



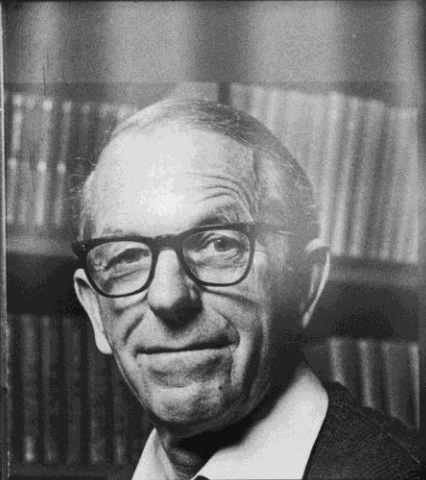
The two Citation for Chemical Breakthrough Award plaques honoring J. D. Watson and F. H. C. Crick's 1953 breakthrough publication *Molecular Structure of Nucleic Acids. A Structure for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid* and F. Sanger, S. Nicklen, and A. R. Coulson's 1977 breakthrough publication *DNA Sequencing with Chain-terminating Inhibitors*. They hang in the Sanger Seminar Room at the Medical Research Council (MRC) Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB), Cambridge, England. According to Professor Sir Hugh Pelham, Director at MRC LMB,

“We held an informal (LMB style!) celebration of this presentation in our new building. The pictures show me (left) and Andrew McKenzie and Mariann Bienz (as joint Heads of the Protein and Nucleic Acid Chemistry Division that Fred used to run and in which sequencing was developed). Our new building does have a few mementoes of the past (including the blackboard from the office that Francis Crick and Sydney Brenner used to share). The plaques make a stylish addition that can remind visitors of our history. The Sanger seminar room is used extensively both for smaller external seminars and by the PNAC Division themselves, so hopefully the Fred Sangers of the future will be inspired.” -- H. Pelham, January 30, 2017.

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Sanger Seminar Room



Frederick Sanger

Fred joined the LMB when it opened in 1962, and he was the first Head of the Protein and Nucleic Acid Chemistry Division, from 1962 - 1981. His research was on the sequencing of nucleic acids. This work involved developing a technique to determine the exact sequence of the bases in DNA. Using a virus as an example, Fred developed the "dideoxy" technique for DNA sequencing, which he published in 1975. The method allowed stretches of 500-800 bases to be read at a time, and the virus became the first fully sequenced genome. This method would shape the way that genomics and biomedicine were explored and was key to the Human Genome Project. This work led to Fred receiving his 2nd Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1980.

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