# Biology at the Crossroads: Convening the Pioneers and Contributors of Influential Fields in the Life Sciences to Capture Their History

SAA 2017: Science, Technology, and Health Care Section

Mila Pollock

**Executive director** 

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Archives and Genentech Center for the History of Molecular Biology, New York

## **CSHL** Archives Collections

### library.cshl.edu/archives

### **Personal Collections**

**About Personal Collections** 

Amos G Avery

Kitty Brehme Warren

Sydney Brenner

Elof Carlson

Charles B. Davenport

Charles DeLisi

**Hugo Fricke** 

Errol C. Friedberg

Walter Gilbert

Reginald G. Harris

Winship Herr

Alfred D. Hershey

James Hicks

Amar Klar

Barbara McClintock

Roberto Malinow

Hermann J. Muller

Jeffrey Strathern

James D. Watson

Charles Weissmann

Evelyn Witkin

Charles Yanofsky

Norton Zinder

### Special I Collections

**About Special Collections** 

**Banbury Conference Center** 

**Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences** 

Carnegie Institution of Washington

CSHL Audio Visual

**CSHL Clippings** 

CSHL Images

**CSHL Meetings Abstracts** 

CSHL Meetings and Courses

CSHL Office of Technology Transfer

CSHL Symposia

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

**Eugenics Record Office** 

Human Genome Project Japan

Long Island Biological Association

Maps and Blueprints

**Oral History** 

Rare Books

Undergraduate Research Program URPs

### James Watson was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1928. He

received a B.S. in 1947 from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in 1950 from Indiana University, both in zoology. Following a National Research Fellowship in Copenhagen he conducted research on a National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis Fellowship at the University of Cambridge, England, where he discovered the structure of decay/florrudeic acid (DNA) with Francis Crick, Watson and Crick proposed that the DNA molecule takes the shape of a double helix, an elegantly simple structure that resembles a gently twisted ladder. This research emphasized a concept central to the emerging field of molecular biology: understanding the structure of a molecule can give clues about how it functions. Watson, Crick, and Maurice Wilkins at King's College in London, who confirmed the DNA structure using X-ray crystallography, shared the 1962 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for their discovery.

at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

Archives Genentech Personal Collections Special Collections Of Interest Exhibits

**Archives** 

James D. Watson

After his tenure at Cambridge, Watson spent two years at the California Institute of Technology. He joined the Harvard faculty in 1955 and became Professor in 1961. In 1968, while employed at Harvard, he became director of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Watson resigned from Harvard in 1976 to become full-time director of CSHL. Under his direction, the renowned but financially endangered institution was revitalized. Watson steered the laboratory into the field of tumor virology, from which emerged our present understanding of oncogenes (cancer genes) and the molecular basis of cancer. From 1994-2003 he was resident of CSHL, and Chancellor from 2003-2007.



- Archive Links
- > Institutional Archives > Generatech Center
- > Rare Books > Oral History
- > Guide to the HGP.

### Personal Collections > James D.

- > Archives Repository
- > Finding Aid EAD
- > Manuscripts
- > Beprints
- > Oral History > Bibliography
- > Honest Jim Exhibit
- > A.Natural Destroller
- Archive Quick Links
- > Archives Repository > James D. Watson Collection
- > Sydney Branner Collection

### **CSHL Archives Repository**

Preserving and promoting the history of molecular biology.

#### The Repository

Contains over 380,000 online documents from Nobel laureates' James D. Watson's and Sydney Brenner's personal collections. These collections consist of correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, laboratory notebooks, administrative records, teaching files & memorabilia.

The repository and metadata were created in part, through a two-year grant funded collaboration with the Wellcome Library's Codebreakers: Makers of Modern Genetics digitization project.

Finding Aids for the majority of the 53 collections on the history of molecular biology are available on our CSHL Archives and Digital Collections websites.

#### The Collections

#### James D. Watson

The James D. Watson Collection consists of over 500 manuscript boxes of materials documenting the life and career of James D. Watson, co-recipient of...

#### Sydney Brenner

The Sydney Brenner Collection consists of over 300 manuscript boxes of materials documenting the life and career of Dr. Sydney Brenner, co-recipient...

#### Features

Explore all 380,000+ documents of the James D. Watson and Sydney Brenner Collections using the "People & Topics" tagging system, which consists of over 14,000 tags.

