

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

**JORGE E. GALÁN**

The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences

Transcript of an Interview  
Conducted by

Marcia L. Meldrum

at

State University of New York at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, New York

on

18-20 March 1996

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



**Jorge E. Galán**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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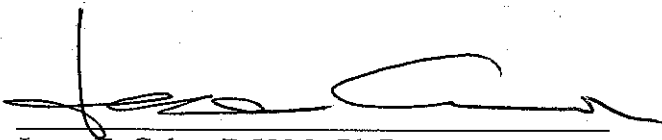
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## JORGE E. GALÁN

1956 Born in Pellegrini, Argentina on 19 October

### Education

1980 D.V.M., University of La Plata, Argentina  
1982 Dr. of Vet. Sc., University of La Plata, Argentina  
1986 Ph.D., Cornell University

### Research Experience

1986-1989 Research Associate, Department of Biology, Washington University

### Professional Experience

Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, School of  
Medicine, State University of New York at Stony Brook  
1989-1994 Assistant Professor  
1994-present Associate Professor

### Honors

1982-1984 Organization of American States Fellowship  
1984-1986 New York State Fellowship  
1985 James M. Sherman Award to Outstanding Graduate Research in  
Microbiology  
1990-1994 Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences  
1991 Searle-Chicago Community Trust Scholar  
1991 Sinsheimer Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences  
1994 Established Investigator, American Heart Association

### Selected Publications

Timoney, J.F., and J.E. Galán, 1985. Protective abilities of an attenuated strain of *Streptococcus equi*. In *Recent Advances in Streptococci and Streptococcal Diseases*, eds. Y. Kimura, S. Kotami, and Y. Shiokawa. Bracknell, Berkshire: Reedbooks, 294-97.

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## ABSTRACT

**Jorge E. Galán** was born in Pellegrini, a small town near Buenos Aires in Argentina. His father was a businessman, dealing with agriculture, his mother a homemaker. He had one older sister and one younger. While he still lived at home, he attended political and business meetings with his father and became very interested in politics. When Galán was 12, he was sent to a Salesian boarding school in Santa Rosa. After high school he decided to attend the University of La Plata, where he received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and his Doctor of Veterinary Science. He became interested in infectious diseases, particularly in horses, and was accepted to the Ph.D. program at the veterinary school at Cornell University. There he discovered his major interest, the clever Salmonella bug. He worked for several years in Roy Curtiss' lab at Washington University in St. Louis before he started his own lab at SUNY Stony Brook. There he discovered Type III protein secretion system; and he continued to study Salmonella. He continues to work most hours of every day in his lab, to teach, and to mentor his graduate students and postdoctoral students.

## UCLA INTERVIEW HISTORY

### INTERVIEWER:

Marcia L. Meldrum, Interviewer, UCLA Oral History Program. B.A., History, University of Minnesota; M.A. and Ph.D., History of Science and Medicine, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

### TIME AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW:

**Place:** Galán's office, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

**Dates, length of sessions:** March 18, 1996 (85 minutes); March 19, 1996 (85); March 20, 1996 (55).

**Total number of recorded hours:** 3.75

**Persons present during interview:** Galán and Meldrum.

### 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, Meldrum made arrangements by telephone and electronic mail to visit Galán at SUNY Stony Brook, agreed to a tentative interviewing schedule, and requested copies of Dr. Galán's major articles and an updated curriculum vitae. In addition to these materials, Meldrum reviewed the documentation in Galán's file at the Pew Scholars Program office in San Francisco, including the proposal application, letters of recommendation, reviews of the application, and progress reports. For further background on the field of bacterial pathogenesis, Meldrum consulted *Bacterial Pathogenesis: A Molecular Approach* by Abigail A. Salyers and Dixie D. Whitt (ASM Press, 1994) and relevant articles in recent issues of *Cell*, *Nature*, and *Science*. The interview is organized chronologically, beginning with Galán's childhood in Argentina and continuing through his education at the University of La Plata and Cornell University School of Veterinary Medicine, his postdoctoral work at Washington University, and the establishment of his own laboratory at State University of New York at Stony Brook. Major topics discussed include the educational process in Argentina, research in veterinary microbiology, the interaction between *Salmonella* bacteria and host cells, intracellular signal transduction pathways, and current funding priorities in science.

#### ORIGINAL EDITING:

Gregory M. D. Beyrer, editorial assistant, edited the interview. He 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.

Galán reviewed the transcript. He verified proper names and made minor corrections and additions.

Jane Collings, editor, prepared the table of contents. Beyrer assembled the biographical summary and interview history. JinAh Lee, editorial assistant, compiled the index.

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