

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

BENJAMIN S. GLICK

The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

William Van Benschoten

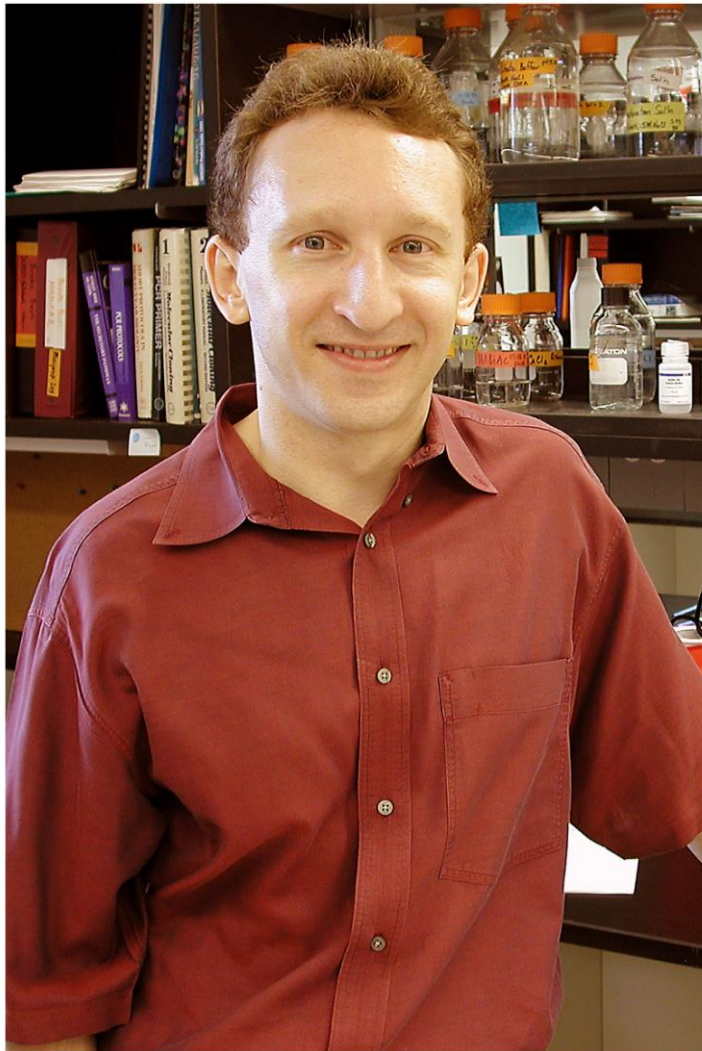
at

University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

on

11, 12, and 13 June 2002

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Benjamin S. Glick

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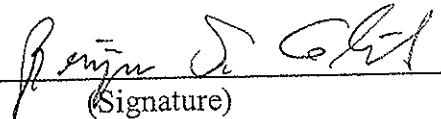
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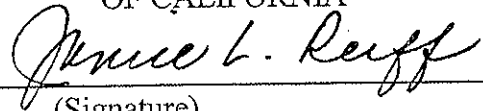
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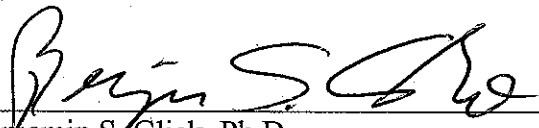
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BENJAMIN S. GLICK

1961 Born in Goroka, New Guinea, on 6 November

Education

1983 B.A., Neuroscience and Math, Amherst College
1988 Ph.D., Biochemistry, Stanford University

Professional Experience

1989-1994 Biozentrum of the University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Postdoctoral Fellow

1994-present University of Chicago
Associate Professor, Department of Molecular Genetics
and Cell Biology

Honors

1979 National Merit Scholar
1983 Phi Beta Kappa
1983 National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship
1988 Life Sciences Research Foundation Fellowship
1995 Cancer Research Foundation Young Investigator Award
1996 March of Dimes Foundation Starter Scholar Award
1997 Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences Grant
1999 National Science Foundation CAREER Award
2002 Quantrell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

ABSTRACT

Benjamin S. Glick was born in Goroka, New Guinea, spending the first seven months of his life there while his father worked on his PhD research in anthropology. His family then returned to the United States, to Madison, Wisconsin, staying until Glick was ten, after which they moved to New Salem, Massachusetts, where his father accepted a position as Dean at Hampshire College. Glick's mother focused on raising the family's four children (Benjamin being the eldest). The son of bibliophiles who started their own mail-order anthropology book business, Glick grew up very interested in reading and also quite interested in science.

He attended junior high and high school in New Salem, developing some initial impressions of what a scientist "does," and was influenced significantly by one teacher who combined moral and scientific lessons. Raised in a Conservative Jewish household, religion also was an important part of his life. Upon finishing high school, Glick decided to attend Amherst College for his undergraduate studies, majoring in neuroscience and mathematics. College physics classes taught him to think analytically and Glick undertook neurobiology research with Steven George, focusing on nervous system mechanisms. After receiving advice from Alan Waggoner, he decided to pursue graduate work in biochemistry at Stanford University.

While life at Stanford presented an initial "culture shock," Glick soon moved into the lab of James Rothman to pursue his graduate research on the Golgi apparatus. Next, he went on to the University of Basel, where he completed postdoctoral research with Jeff (Gottfried) Schatz on the stop-transfer model of mitochondrial sorting, a model that was more assertive than Walter Neupert's conservative sorting model in mitochondria. Learning much from Rothman about lab management, the culture of science, and mentoring, Glick subsequently accepted a faculty position at the University of Chicago, at which he continued his work on the Golgi apparatus and pursued projects on the structure of transitional endoplasmic reticula.

The interview ends with a discussion of and reflections on some applications of his research; his teaching duties and style; administrative responsibilities; travel commitments; the process of writing journal articles; and balancing his family life with his work. He concludes the interview discussing funding, the privatization of research, and the Pew Scholars in the Biomedical Sciences Program.

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: University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

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Persons present during interview: Glick and Van Benschoten.

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