

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

ANN B. HILL

The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

William Van Benschoten

at

Oregon Health Services University
Portland, Oregon

on

5, 6 and 7 August 2002

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

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

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ANN B. HILL

1954 Born in Melbourne, Australia, on 10 August

Education

1979 B.S. and M.B., University of New South Wales
1989 Ph.D., Australian National University

Professional Experience

1984 St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, Australia
Research Fellow

1994-1995 MIT Laboratory of Professor Hidde Ploegh, Center for Cancer Research
Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Biology

1996-2004 Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, Oregon
Assistant Professor, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology
2004-present Associate Professor, Molecular Microbiology and Immunology

Honors

1976 Vacation Scholarship, the John Curtin School of Medical Research,
The Australian National University

1990-1994 Oxford Nuffield Dominions Medical Fellow, Molecular Immunology
Group, Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford Laboratory of
Professor A. McMichael

1993 The Royal Society Travelling Fellowship to Japan
1995 The Arthritis Foundation Post-doctoral Fellowship
1996 The Blue Cross Blue Shield Award, American Heart Association, Oregon
Affiliate

1997-2001 Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences Grant
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Selected Publications

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ABSTRACT

Ann B. Hill was born in Melbourne, but was raised primarily in Sydney, Australia, the second youngest of four children. Her father took advantage of opportunities for returning soldiers after the Second World War and pursued a degree in electronic engineering; her mother worked as a teacher until her children were born. Hill was a voracious reader throughout her childhood; she did not develop an interest in science until high school. She had a number of influential educators in her life, including teachers, principals, and family members. Ultimately she decided to study medicine at the University of New South Wales.

She participated in a summer research program in Robert V. Blanden's laboratory at the Australian National University before interning at Sydney Hospital with a specialization in internal medicine. She continued to train in clinical immunology at St. Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, where she also worked to set up an immunology clinic for AIDS patients. Wanting to combine clinical medicine and scientific research, Hill returned to the Australian National University for her doctoral degree, working in Arno Mullbacher's laboratory on immunodominance and the cytotoxic T-cell response to flaviviruses. After winning the Oxford Nuffield Dominions Medical Fellowship she attended Oxford University as a postdoctoral fellow in Andrew J. McMichael's laboratory, researching HLA-B51, cross-presentation, and immuno-evasion. At the end of her postdoc, Hill took another postdoctoral fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Hidde L. Ploegh's lab to study immuno-evasion by herpes simplex viruses. This last postdoctoral fellowship proved quite influential scientifically and Hill continued work on immune-evasion as a member of the Oregon Health Sciences University.

Hill used the remainder of the interview to reflect upon her own career, as well as various contemporary issues in scientific research and practice, like her decision to enter medicine rather than the humanities; the impact of her senior high school education on her career; patents and the privatization of scientific research; and competition in science. She ends the interview with thoughts about her family and the role that the Pew Scholars Program in Biomedical Sciences has played and continues to play in her work.

UCLA INTERVIEW HISTORY

INTERVIEWER:

William Van Benschoten, Interviewer, UCLA Oral History Program. B.A., History, University of California, Riverside; M.A., History, University of California, Riverside; C. Phil., History, UCLA

TIME AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW:

Place: Hill's office, Oregon Health Services University.

Dates, length of sessions: August 5, 2002; August 6, 2002; and August 7, 2002.

Total number of recorded hours: 5.0

Persons present during interview: Hill and Van Benschoten.

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

Hill did not review the transcript. Consequently, some proper names remain unverified.

Carol Squires prepared the table of contents. William Van Benschoten, senior writer, assembled the biographical summary and interview history. TechniType Transcribing compiled the guide to proper names.

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