

Frank Westheimer was born in 1912 in Baltimore, MD. He took his undergraduate degree at Dartmouth and his M.A. and Ph.D. at Harvard (1935). After completing postdoctoral studies at Columbia University as a National Research Fellow, he moved to the University of Chicago. Westheimer was on the faculty at the University of Chicago from 1936 to 1953. In 1953 Westheimer moved to Harvard, eventually becoming the Morris Loeb Professor (now Emeritus). Westheimer led the way in applying physical organic methods to biochemical reaction mechanisms. His work has been recognized by a long list of national and international awards including the National Medal of Science.

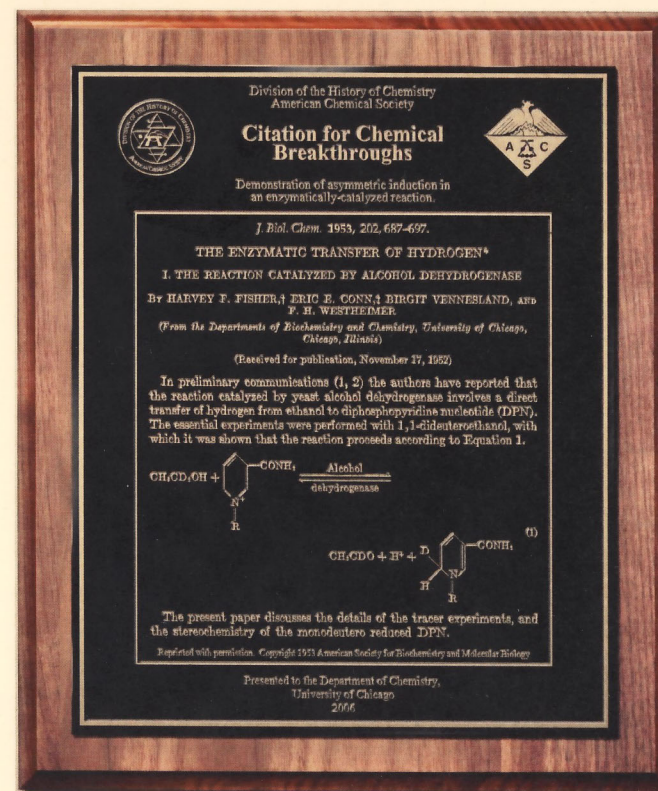


Birgit Vennesland was born in 1913 in Kristiansand, Norway. Vennesland entered the University of Chicago in 1930, where she majored in biochemistry and received her B.S. in 1934. She also did her graduate work at Chicago, obtaining her Ph.D. in 1938. She then went to Harvard to work with Baird Hastings. In 1941 she returned to the University of Chicago as an Instructor in the Biochemistry Department and began examining reactions of intermediary metabolism in plant tissues. She left the University of Chicago in 1968 and joined the Max Planck Institute. Birgit Vennesland died on October 15, 2001.

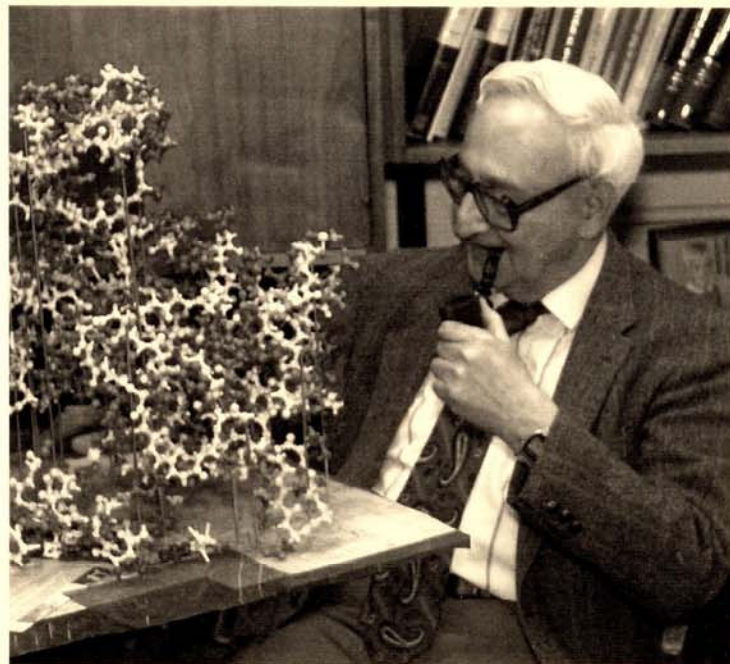
The University of Chicago Department of Chemistry



Alumni Reunion & ACS Division of the History of Chemistry Citation for Chemical Breakthroughs



March 26, 2007
Gordon Center for Integrative Sciences



Harvey F. Fisher was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1923. He obtained a B.S. in Chemistry from Western Reserve University in 1947, having served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Chicago in 1952 under the direction of Professors Birgit Vennesland and Frank H. Westheimer. After postdoctoral work under David Rittenberg at Columbia University and Robert Alberty at the University of Wisconsin, he served as an Instructor at the University of Massachusetts and as a Senior Scientist at the Edsel B. Ford Institute in Detroit. In 1963, he joined the Department of Biochemistry of the University of Kansas School of Medicine, where he is currently a Professor and Director of the Laboratory of Molecular Biochemistry at the Kansas City Veterans Administration. His research involves the application of physical, chemical, and biophysical approaches to the study of mechanisms of enzymatic catalysis.

PROGRAM

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. **Reunion Reception**
Kersten Family Atrium, 3rd Floor

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. **Award Presentation**
Kersten Family Conference Room, W303

Welcoming Remarks

Michael D. Hopkins

Professor and Chairman, Department of Chemistry

Description of the Citation

Jeffrey I. Seeman

past Chair, ACS Division of the History of Chemistry

Comments on "The Enzymatic Transfer of Hydrogen. I. The Reaction Catalyzed by Alcohol Dehydrogenase"

H. F. Fisher, E. C. Conn, B. Vennesland, F. H. Westheimer *J. Biol. Chem.* **1953**, 202, 687

Brice Bosnich

Gustavus F. and Anne M. Swift Distinguished Service Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus

"My Most Significant Chemical Discovery: The Mind of Frank Westheimer"

Harvey F. Fisher

Professor, Department of Biochemistry, University of Kansas, and Director, Laboratory of Molecular Biochemistry, Kansas City Veterans Administration

Presentation of the Citation