

ATVB Named Lecture Reviews —Insight Into Author



ATVB Named Lecture Reviews—2015 Jeffrey M. Hoeg
ATVB Award for Basic Science and Clinical Research

**Insight Into the Author: Alan E. Mast, MD, PhD, Blood Research
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Why did you choose the profession of scientific investigation?

I have always been curious. I enjoy figuring out new things.

Who have been your role model(s) in your scientific and professional life?

I have had many scientific mentors that I have learned from over the years. Guy Salvesen, my PhD mentor, taught me how to approach scientific questions and enjoy the wonder of working in the laboratory.

What have been important influences on your professional life?

My father was a professor of electrical engineering and taught me about a career in academics.

What are your scientific inspirations?

To ask and answer questions that help put the pieces of a scientific puzzle together.

How have mentors contributed to your professional development?

During my residency, Sam Santoro encouraged me to continue doing clinical as well as basic science projects during my career. This was really good advice and has allowed me to approach a wide diversity of scientific questions during my professional career.

If you knew then what you know now, would you do anything different?

I would have started doing triathlons when I was younger.

What wisdom do you impart on new investigators?

Patient hard work over time leads to success.

If you were not a scientist, which profession would you pick?

A National Park Ranger.

Which direction do you envisage your science taking?

I think we will begin to collaborate with more scientists due to the complex nature of the questions we are beginning to ask.

What are your nonscientific activities?

I enjoy exercising, hiking in the mountains, and have a tank with tropical fish.

What sports do you follow?

I have followed University of Illinois sports since I was 6 years old when my mother would let me have the radio next to my bed to listen to basketball games. I also have become a Green Bay Packer fan since moving to Wisconsin.

What are your favorite books, movies, music (pick one or all)?

I listen to country music; for many songs, I enjoy the silly lyrics more than the music. I enjoy reading about American history.

What are your favorite foods and are they heart healthy?

M&Ms. They are like vitamin pills, so they have to be heart healthy.

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