

Biography



Dr. Jack W Szostak

Professor of Genetics, Harvard Medical School
Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Harvard University
Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Distinguished Investigator, Massachusetts General Hospital
2009 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine

Dr. Szostak is an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Professor of Genetics at Harvard Medical School, Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Harvard University, and the Alex Rich Distinguished Investigator in the Dept. of Molecular Biology and the Center for Computational and Integrative Biology at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Dr. Szostak's early research on telomere structure and function, and the role of telomere maintenance in preventing cellular senescence was recognized by the 2006 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award and the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

In the 1990s Dr. Szostak and his colleagues developed *in vitro* selection as a tool for the isolation of functional RNA, DNA and protein molecules from large pools of random sequences. Dr. Szostak's current research interests are in the laboratory synthesis of self-replicating systems and the origin of life.