

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

SAMUEL NATELSON

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

James G. Traynham and Myron M. Warshaw

at

Knoxville, Tennessee

on

26 February 1998

(With Subsequent Additions and Corrections)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This oral history has been initiated by the Chemical Heritage Foundation on behalf of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, Inc. This oral history documents the personal perspectives of a founding member of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, Inc. and aims to record the human dimensions of the growth of clinical chemistry. This interview celebrates the occasion of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, Inc.'s Fiftieth Anniversary in the scientific community.

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Dr Samuel Natelson

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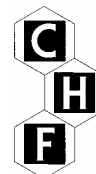
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SAMUEL NATELSON

1909 Born in Brooklyn, New York, on 28 February

Education

1928 B.S., chemistry, City College of New York

1930 Sc.M., chemistry, New York University

1931 Ph.D., chemistry, New York University

Professional Experience

1928-1931 New York University
Instructor

1931-1932 New York Testing Lab
Research Chemist in-Charge

1933-1949 Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn
Research Biochemist

1947-1949 Brooklyn College Graduate School
Lecturer

1949-1957 Rockford Memorial Hospital
Chair, Department of Biochemistry

1957-1965 Brooklyn College Graduate School
Lecturer

1957-1958 St. Vincent's Hospital
Chair, Department of Biochemistry

1958-1965 Roosevelt Hospital
Chair, Department of Biochemistry

1962-1965 New York Polyclinical Medical School and Hospital
Lecturer

1965-1979 Michael Reese Hospital
Chair, Department of Biochemistry

1971-1979	Illinois Institute of Technology Lecturer
1979-	College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee Adjunct Professor

Honors

1961	Van Slyke Award in Clinical Chemistry
1965	Ames Award, American Association of Clinical Chemists
1971	Science Award, Illinois Clinical Lab Associates
1972	Chicago Clinical Chemistry Award

ABSTRACT

Samuel Natelson begins the interview with a discussion of his family background and childhood in Brooklyn, New York. He attended City College of New York and received his B.S. in chemistry in 1928. As a graduate student, Natelson attended New York University, receiving a Sc.M. in 1930 and his Ph.D. in 1931. After receiving his Ph.D., he began his career teaching at Girls Commercial High School. While maintaining his teaching position, Natelson joined the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn in 1933. Working as a clinical chemist for Jewish Hospital, Natelson first conceived of the idea of a society by and for clinical chemists. Natelson worked to organize the nine charter members of the American Association of Clinical Chemists, which formally began in 1948. A pioneer in the field of clinical chemistry, Samuel Natelson has become a role model for the clinical chemist. Natelson developed the usage of microtechniques in clinical chemistry. During this period, he served as a consultant to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the 1960s helping analyze the effect of weightless atmospheres on astronauts' blood. Natelson spent his later career as chair of the biochemistry department at Michael Reese Hospital, and as a lecturer at the Illinois Institute of Technology. He then became an adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee's College of Veterinary Medicine. Natelson concludes his interview with thoughts on the future of clinical chemistry and reflections on his career and family.

INTERVIEWERS

James G. Traynham is a Professor of Chemistry at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. He holds a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Northwestern University. He joined Louisiana State University in 1963 and served as chemistry department chairperson from 1968 to 1973. Dr. Traynham was chairman of the American Chemical Society's Division of the History of Chemistry in 1988 and is currently councilor of the Baton Rouge section of the American Chemical Society. He was a member of the American Chemical Society's Joint-Board Council on Chemistry and Public Affairs, as well as a member of the Society's Committees on Science, Chemical Education, and Organic Chemistry Nomenclature. He has written over ninety publications, including a book on organic nomenclature and a book on the history of organic chemistry.

Myron M. Warshaw is director of clinical chemistry in the department of pathology at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, Illinois, a position he's held for the last twenty-five years. He graduated from the University of Connecticut with an A.B. in chemistry and mathematics, and received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1965. He spent his early years as Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Assistant Dean of the graduate school of arts and sciences at New York University, Washington Square. He is the author of some thirty publications, primarily in the field of biophysical chemistry. Dr. Warshaw is active in the American Association of Clinical Chemists (AACC), and currently is president of the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry.

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NOTES

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