Build your own private selections lists, tags and notes. Login/register to see this functionality.

#### Support

Scholars are encouraged to contact our archivists with research questions, obtaining rights to use materials or to schedule an appoir



View of Cold Spring Harbor by

#### Birthday Card - 60th



Birthday card from Leslie Orgel and others to Sydney Brenner.

#### Outside the Biology Department, Harvard (Rhino Photos) - Prints



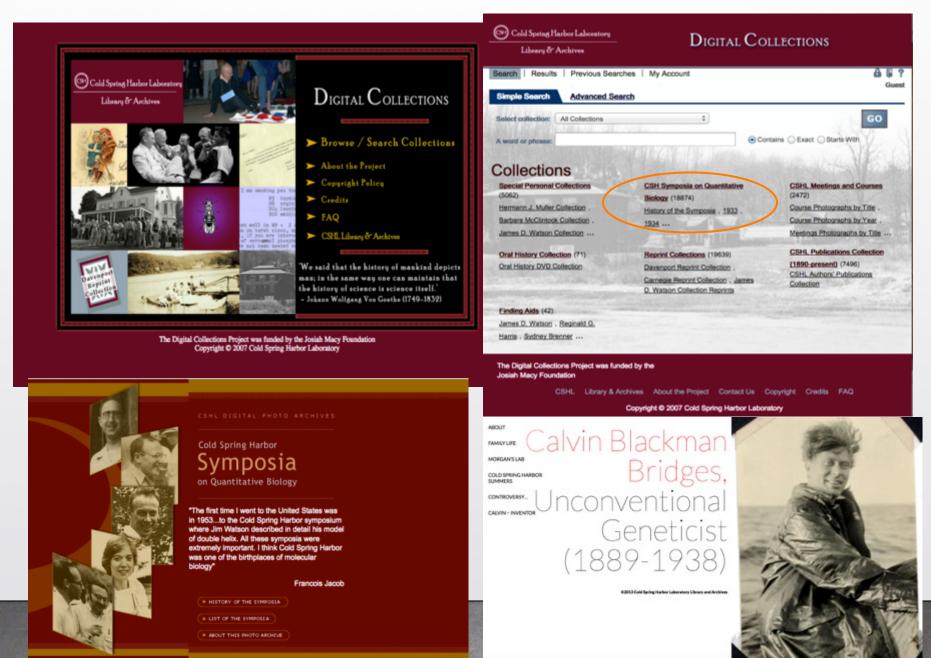
Various photographic prints of Watson and Harvard University students posing with a rhinoceros statue outside of the Biology Department building.

#### Letter from James D. Watson to Paul Weiss



In this letter Watson explains his reasons for leaving Copenhagen and moving to Cambridge to study the structure of DNA.

## CSHL Archives: Dissemination archival collections

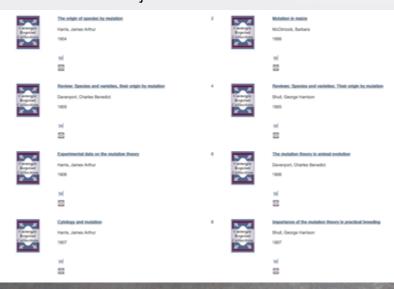


## **Davenport Collection Reprints** from 1890

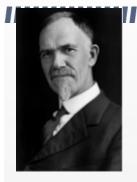
Subject: Chromosomes



### Demerec/Carnegie Collection Reprints Subject: Mutations



## **Reprints by Subject**

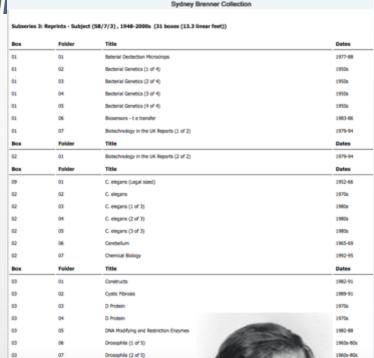


Charles B. Davenport Director from 1904-1934



Milislav Demerec Director from 1941-1960

### Sydney Brenner Collection Reprints by Subject

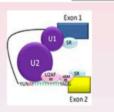


Sydney Brenner Nobel Prize Winning Scientist

## MEETINGS

ON THE HISTORY
OF SCIENCE

For these unique meetings, we invite speakers who made many of the seminal discoveries that began the field, as well as those who are working on the topic now. We also invite historians of science who have examined the topic, setting it in its scientific and societal context. Like the previous meetings in the series, these events provide an excellent opportunity to look in-depth at a topic and share the stories that are often missing from academic accounts.



