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Witkowski



Jan A. Witkowski, Ph.D.

B.Sc. Zoology, University of Southampton, United Kingdom, 1968
 Ph.D. Biochemistry, University of London, United Kingdom, 1972
 Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London, 1972-1984
 Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, 1976
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 Watson School of Biological Sciences, Cold Spring Harbor
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Jan Witkowski is currently Executive Director of the Banbury Center at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and a Professor in the Watson School of Biological Sciences, the graduate school program at Cold Spring Harbor. He was educated at Handsworth Grammar School in Birmingham, UK, obtained his B.Sc. in Zoology at the University of Southampton, UK, and his Ph.D. in biochemistry at the National Institute for Medical Research, London, UK (Dr. William Brighton). He carried out postdoctoral research on Duchenne muscular dystrophy at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, London, (Professor Victor Dubowitz) and at the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota (Dr. Andrew Engel.)

In 1984, Dr. Witkowski went to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London to pursue research on oncogenes (Dr. Gordon Peters.) In 1986, he was invited to join the Institute for Molecular Genetics, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston (Dr. C. Thomas Caskey), where he ran a laboratory performing DNA-based diagnosis of human genetic diseases.

Dr. Witkowski moved to his present position at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in 1987. As director of the Banbury Center, he is responsible for the topics and organization of some 20 meetings each year. These cover molecular and cell biology; genetics; biotechnology; and societal issues of modern biology. Dr. Witkowski is also an editor on the [Image Archive on the American Eugenics Movement](#) and [DNA from the Beginning](#) projects.

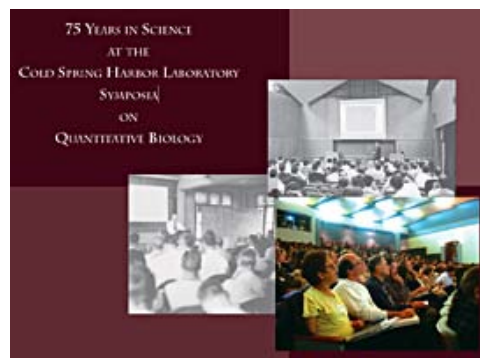
His special interests are human molecular genetics, the interaction of science and society, and the history of modern experimental biology. He has published many papers on these topics and was a coauthor with Dr. James D. Watson, co-

discoverer of the DNA double helix, of the book *Recombinant DNA: Second Edition*. The third edition of this, *Recombinant DNA: Genes & Genomes - A Short Course*, was published in 2007. He has edited and contributed to ten other books.

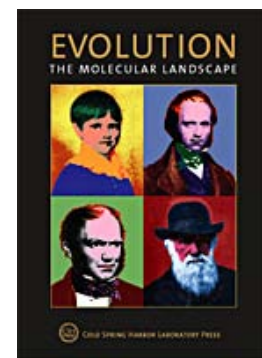
Dr. Witkowski is on the Faculty of the [Watson School of Biological Sciences](#), a former member of its Executive Committee (1999-2004) and a former instructor of the Scientific Ethics and Exposition course. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the James A. Baker Veterinary Research Institute (Cornell University) and Editor-in-Chief of *Trends in Biochemical Sciences*.

He used to be a keen [rockclimber](#), leading hard very severe grade (equivalent to American 5.8/5.9). This activity has been curtailed by family responsibilities and by the absence of rock on Long Island. Witkowski enjoys music greatly, ranging from Dylan, the Rolling Stones and Yazoo, through Brahms, Dvorak, and Mahler, to Bellini, Donizetti and Verdi, and especially the bel canto singing of Joan Sutherland. His favorite authors include George Eliot, Charles Dickens, Henry James, Lawrence Durrell and Iris Murdoch.

