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SHANGHAI INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

SPEAKER



Professor Roger D. Kornberg

Mrs. George A Winzer Professor in Medicine,
Professor of Structural Biology at Stanford University's School of
Medicine, Nobel Laureate (2006)

Roger Kornberg is Winzer Professor in Medicine in the Department of Structural Biology at Stanford University. In his doctoral research, he discovered the dynamics of cell membranes. As a postdoctoral fellow and member of the scientific staff at the Laboratory of Molecular biology in Cambridge, England from 1972-75, he discovered the nucleosome, the basic unit of DNA coiling in chromosomes. He moved to his present position in 1978, where he has focused on the mechanism and regulation of eukaryotic gene transcription. Notable findings include the role of nucleosomes in transcriptional regulation, discovery of the Mediator of transcriptional regulation, and the structure determination of RNA polymerase II. Awards include the Welch Award in Chemistry (2001), highest award in chemistry in the United States; the Leopold Mayer Prize (2002), highest award of the French Academy of Sciences; and the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (unshared, 2006). Kornberg's longest and closest collaborator has been his wife, Dr. Yahli Lorch.

Kornberg directs research laboratories in the United States (Stanford University), Israel (the Hebrew University), and China (ShanghaiTech University). He has co-founded biotech, computational, and materials science companies with Larry Ellison, Philip Frost, and Leonard Blavatnik. He serves as Chairman, Director, and SAB member of other companies in these areas.

B.A., Harvard College, 1967

Ph.D., Chemistry, Stanford University, 1972