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The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

Andrea R. Maestrejuan

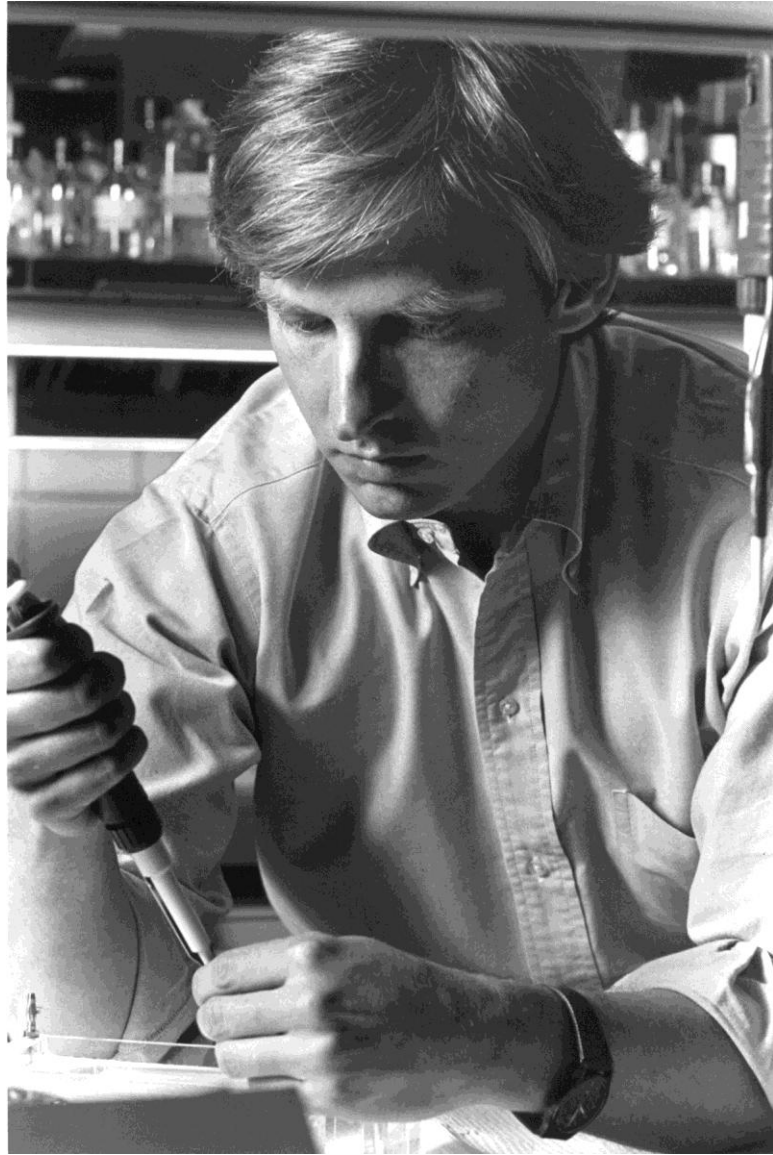
at

Lipkin's Home, Laguna Beach, California and
University of California, Irvine

on

14, 17, and 27 July and 3 and 7 August 1995

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W. Ian Lipkin

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This oral history is part of a series supported by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts based on the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences. This collection is an important resource for the history of biomedicine, recording the life and careers of young, distinguished biomedical scientists and of Pew Biomedical Scholar Advisory Committee members.

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Irvine, California 92717

University and Interviewee have executed this Agreement on the date first written above.