Register now for October, 2017 Forty Years of mRNA Splicing:

From Discovery to Therapeutics

More >>>



October, 2016 HIV/AIDS Research: Its

History & Future

More >>>



July, 2015

The Evolution of Sequencing Technology

More >>>



August, 2014 History of Messenger RNA

More >>>



September, 2014 Plasmids: History & Biology

More >>>



October, 2013 History of Restriction Enzymes

More >>>

Proceedings from our Meetings on the History of Science are all available online:

http://library.cshl.edu/Meetings/ History-of-Science/

## History of Science Meetings in Photos



Participants of the History of HIV Meeting, 2016



Beatrice Hahn, Anna Marie Skalka, Bruce Walker, Robert Gallo, 2016



Participants of the History of Evolution of Sequencing Technology Meeting, 2015



Robert Waterston, Richard McCombie, Cheryl Heiner, Richard Roberts, 2015

History of Messenger RNA Meeting, 2014





## Dissemination

The websites for each of the meetings features the same menu & functionality

Meeting
Program
Profiles
Posters
Participants
Photos
Slides
Videos
Sponsors

## History of Science Meetings Workflow

### Creation

 Record videos of speakers

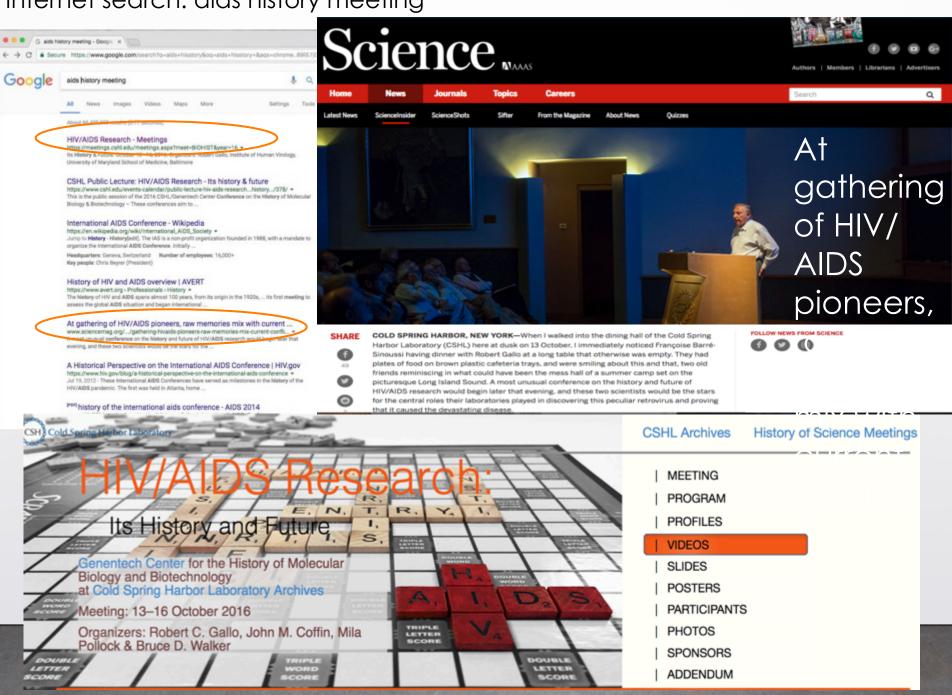
### **Preservation**

- Raw videos transferred to archives
- Receive speakers' presentations
- Receive digital files of posters presented

### **Dissemination**

- Videos/presentations/ posters uploaded to meeting website
- Catalog meeting (Library Catalog)
- Create finding aid
- Add to Archives Space
- Post to Twitter, Facebook, Instagram

