



Curriculum Vitae Professor Dr Ellen Fanning



Image: private

Name: Ellen Fanning

Life Dates: 10 April 1946 - 1 September 2013

Research Priorities: Molecular biology, human genetics, DNA replication, molecular virology

Ellen Fanning was a professor of biological sciences. She was notable for her many important contributions to molecular virology and chromosome replication in mammals. Ellen Fanning did much of this work at the Institute of Biochemistry at the LMU München in Munich, Germany, before she transferred to Vanderbilt University in the United States. Alongside her research on the regulation of DNA replication, which delivered discoveries regarding the causes of illnesses, Ellen Fanning received special recognition for her long-term commitment to her students.

Academic and Professional Career

1999 - 2002	Chair, Department of Molecular Biology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA
since 1995	Team Leader and Stevenson Professor of Biological Sciences, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA
1981	Team Leader, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) München, Munich, Germany
1977 - 1981	Lecturer and Habilitation in Biological Sciences, University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany
1977	PhD in Genetics, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany
1971 - 1977	Scientist, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany
1971 - 1974	Degree in Biology, University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany
1968 - 1971	Scientist, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, USA
1968	Degree in Chemistry, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, USA

Functions in Scientific Societies and Committees

since 2010	Member, American Academy of Microbiology, USA
since 2008	Member, Shaw Scientist Advisory Board, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Milwaukee, USA
since 2007	Member, American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS), USA
since 2006	Member, Editorial Board, The Journal of Biological Chemistry, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, USA
since 1995	Member, European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), Heidelberg, Germany

Project Coordination, Membership in Collaborative Research Projects

since 2002	Founder and Head, Undergraduate Research Program “Community of Scholars”, Vanderbilt University, Howard Hughes Medical Institute-Initiative, Chevy Chase, USA
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Honours and Awarded Memberships

2010	Member, American Academy of Microbiology, USA
2008	Humboldt Research Award, Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation, Bonn, Germany
2007	Member, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Germany
2006	Chancellor’s Award for Research, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA
2005	Chancellor’s Cup, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA

Research priorities

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Ellen Fanning became renowned primarily for her research on T antigens, regulatory proteins encoded by SV40 and tumour antigens of the polyomavirus simian virus 40. By means of genome mapping and structure-function analyses of SV40 DNA replication proteins, her laboratory was able to learn more about the damage to host DNA during a virus infection. Fanning’s research focused on chromosome replication in mammal cells. The control of DNA replication is one of the key processes in cell cycle regulation. A dysregulation is a significant causal factor for a variety of

human diseases, including cancer. The goal of her research was to understand the mechanisms controlling DNA replication in mammals down to the molecular level.

Alongside her research achievements, she excelled in her commitment to students as part of the Howard Hughes Undergraduate Research Program and was able to pass on practical research experience. Many of her former graduate students went on to pursue careers in science and medicine.