INTERVIEWEE

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Carli V. Rogers
(Signature)

W. Ian Lipkin
(Typed Name)

Carli V. Rogers
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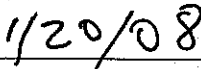
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W. IAN LIPKIN

1952 Born in Chicago, Illinois, in November

Education

1974 B.A., Sarah Lawrence College
1978 M.D., Rush Medical College of Rush University

Professional Experience

1984-1990 Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, California
Postdoctoral Fellow

1978 United States Indian Health Service, Tishomingo, Oklahoma
General Medical Officer

1978-1979 University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Intern

1979-1981 University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
Resident

1981-1984 University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, California
Resident

1990-1993 University of California, Irvine, Irvine, California
Assistant Professor
1990-1993 Associate Professor
1993-present Professor
1994-present Co-Director, Markey Program in Human Biology

Honors

1984-1987 Postdoctoral Fellowship, National Multiple Sclerosis Society
1987 President, Society of Fellows, Scripps Research Institute
1987-1992 Clinical Investigator Development Award, National Institutes of Health
1991 Young Investigator Award, National Alliance for Research on
Schizophrenia and Depression
1991-1995 Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences Grant

Selected Publications

- Lipkin, W.I. et al., 1985. Inflammatory neuropathy in homosexual men with lymphadenopathy. *Neurology*, 35:1479-83.
- Lipkin, W.I. et al., 1988. Viral infection of neurons can depress neurotransmitter mRNA levels without histologic injury. *Brain Research*, 451:333-39.
- Lipkin, W.I. et al., 1990. Isolation and characterization of Borna disease agent cDNA clones. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, 87:4184-88.
- Briese, T. et al., 1992. Borna disease virus, a negative (-) strand RNA virus, synthesizes its mRNAs in the nucleus of infected cells. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, 89:11486-89.
- Schneider, P.A. et al., 1994. Sequence conservation in field and experimental isolates of Borna disease virus. *Journal of Virology*, 68:63-68.
- Briese, T. et al., 1994. Genomic organization of Borna disease virus. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, 91:4362-66.
- Schneider, P.A. et al., 1994. RNA splicing in Borna disease virus, a non-segmented negative-strand RNA virus. *Journal of Virology*, 68:5007-12.
- Schneemann, A. et al., 1994. Identification of signal sequences that control transcription of Borna disease virus, a non-segmented negative-strand RNA virus. *Journal of Virology*, 68:6514-22.
- Solbrig, M.V. et al., 1994. Tardive dyskinesic syndrome in rats infected with Borna disease virus. *Neurobiology of Disease*, 3:111-19.
- Lipkin, W.I. et al., 1995. Borna disease virus: Implications for human neuropsychiatric illness. *Trends in Microbiology*, 3:64-69.
- Schneemann, A. et al., 1995. The remarkable coding strategy of Borna disease virus: A new member of the non-segmented negative strand RNA viruses. *Virology*, 210: 1-8.

ABSTRACT

W. Ian Lipkin was born in Chicago, Illinois, one of three children. His parents, of Russian Jewish background, met at the New School in New York City, New York, but moved to Chicago to study at the University of Chicago, his father psychology and his mother social work. The Lipkin parents wanted their son and two daughters to be artists, but only one went into that field. The three went to public schools at first and the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools for high school, as did many other children of faculty. Ian credits his teacher of fourth and fifth grades with teaching him to read and write well. In high school he had good teachers, especially in biology.

Ian's father wanted him to go to Sarah Lawrence College, which he did, getting his degree in mythology and anthropology. In his third year he took a class in inorganic chemistry; this class aroused his first real interest in science. Wanting to combine his desire to study primitive people, perhaps Eskimos, with his desire to be of service to people, he decided to go to medical school.

After some time spent in travel, Ian matriculated into Rush University in Chicago. In his fourth year he spent some time in the Institute of Neurology in London, England; some time in the Indian Health Service in Oklahoma; and some time at Johns Hopkins University, studying infectious disease. He interned at the University of Pittsburgh, which had a rigorous schedule, so that he could see many patients. He then went to the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, for his residency in primary care internal medicine. He was sent to their satellite, a Veterans Administration hospital in Idaho. He found the experience there very intense and comprehensive. He also got married and redeveloped his interest in neurology. He then accepted a second residency at University of California, San Francisco. There he became interested in AIDS patients with neurological diseases and opened a clinic to help them.

