

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

**DEAN H. KEDES**

The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences

Transcript of an Interview  
Conducted by

David J. Caruso

at

University of Virginia

on

25 and 26 October 2007

(With Subsequent Corrections and Additions)

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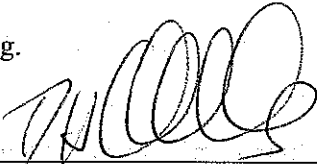
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## DEAN H. KEDES

1960 Born in Stanford, California on 20 February

### Education

1981 B.Sc., Stanford University  
1988 M.D., Yale University  
1988 Ph.D., Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, Yale University

### Professional Experience

Stanford University  
1988-1991 Internship and Residency, Internal Medicine Stanford University

University of California, San Francisco, laboratory of Donald Ganem  
1991-1992 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Associate  
1992-1993 Infectious Diseases Clinical Fellow  
1993-1996 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Post-doctoral Physician  
Scientist  
1997-1998 Assistant Research Microbiologist

University of Virginia  
1999-2004 Assistant Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department  
of Internal Medicine, and Department of Microbiology  
1999-present Member, University of Virginia Cancer Center  
1999-present Member, Bernie B. Carter Center for Immunology Research  
1999-present Member, Myles H. Thaler Center for AIDS and Human  
Retrovirus Research  
2004-present Associate Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department  
of Internal Medicine, and Department of Microbiology

### HONORS

1981 Honors in Biology, Stanford University  
1981-1988 Medical Scientist Training Program Award (NIH), Yale University  
1986 National MD/PhD Program Conference Award  
1993-1996 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Research Physician Scientist Award (1  
of 20)

1996-1998	University-wide AIDS Research Program Post-doctoral Award
2000-2005	Doris Duke Clinical Scientist Award (1 of 17)
2000-2004	Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences (1 of 20)
2003-2004	Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Basic Science Award (1 of 8)
2004	Recognition of Excellence as Basic Science Section Leader
2005	Recognition of Excellence as Basic Science Section Leader

## ABSTRACT

**Dean H. Kedes'** oral history begins with a discussion of his childhood and family life. Heavily influenced by his father, also a biomedical scientist, Kedes developed an interest in science early in life. He would visit his father's laboratory at Stanford University often and he became aware of its friendly and productive atmosphere. During his youth, he traveled abroad with his family in support of his father's research. Time spent in Italy and England, while also traveling to other parts of Europe, proved enriching. Kedes applied to college while in Europe and he subsequently chose to attend Stanford University. Upon matriculation, though, the 'living on campus' experience made it seem as if he had gone to school farther away from home than was actually true. Starting from enrollment, Kedes pursued a major in biology with the intention of applying to medical school. His coursework and laboratory research in the neurobiology laboratory of Eric Shooter, however, increased his interest in pursuing basic science as well. Kedes decided to undertake a joint MD/PhD program at Yale University. After an uninspiring first laboratory rotation working on a descriptive *Drosophila* project, Kedes eventually joined the laboratory of Joan A. Steitz to study pre-mRNA splicing. Upon earning his MD/PhD, Kedes returned to Stanford University to undertake his clinical residency, though he experienced difficulty transitioning between laboratory research and clinical medicine. After completing his residency, Kedes built upon his laboratory research with post-doctoral studies in Donald Ganem's laboratory at the University of California, San Francisco. There Kedes developed his interests in the molecular biology of infectious diseases including Hepatitis B and Kaposi's Sarcoma-associated Herpes Virus (KSHV). Following his successful work with Ganem, Kedes was offered a position at the University of Virginia—a location at which both he and his wife could find work—and began the 'thrill and excitement' of running his own laboratory. Throughout the interview Kedes emphasized the importance of balancing family life with laboratory work and creating a positive atmosphere within the laboratory, something that he works hard to maintain at the University of Virginia. Shortly after becoming a principal investigator, Kedes was awarded a Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences award and he reflected upon the importance of the award with respect to scientific funding and collaboration. Kedes also discussed funding in the United States more broadly, especially the problem of the attrition of science students due to a lack of funds as well as the national push towards translational research. The interview concluded with Kedes' reflections on the field of biomedical science, on scientific publishing, and on the public perception of science.

## INTERVIEWER

**David J. Caruso** earned a B.A. in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology from the Johns Hopkins University in 2001 and a Ph.D. in Science and Technology Studies from Cornell University in 2008. His graduate work focused on the interaction of American military and medical personnel from the Spanish-American War through World War I and the institutional transformations that resulted in the development of American military medicine as a unique form of knowledge and practice. David is currently the Program Manager for Biomedical Sciences and Technologies at the CHF. His current research interest focuses on the discipline formation of biomedical science in 20th-century America and the organizational structures that have contributed to such formation.

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