Aaron Klug was born in Želva, Lithuania but moved to Durban, South Africa (at the age of two), where he grew up. He earned his MA at the University of Cape Town, where he started with X-ray crystallography under R. James, who had worked with Bragg. Klug then moved to Cambridge in 1948, where he earned his PhD under D. Hartree in 1952. Denied a US visa, he went to Birkbeck College, London in 1953 where he met Rosalind Franklin, who sparked his interest in science. In 1962, he moved to MRC in Cambridge and became Director of the LMB at MRC in 1960 to 1983. He was President of the Royal Society from 1995 to 2000. He received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1982 "for his development of general virus structure

General virus structure

Chromatin -- "zinc fingers"

Klug became actively involved in the development of the first 3D reconstruction technique for electron microscopy in 1959, which later resulted in establishing the principles of symmetrical patterns in viruses. His work in structural biology and cryo-electron microscopy was groundbreaking and led to the discovery of zinc fingers, which are critical components of the genome regulation and gene manipulation. Klug was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1988.

Selected publications


1999 Chemistry: Ahmed Zewail (DTEM)

1986 Physics: Ernst Ruska, Gerd Binnig, Heinrich Rohrer (EM and STM)

1982 Chemistry: Aaron Klug (3-D reconstruction)

1974 Physiology or Medicine: Albert Claude, Cristian de Duve, George Palade (Cell Biology)

1971 Physics: Dennis Gabor (holography)

1953 Physics: Frits Zernike (phase plates)

1925 Chemistry: Richard Zsigmondy (ultramicroscope)

Acknowledgements

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