
1989-1991 Postdoctoral Fellow, Lab of Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology

University of Virginia, Charlottesville
1991-1994 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Neuroscience

University of Illinois, Urbana
1994-1999 Assistant Professor, Department of Cell and Structural Biology, and Neuroscience Program

Washington University School of Medicine
1999-2005 Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology

University of British Columbia
2005-present Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Brain Research Centre

Honors

1984 Director's Award in Biochemistry and Chancellor's Medal, Carleton University
1985-1989 Medical Research Council of Canada Studentship
1989-1992 Medical Research Council of Canada Fellowship
1992-1994 NIH Individual NRSA Fellowship
1994-2006 NIH RO1 Award: Subcellular Targeting of Neurotransmitter Receptors
1997-2001 Pew Scholars Award in the Biomedical Sciences
1999-2004 NIH RO1 Award: Molecular Analysis of Neuronal Polarization

2000-2005	NIH P01 Award: Molecular Genetics of Mammalian Synaptogenesis (PI: Sanes)
2005-2010	NIH R01 Award: Mechanisms of Central Neuron Synaptogenesis
2005-2010	CIHR Operating Grant: Molecular Dynamics at the Postsynaptic Density
2005	Michael Smith Foundation Senior Scholar Award
2005	Canada Research Chair in Neurobiology, Tier 1

Selected Publications

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ABSTRACT

Ann Marie Craig was born in Ithaca, New York, the second of three children. Her father was a graduate student in business administration at Cornell University, and her mother was a nurse. Both parents came from small towns in the Maritime Provinces of Canada, so when Ann Marie was about three years old the family moved back to Canada, where her father became a professor of business administration at Ottawa University. Ann Marie remembers liking school, particularly her third-grade teacher and a high school science teacher, but she does not claim a from-birth interest in science; that came later, after a flirtation with becoming a teacher or a nun.

By the time she entered Queens College as a double major in mathematics and physics, she did know she loved the beauty of internal logic and consistency, which she found most in science. After her first year at Queens she realized that she was in the wrong field, so she began classes in psychology, interested in discovering how the brain works. Next she entered Carleton University with a major in biological psychology, which she soon switched to biochemistry. She spent two of her college summers working for the National Research Council of Canada and one purifying proteins at the University of Western Canada in Ontario. From those summers she gleaned three publications. Her work was mostly molecular neurobiology, cloning DNA, leading her into cancer research.

At the time the Canadian university system did not have rotations; students were expected to find themselves a lab. Ann Marie chose David Denhardt's lab at the University of Western Ontario because she wanted to learn DNA cloning and molecular biology and transvection of mammal cells. She did her Ph.D. research on molecular biology of cancer progression and the 2ar/osteopontin protein.

After what Craig considers an unusually smooth graduate training, she revived her interest in the molecular basis of learning and memory and accepted a postdoc in Daniel Alkon's lab at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health. Disappointed in the progress of her research, she left Alkon's lab for a postdoc at Gary Banker's lab at the University of Virginia, changing also her research model organism, working on neuronal polarity and the clustering and trafficking of receptors in neurons.

Ann Marie began learning molecular biology as an important technique in neuroscience, but recognizing that electrophysiology was key, Craig almost decided to do a third postdoc to learn electrophysiology; instead she decided to accept a position at the University of Illinois and to set up her own lab. Again her interest shifted, this time to synapses, and Washington University in St. Louis offered more scope for pursuing that research, so she accepted an associate professorship there. Her research interests continue to include the molecular mechanisms underlying synapse formation and synaptic plasticity, their regulation and functional importance; she hopes in the future to initiate research on central neuron synapse assembly, modulation, and electrophysiology.

UCLA INTERVIEW HISTORY

INTERVIEWER:

Andrea R. Maestrejuan, Interviewer, UCLA Oral History Program; B.S., Biological Sciences, University of California, Irvine, 1986; M.A., History, University of California, Riverside, 1991; C.Phil., History, University of California, Los Angeles, 2000.

TIME AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW:

Place: Craig's office at Washington University School of Medicine.

Dates of sessions: April 8, 2003; April 9, 2003; April 10, 2003

Total number of recorded hours: 4.0

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

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

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

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