

ATVB Named Lecture Reviews—Insight Into Author

ATVB Named Lecture Reviews—Sol Sherry
Distinguished Lecture on Thrombosis

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Why did you choose the profession of scientific investigation?

During high school at Seattle Prep, my favorite subjects were physics, chemistry, and math; there it was emphasized that scholarship required a deep and fundamental knowledge of subjects. In the Jesuit tradition, academic excellence, curiosity, and service are inextricably entwined. During those years, I decided that my mission in life should be to discover new knowledge that would be intrinsically satisfying and that could also contribute to improving society. It seemed likely that being an eternal student in the academic life with the goal of making truly pioneering discoveries of potential utility could be fulfilling.

What have been important influences on your professional life?

My very supportive family, including my inspiring sisters, plus my mentors, close professional friends, and trainees have been critically important influences on my career development, and to all of them I am very grateful. For decades, my wife has provided limitless support to enable my own intense work efforts even while also providing her own model of leading a devoted academic life at UCSD.

My movement from protein biophysics to the subfield of thrombosis and hemostasis came from encouragement by fellow postdocs and friends, Deane Mosher and Bruce and Barbara Furie. Long-term collaborations with dear friends like Bonno Bouma, Berislav Zlokovic, and Hardy Weiler have helped to influence the directions for my research trajectories. My trainees taught me much of what I have learned and contributed substantially to my life.

Broadly influencing my approach to science were several readings: Thomas Kuhn's book, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, and Jacques Monod's comment that "Without fundamental anxiety, there is no fundamental science." I have always been fundamentally anxious to understand things more clearly. When traveling across subfields of science, I have tried first to learn the prevailing paradigms, and, second, to assess what are the most important questions and their implications. Then it became challenging to incorporate new technologies and their new data into efforts to advance knowledge, including sometimes deconstructing and reconstructing paradigms.

How have mentors contributed to your professional development?

Elkan Blout at Harvard told me he didn't care what I did but that it had to be important and significant, and then gave me 30 days to think about what to do. He emphasized that one must think deeply about problems, and he used the Socratic method to bring out the best from his students and postdocs. He modeled working harder than anyone I had ever met. Chris Anfinsen at the NIH generously provided support, advice, and knowledge. His intense drive to understand protein structure-activity relationships was contagious. Understanding protein or enzyme SAR has driven my research on blood clotting factors and led to efforts to translate second-generation recombinant biologics, like 3K3A-APC, to the clinic. Chris also wisely advised changing research topics, directions, or technologies every 5–7 years, as I have done.

At Scripps, my initial group chief, Charles Cochrane, and my best friend, Ted Zimmerman, taught me to view problems as they did as physician scientists. Ted's encouragement led me to undertake clinical research that led to discovery of mild and severe protein C deficiency which then converted me to a translational research mentality.

Who are your scientific inspirations?

Each of my mentors was very inspiring as models for their particular skills. Individuals who have struck me with awe for their accomplishments in clinically relevant basic science accomplishments include Desire Collen for his tPA work, Ted Zimmerman for his factor VIII/vWF (von Willebrand factor) work, Barry Coller for his antiplatelet Mab work, and Hans Peter Schwarz for bringing plasma protein C concentrate from a dream to a reality for protein C-deficient patients. I admire greatly many colleagues whose research

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has changed ideas and fundamental knowledge, like previous Sol Sherry and AHA distinguished lecturers. Over the years, I have also been inspired by the highly idealistic, devoted, hard-working administrative NIH staff who support and promote the American research mission. Similarly, the devoted staff of the AHA and of other nonprofit societies and organizations who enable the pursuit of knowledge for the benefit of patients and of the world are inspiring by their lives.

What are your nonscientific activities?

Over the years, I have taken great pleasure in tennis, windsurfing, and skiing with my three children, colleagues, and family friends. Visits with adult children and their families and weekly gatherings with my wife and close friends to play bridge or just enjoy time together is most enjoyable. Travel enriches my life, and regular trips to interesting cities like Paris, Kyoto, and London with their fascinating cultural differences, museums, theater, gardens, and cuisines have become essential activities.

What wisdom do you impart on new investigators?

Choose your research areas and problems which are important for science and medicine and are very engaging to your mind. Work very hard and be tenacious about pursuit of your research and of general knowledge. Read broadly and attend seminars outside your own research topic for your continuing education. Cross fields and seek interdisciplinary collaborations with the best people. Reevaluate your personal goals every five years for their intrinsic value and for their value to the meaning of your life. Do not let rejection by journals or triage by study sections deter you from your dreams. Use each rejection as a learning experience and bounce back, work harder, and remember, if you are doing research, you are very lucky.

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