CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

# BENJAMIN S. GLICK

The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

William Van Benschoten

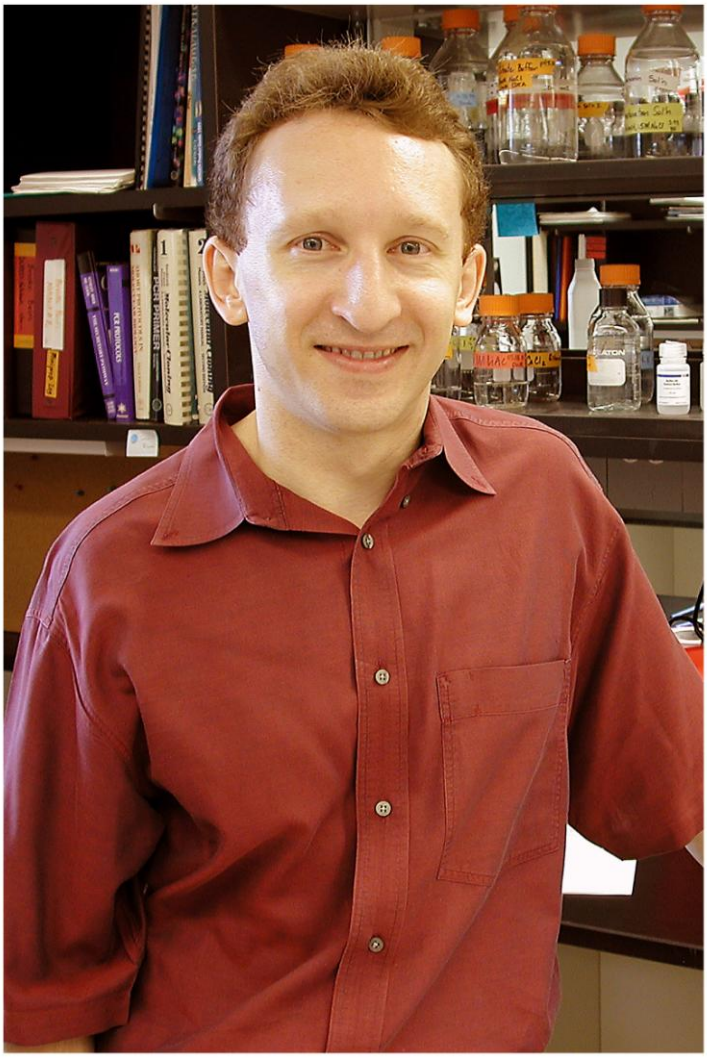
at

University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

on

11, 12, and 13 June 2002

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



Benjamin S. Glick

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This oral history is part of a series supported by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts based on the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences. This collection is an important resource for the history of biomedicine, recording the life and careers of young, distinguished biomedical scientists and of Pew Biomedical Scholar Advisory Committee members.

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REFORMATTING:

Kim Phan, Program Intern, Oral History, Chemical Heritage Foundation. B.A. expected 2011, Anthropology, Cornell University.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Oral History Interview Agreement No. R081902F

This Interview Agreement is made and entered into this 19 day of August, 2002 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 BENJAMIN S. GLICK, having an address at Department of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology, University of Chicago, Cummings Life Science Center, 1039 920 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637, hereinafter called "Interviewee."

Interviewee agrees to participate in a series of University-conducted tape-recorded interviews, commencing on or about June 10, 2002, and tentatively entitled "Interview with Benjamin S. Glick. 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:

1. Interviewee irrevocably assigns to University all his copyright, title and interest in and to the Work. This assignment applies to University, its successors, and assigns, for and during the existence of the copyright and all renewals and extensions thereof.

2. By virtue of this assignment, University will have the right to use the Work for any research, educational, or other purpose, including electronic reproduction, that University may deem appropriate.

3. Interviewee acknowledges that he will receive no remuneration or compensation for his 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:

Oral History Program
University of California, Los Angeles
Box 951575
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Attention: Janice L. Reiff

If to Interviewee:

Benjamin S. Glick
Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology
University of Chicago
1039 920 East 58th Street
Chicago, IL 60637

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

| INTERVIEWEE | THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA |
|---|---|
| X Benjamin S. Glick (Signature) | Janice L. Reiff (Signature) |
| Benjamin S. Glick (Typed Name) | Janice L. Reiff (Typed Name) |
| Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology (Address) | Interim Director, Oral History Program (Title) |
| University of Chicago | |
| 1039 920 East 58th Street | |
| Chicago, Illinois 60637 | |
| X Date 6/11/02 | Date 18 Aug 2002 |

# Pew Scholars in the Biomedical Sciences

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This constitutes my entire and complete understanding.

Benjamin S. Glick

Benjamin S. Glick, Ph.D.

Feb. 27, 2008

Date

Chemical Heritage Foundation
Oral History Program
315 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

**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

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

University of Chicago
1994-present 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

**Dates, length of sessions:** June 11, 2002; June 12, 2002; and June 13, 2002.

**Persons present during interview:** Glick and Van Benschoten.

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