

ATVB Named Lecture Reviews—Insight Into Author

ATVB Named Lecture Reviews— 2017 Scientific Sessions
Sol Sherry Distinguished Lecture in Thrombosis

Insight Into the Author: Jeffrey I. Weitz, MD, Department of Medicine, McMaster University and the Thrombosis and Atherosclerosis Research Institute, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada



Why did you choose the profession of scientific investigation?

I like to know why things happen, and scientific investigation allows me to find out. Most exciting is the capacity to use a reductionist approach to better understand the clinical problems that we face in every day practice and to develop novel methods to overcome them.

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

I have had both clinical and scientific role models. Jerry Scott was one of my early clinical role models when I was a hematology resident in Toronto, whereas Jack Hirsh is my role model for my clinical research activities, and Hymie Nossel and Chuck Esmon have been role models for my basic research work.

What have been important influences on your professional life?

The sudden death of Hymie Nossel when I was a junior attending at Columbia University left me temporarily without a mentor. This unfortunate event taught me how to cope with adversity; a tough way to learn an important skill for professional and personal success.

What are your scientific inspirations?

My scientific inspiration is to reduce the burden of thrombosis, which causes 1 in 4 deaths worldwide. To do this, my research efforts have focused on optimal methods for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of arterial and venous thrombosis. On a day-to-day basis, my research team and my trainees inspire me to think and work harder to reach my goals.

How have mentors contributed to your professional development?

My mentors have made me what I am today. Jack Hirsh taught me the importance of asking the right question; Mike Gent and Robin Roberts showed me how to plan the right studies and properly analyze the data; and Chuck Esmon has been my inspiration on how to best use basic science tools to enhance our understanding of disease.

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

I would spend less time worrying about the little things and more time focusing on what is really important.

What wisdom do you impart on new investigators?

Identify a network of mentors and seek advice and guidance frequently. Surround yourself with the best research team and learners, and focus on the important questions.

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

I would be a veterinarian; I love animals.

Which direction do you envisage your science taking?

My current clinical research focus is on clinical trials with inhibitors of factor XI. My basic research is focusing on novel regulators of the contact pathway of coagulation and on methods to render blood-contacting medical devices less thrombogenic.

What are your nonscientific activities?

I am a bit of a fitness nut and can often be found in the gym.

What sports do you follow?

I follow the Toronto baseball, hockey, and basketball teams.

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

I like old movies; with Christmas coming, *Miracle on 42nd Street*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Bishop's Wife*, and *White Christmas* are some that come to mind.

What are your favorite foods and are they heart healthy?

I love all kinds of food, but my favorite is Japanese food, which is very heart healthy.

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