His next stop was Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, where he accepted a postdoctoral fellowship in Michael Oldstone's lab. While there he heard a talk by Opendra Narayan on Borna disease and its links to bipolar disease. When he had finished Oldstone's project he wanted to work on Borna virus, so Ian went to Michael Wilson's lab. He had to overcome much red tape to get brain samples for his study into the effects of neurotransmitter messages levels in the brains of infected mice. The pathogenesis of Borna was then being studied only at two labs in Germany and one at Johns Hopkins University; Ian took up research from the molecular biological standpoint.

Next he accepted a generous assistant professorship at the University of California, Irvine. He has since progressed through associate professor to full professor and finally to Co-Director of the Markey Program in Human Biology. He hopes his Borna virus research will ultimately enable scientists to develop a tool for delivering genes and drugs to the central nervous system so that scientists may provide therapy for other neurodegenerative diseases in which Ian has become interested, especially multiple sclerosis and peripheral nerve disorders. He would like to become involved in science policy and administration, feeling it important to communicate about science with the general public; and he listens to music, goes to the beach, and hopes to become fluent in German.

UCLA INTERVIEW HISTORY

INTERVIEWER:

Andrea R. Maestrejuan, Interviewer, UCLA Oral History Program; B.A., History, University of California, Irvine, 1988; B.S., Biological Sciences, University of California, Irvine, 1988; C. Phil., History, University of California, Riverside.

TIME AND SETTING OF INTERVIEW:

Place: Lipkin's home, Laguna Beach, California and Lipkin's office, University of California, Irvine.

Dates, length of sessions: July 14, 1995 (92 minutes); July 17, 1995 (110); July 27, 1995 (46); August 3, 1995 (128); August 7, 1995 (82).

Total number of recorded hours: 7.65

Persons present during interview: Lipkin and Maestrejuan.

CONDUCT OF INTERVIEW:

This interview is one in a series with Pew scholars in the biomedical sciences conducted by the UCLA Oral History Program in conjunction with the Pew Charitable Trusts's Pew Scholars in the Biomedical Sciences Oral History and Archives Project. The Project has been designed to document the backgrounds, education, and research of biomedical scientists awarded four-year Pew scholarships since 1988.

To provide an overall framework for Project interviews, the director of the UCLA Oral History Program and three UCLA faculty Project consultants developed a topic outline. In preparing for this interview, Maestrejuan held a preinterview conversation with Lipkin to obtain written background information (curriculum vitae, copies of published articles, etc.) and to agree on an interviewing schedule. She also reviewed prior Pew scholars' interviews and the documentation in Lipkin's file at the Pew Scholars Program office in San Francisco, including his proposal application, letters of recommendation, and reviews by Pew Scholars Program national advisory committee members. For technical background, Maestrejuan consulted J.D. Watson et al., *Molecular Biology of the Gene*. 4th ed. Menlo Park, CA: Benjamin/Cummings, 1987 and Bruce Alberts et al., *Molecular Biology of the Cell*. 3d ed. New York: Garland, 1994.

The interview is organized chronologically, beginning with Lipkin's childhood and continuing through his education at Sarah Lawrence College, Rush Medical College of Rush University, and University of California, San Francisco, and the establishment of his own laboratory at University of California, Irvine. Major topics discussed include Lipkin's encounter with AIDS as a young neurologist, his research on Borna disease virus, the relationship of clinical work and research, mentors, and scientific funding and education.

ORIGINAL EDITING:

Kristian London, assistant editor, edited the interview. He checked the verbatim transcript of the interview against the original tape recordings, edited for punctuation, paragraphing, and spelling, and verified proper names. Words and phrases inserted by the editor have been bracketed.

Lipkin reviewed the transcript. He verified proper names and made minor corrections and additions.

London prepared the table of contents, biographical summary, and interview history.

Derek DeNardo, editorial assistant, compiled the index.

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