

In Conversation With

In the Shadows of Giants: Prof. Roger Kornberg on Legacy, Challenges, and Scientific Discovery

Interviewed by Biju Dharmapalan

ROGER D Kornberg is a renowned American biochemist and professor who is celebrated for his pioneering work on the molecular mechanisms of transcription in eukaryotic cells. Born on 24 April 1947, he earned his PhD in chemistry from Stanford University. Kornberg's most notable achievement is the elucidation of the process by which genetic information is transcribed from DNA to RNA, a fundamental aspect of gene expression. This groundbreaking research earned him the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2006.

He is the son of Arthur Kornberg, a 1959 Nobel laureate in medicine, highlighting a remarkable family legacy in scientific excellence. They are the sixth father-son duo to win Nobel Prizes in history. Roger Kornberg's contributions extend beyond his research; he is also a dedicated educator, serving as a professor of structural biology at Stanford University. His work continues to influence the fields of genetics and molecular biology, inspiring new generations of scientists in their quest to unravel the complexities of life.

In an insightful online conversation with Dr Biju Dharmapalan, Nobel Laureate Prof. Roger D Kornberg reflects on his unique journey growing up in the intellectual shadow of his esteemed parents, the influence of his father, and the challenges of forging his path in the world of biochemistry.

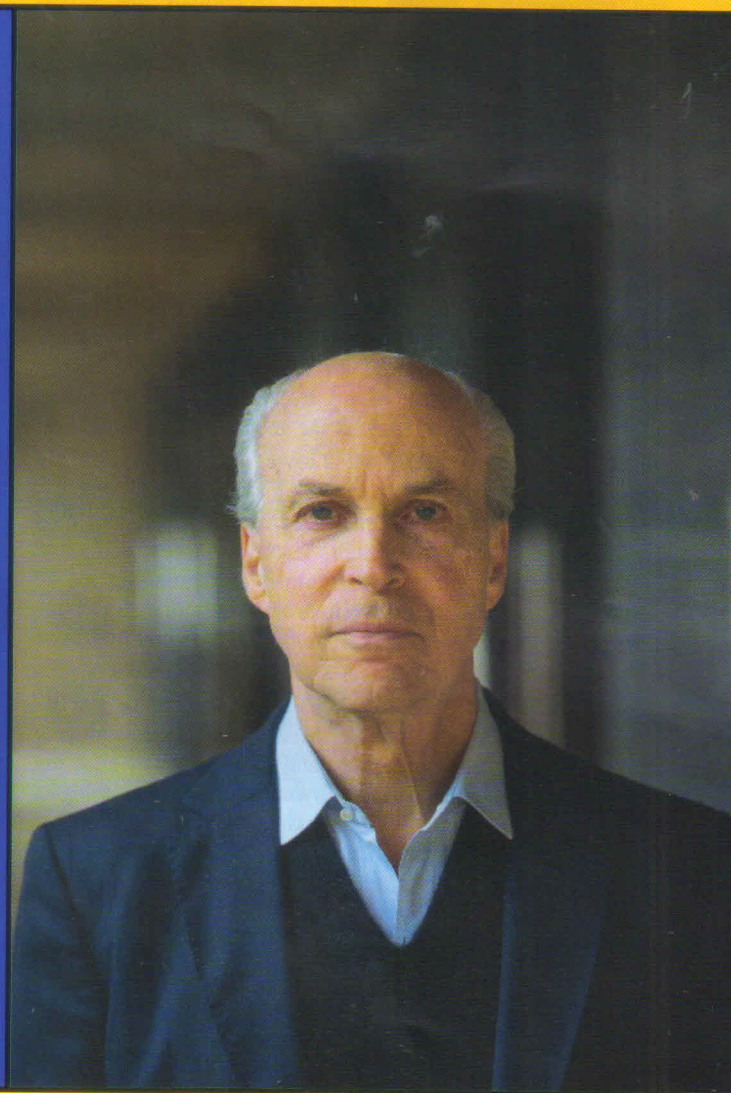


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Roger D Kornberg receiving his Nobel Prize from His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden at the Stockholm Concert Hall, 10 December 2006