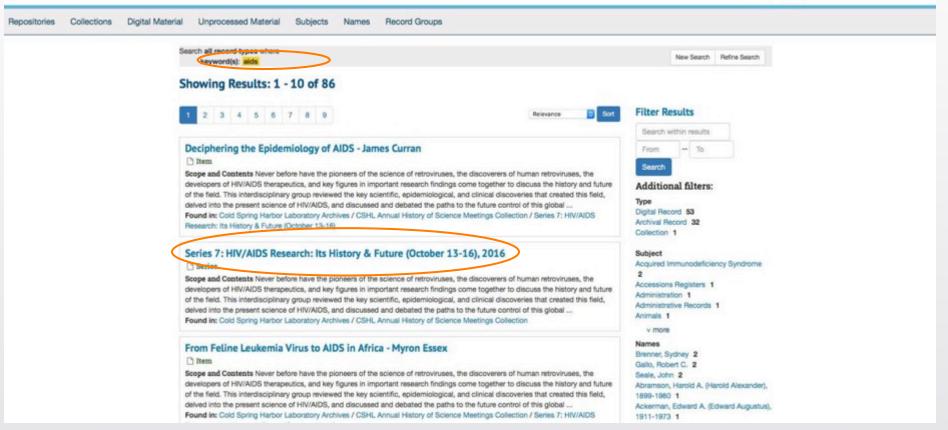
Internet search: aids history meeting



## Search ArchivesSpace

### Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory - Archival Holdings





### **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory - Archival Holdings**

St. Clair, Martin

Related Name

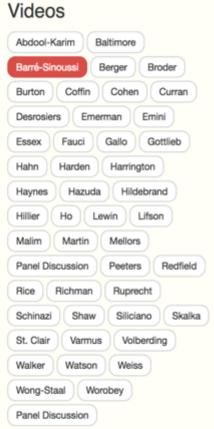


Spread of HIV in the New World..

Digital Material Unprocessed Material Record Groups ositories Collections Subjects Names **CSHL** Annual History of Science Meetings Collection Request Staff Only Collection Identifier: HOS Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Archives | CSHL Annual History of Science Meetings Collection Collection Organization Collection Overview Container Inventory Series 7: HIV/AIDS Research: Its History & Future (October 13-16), 2016 Genomes for Medicine - David ... Series Applications of sequencing in cl... Never before have the pioneers of the science of retroviruses, the discoverers of human retroviruses, the developers of HIV/AIDS Series 7: HIV/AIDS Research: Its Hi... therapeutics, and key figures in important research findings come together to discuss the history and future of the field. This Introduction - James D. Watson interdisciplinary group reviewed the key scientific, epidemiological, and clinical discoveries that created this field, delved into the present science of HIV/AIDS, and discussed and debated the paths to the future control of this global pandemic, which, tragically, has Introduction - Robert Gallo persisted for more than 35 years. [Website TBA] Retrovirus History, Early Search... Dates 2016 The Importance of Activism to the US Response - Mark Harrington The First Patients - Paul Volber... Deciphering the Epidemiology o... ltem The Importance of Activism to t... Related Name Harrington, Mark Discoveries of Human Retroviru... Discoveries of Human Retrovirus their Linkage to Disease as Causative Agents & Preparation Discovery of HIV - Françoise Ba... for the Future - Robert Gallo 35 Years of HIV/AIDS: Science ... ltem Discovery of AZT as the First A... Related Name Gallo, Robert C The First Clinical Trials of Antiret... Discovery of HIV - Françoise Barré-Sinoussi Antiviral Drug Resistance and C... ☐ Item Discovery and Development of ... Related Name Barrè-Sinoussi, Francoise Discovery and development of I... 35 Years of HIV/AIDS: Science and Policy - Anthony Fauci Making it Simpler: A Single Pill t... Human & Primate Retroviruses, ... 1 Item Human & Primate Retroviruses, ... Related Name Fauci, Anthony S., 1940-The Origin of SIVmac: Non-hum... Discovery of AZT as the First Anti-HIV Drug - Marty St. Clair On the Road to HIV: Primate Le... Item Apes to Humans: The Origin of ...

## Françoise Barré-Sinoussi Discovery of HIV



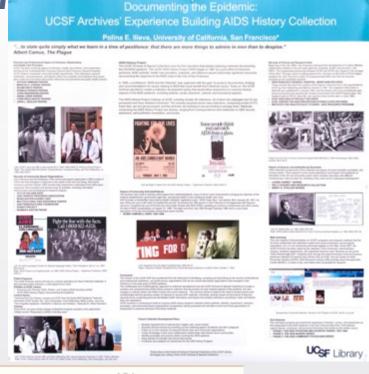


## Collecting original materials by subject

Discovery of AZT as the First Anti-HIV Drug Marty St. Clair ViiV Healthcare

**Presentations (slides)** 

Posters



**Speaker Videos** 

