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December 5, 1979

Dear Drs. Meselson and Robinson:

We have a good opportunity to present your article in the April issue of Scientific American, which goes to press in about two months. This will of course entail some further traffic between us.

The April issue goes to press in about two months. We will shorly undertake to edit the article. As I have indicated, our proposals will not be trivial, but you will have ample opportunity to correct or further rework the edited copy. It should be in your hands in about a month.

While I am at it, I should like to ask you two minor favors. First, as one of you will remember, we like to present a brief biography of each of our authors. Could each of you give us the raw material from which we could prepare an up-to-date note about you? We would like not only the bare facts of your lives and scientific careers, but also something more. The reader would be interested to know, for example, about your major interests apart from the theme of your article.

Second, we also like to provide a brief bibliography for the benefit of the reader who may wish to push further into the subject of an article. Could you recommend perhaps half a dozen such references? Of course they may be articles, technical papers, books or passages in books.

I hope that it will not be inconvenient for you to put this biographical and bibliographic material in the mail to me by the end of next week (December 14). Even before then you may be hearing from my colleague Joseph Wisnovsky, who will probably have some questions about the text and the illustrations. We look forward to getting the article into print.

Sincerely,

Dennis Flanagan
Editor

DF:ap

Dr. Matthew Meselson
The Biological Laboratories
16 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

cc: Dr. Julian Perry Robinson

Curriculum Vitae MATTHEW MESELSON

Birthplace and Date:	Denver, Colorado; 24 May 1930.
Address:	The Biological Laboratories, 16 Divinity Avenue, Harvard University, Cambrdige, MA 02138 Tel: 617-495-2264.
Academic Background:	Thomas Dudley Cabot Professor of the Natural Sciences, Harvard University, 1976-.
	Professor of Biology, Harvard University, 1964-1976.
	Associate Professor of Molecular Biology, Harvard University, 1960-1964.
	Senior Research Fellow in Chemical Biology, California Institute of Technology, 1959-1960.
	Assistant Professor of Chemistry, California Institute of Technology, 1958-1959.
	Research Fellow, California Institute of Technology, 1957-1958.
	Ph.D., Physical Chemistry, California Institute of Technology, 1957.
	Ph.B., Liberal Arts, University of Chicago, 1951.
Awards and Honorary Degrees:	Leo Szilard Award, American Physical Society, 1978.
	Lehman Award, New York Academy of Sciences, 1975.
	D.Sc. (Hon.), University of Chicago, 1975.
	Alumni Distinguished Service Award, California Institute of Technology, 1975.
	Public Service Award, Federation of American Scientists, 1972.
	Alumni Medal, University of Chicago Alumni Association, 1971.
	D.Sc. (Hon.), Columbia University, 1971.
	D.Sc. (Hon.), Oakland University, 1966.
	Eli Lilly Award in Microbiology and Immunology, 1964.
	National Academy of Sciences Prize for Molecular Biology, 1963.
Professional and Honorary Societies:	Accademia Santa Chiara.
	American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
	American Association for the Advancement of Science.
	Council on Foreign Relations.
	Institute of Medicine.
	United States National Academy of Sciences.

1978 Leo Szilard Award: Matthew Meselson

The 1978 Leo Szilard Award of the Forum on Physics and Society is presented to Matthew Meselson. Thomas Dudley Cabot, Professor of the Natural Sciences at Harvard University, for outstanding accomplishment in promoting the use of the methods of physics for the benefit of society.

Professor Meselson is an example par excellence of an outstanding scientist who finds the time to devote a large measure of his considerable skills in the pursuit of the public interest. His selection for the Leo Szilard Award is intended both to draw the attention of young scientists to their potential for contribution to the humane use of science.

Professor Meselson was almost single-handedly responsible for the ratification by the United States of the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the prohibition of the use in war of poisonous gases and bacteriological methods of warfare. He also played a central role in the development of the positive efforts of the U.S. towards, and eventual U.S. approval of, the international Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons. As head of the American Association of Science's Herbicidal Assessment Commission to study the effects of such weapons in Vietnam, Professor Meselson's program of gathering and analysis of data provided irrefutable evidence for the desirability of U.S. acceptance of restraints on chemical and biological warfare.

Although Professor Meselson is working in the field of molecular biology, his connection with the community of physicists is close and longstanding. (His Ph.D thesis work in physical chemistry was directed by Linus Pauling, and his undergraduate major and much of his graduate training was in physics). Because of this identification and the much more profound identification of his accomplishment with the eclectic interests and example of the Leo Szilard, the Forum of Physics and Society of the American Physical Society respectfully presents Professor Matthew Meselson with the 1978 award in the name of Leo Szilard.

MATTHEW STANLEY MESELSON

Thomas Dudley Cabot Professor of The Natural Sciences
Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
(Biographical Sketch to 1978)

Matthew S. Meselson, who won international reputation for his demonstration of how DNA replicates itself in dividing cells and for his invention of an important ultracentrifugal method for analyzing the densities of giant molecules, is Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Harvard University.

Professor Meselson later showed that genetic recombination, the process by which genes from each parent contribute to the genetic makeup of offspring, results from splicing of DNA molecules. He also demonstrated the enzymatic basis of host-controlled restriction of DNA, a process by which cells recognize and destroy DNA from foreign species, and has contributed to the understanding of how cells repair mistakes in DNA. At present, he is studying the evolution and regulation of genes in higher organisms.

Born May 24, 1930, in Denver, Colorado, Dr. Meselson received the Ph.B. degree from the University of Chicago in 1951, and the Ph.D. degree from the California Institute of Technology in 1957. During the following year he was a research fellow at C.I.T., and from 1958 until he joined the Harvard faculty in 1960, was Assistant Professor of Physical Chemistry at C.I.T.

In 1962, he was elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and in 1968 was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. He is also a member of the Accademia Santa Chiara and the Council on Foreign Relations. In 1963, he received the Award in Molecular Biology from the National Academy of Sciences and in 1964 he received the Eli Lilly Award in Microbiology and Immunology. He has received the honorary degree of D.Sc. from Oakland College in 1966, from Columbia University in 1971, and from the University of Chicago in 1975. He was also awarded the Alumni Medal from the University of Chicago in 1971, the Public Service Award of the Federation of American Scientists in 1972, the Lehman Award of the New York Academy of Sciences in 1975, the Alumni Distinguished Service Award of the California Institute of Technology in 1975 and the Szilard Award of the American Physical Society in 1978.