

The Molecular Biology Institute, with generous contributions from family and friends, established the David S. Sigman Memorial Fund in 2002. It ensures that the Sigman Lectureship will continue in perpetuity to honor individuals for their significant contributions to chemical biology.

**David S. Sigman** was an internationally renowned UCLA professor who discovered chemical nucleases and illuminated the molecular mechanisms by which enzymes catalyze biological reactions.



Born in New York City in 1939, he graduated *magna cum laude* from Oberlin College in Chemistry in 1960. He received his PhD in 1965 from Harvard. After postdoctoral work, he served briefly as an instructor at Harvard before joining the UCLA faculty in the Department of Biological Chemistry in 1968.

Professor Sigman's research bridged the fields of organic chemistry, biochemistry, and molecular biology. He was one

of the founding members of UCLA's Molecular Biology Institute, serving as its associate director from 1994-2001. In 1989, he added an appointment to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. He was a large part of the collegial glue that held our biomedical community together. As the guru for bioorganic chemistry, he was a dedicated mentor of younger scientists. He died November 11, 2001, at the age of 62, after a two-and-a-half-year battle with brain cancer. His wit, insight, and creativity are greatly missed!



Donations to the lectureship endowment expand its potential – checks should be made payable to the "UCLA Foundation – Sigman Memorial Fund" and sent to the attention of Bo Tendis, Molecular Biology Institute-UCLA, PO Box 951570, Los Angeles CA 90095-1570. Your generosity is appreciated!

## RNA Polymerase: A Magnificent Molecular Machine

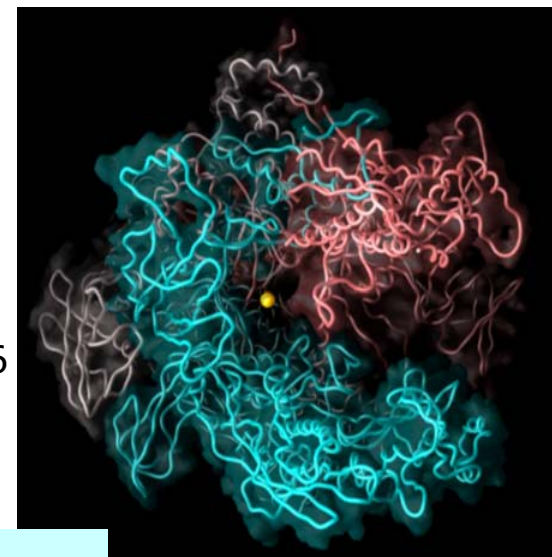


2004 Sigman Symposium

honoring

**Seth A. Darst**

Tuesday, March 16



UCLA

Molecular Biology Institute

Seth A. Darst is a Professor at The Rockefeller University in New York NY. Dr. Darst's laboratory studies structural and functional aspects of the bacterial transcription cycle, focusing on the DNA-dependent RNA polymerase using genetic, biochemical, and biophysical methods.



Dr. Darst received his BS (1982) in Chemical Engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He went on to receive his PhD (1987) in Chemical Engineering at Stanford University, where he worked with Channing R. Robertson.

Finally realizing he was more interested in science than engineering, Dr. Darst then joined the laboratory of Roger D. Kornberg, in the Department of Structural Biology at Stanford University, where he was an American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellow (1987-1990), and subsequently, a Lucille P. Markey Scholar. It was during this time that Dr. Darst's combined interests in structural biology as a tool, and transcription as a process, were formulated.

Dr. Darst joined The Rockefeller University in 1993, and achieved the rank of Full Professor in 2000. In 1994, Dr. Darst was named a Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Darst lives in Manhattan with his wife, Elizabeth Campbell, and 6 year-old daughter, Maya.

## RNA Polymerase: A Magnificent Molecular Machine

Tuesday, March 16, 2004  
UCLA, Paul D. Boyer Hall  
Rooms 159/173

- 1:30 pm **Opening Remarks and Award Presentation**  
Steven G. Clarke, Director  
Molecular Biology Institute  
Chemistry and Biochemistry, UCLA  
Albert Courey, Symposium Chair  
Chemistry and Biochemistry, UCLA
- 1:40 pm *Sigman Lecture*
- Structural Studies of Prokaryotic Transcription**  
Seth A. Darst  
Chemistry, Rockefeller University
- 2:35 pm *Break*
- 2:45 pm **Promoter Opening and Escape by RNA Polymerases: A Unified Model?**  
Jay Gralla  
Chemistry & Biochemistry, UCLA
- 3:40 pm **The Role of Host RNA Polymerase in Initiation of Replication of a Filamentous Bacteriophage**  
Konstantin Severinov  
Genetics, Rutgers University
- 4:35 pm **Genetic Control by Riboswitches and Ribozymes**  
Ronald R. Breaker  
Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology, Yale