

Profiles in Science



I would like to be a scientist of mathematics like Einstein. I would study science and discover a few theories in science.

Bringing to Life Scientific Papers of 20th Century Biomedical Scientists

In Pennsylvania, a high school senior used *Profiles* to research his winning science fair project. At home, a woman whose life was changed by Prozac used *Profiles* to read more about the research that led to its discovery. In a biomedical research laboratory, investigators used *Profiles* to reflect on the lab notes of a 20th century Nobelist whose work might help them discover a new cure.

All of today's medicine is based on the scientific research of yesterday. Illuminating and fascinating insights into the lives of those who conducted their research — some of the 20th century's most important scientists — are preserved on the National Library of Medicine's web site, *Profiles in Science* at www.profiles.nlm.nih.gov/.

The site contains a visual exploration and a comprehensive collection of scientific papers from the lives of some of the most prominent biomedical scientists of the past century.

Did you know that Oswald T. Avery made the most critical discovery in the history of modern genetics? Want to know how Nobelist Barbara McClintock tackled the question of what gives corn kernels their particular colors and textures? Are you curious about the reflections of Joshua Lederberg on biological warfare or the search for extraterrestrial life? Care to explore the life and work of Julius Axelrod whose discoveries led to the new class of antidepressants that include Prozac?

The archival collections of these and other pioneering biomedical scientists are available through modern digital technology on the *Profiles* web site. These collections contain published and unpublished items, including books, journal volumes, pamphlets, diaries, letters, manuscripts, photographs and audiovisual materials.

Each digital collection on the *Profiles* site consists of two major parts. First is an exhibit, composed of introductory narratives about the scientist's life and work and a representative assortment of noteworthy documents such as audiovisual clips and photographs. Students and those who would like a brief introduction to the scientists will find this part of the site very helpful. The second part consists of a comprehensive variety of documents from the scientists' papers, available through a search engine and in alphabetical and chronological "views."

The site enables anyone with Internet access to look behind the scenes of scientific findings and read the unpublished lab notes of great scientists and great scientific discoveries. The system aims to bring together the best in archival practices with state-of-the-art technology. It makes 20th century scientific discoveries in medical science and biology exciting.

Photographs of: Julius Axelrod, Joshua Lederberg
and Barbara McClintock



U.S. National Library of Medicine