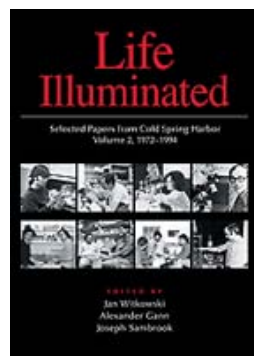
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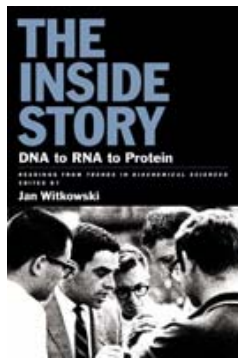
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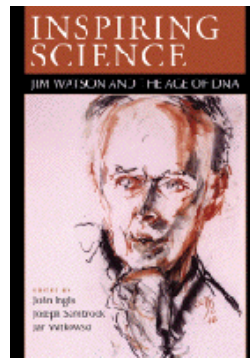
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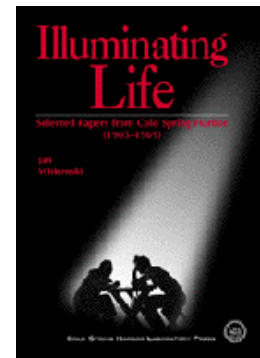
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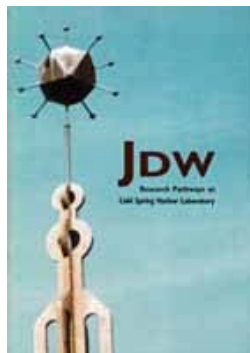
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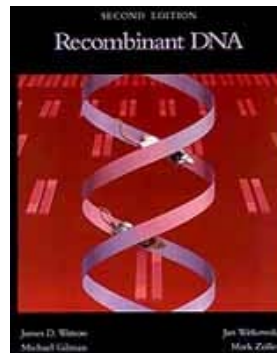
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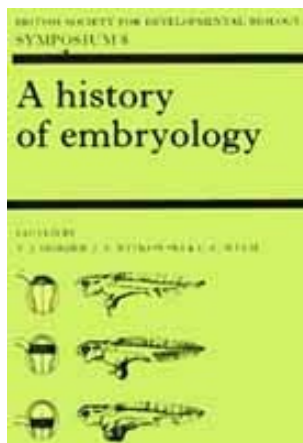
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<http://library.cshl.edu/symposia/>

<http://www.eugenicsarchive.org/eugenics/>

Scientific editor, *DNA from the Beginning: AN Animated Primer on the Basics of DNA, Genes and Heredity*
<http://www.dnafb.org/dnafb/credits.html>

Exhibitions

Places & Spaces: Mapping Science, New York Public Library, HistCite Visualization of DNA Development, by Eugene Garfield (HistCite), Elisha Hardy and Katy B?rner (Graphic Design), Ludmila Pollock (Images) and Jan Witkowski (Text)

Advisory Committee, New York Public Library: Seeking the Secret of Life: The DNA Story in New York
<http://library.cshl.edu/DNAinNY/>

Advisory Committee, New York Public Library: Honest Jim: James D. Watson the Writer

Committees

New York State Panel to Study "Genetic Fingerprinting" (1988-1989)

New York State Scientific Review Board - DNA Fingerprinting in Forensic Science (1992-1993)

National Research Council: Committee on Sharing Laboratory Resources (1992-93)

Member, The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives (1992-)

National Park Service, Letterman (Presidio, San Francisco) Design Group (1993-1994)

Advisory Council, James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health, Cornell University (1998-)

Member, The MAD Scientist Network (1997-)

Fred Friendly Seminars, "Our Genes/Our Choices" Advisory Board (2001-2002)

Bioinformatics Advisory Committee, Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (2001-2002)

New York Bar Association Task Force on Wrongful Convictions (2009-)

Editorial Work

Editor-in-Chief, *Trends in Biochemical Sciences*

Editor of "Reflections" column in *Trends in Biochemical Sciences*

Former member of the editorial board of *The Journal of NIH Research*

Former member of the editorial board of *Genes & Development* from 1988 to 1991.

Special Advisor, "Encyclopedia of the Life Sciences", Macmillan Reference Ltd.

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