

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Paul R. Schimmel

Class of 1962

With Pride, we present Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation to Dr. Paul R. Schimmel in recognition of his exceptional career as a scientific researcher, educator, and entrepreneur. Paul Schimmel graduated from Ohio Wesleyan in 1962 and soon after enrolled in the Tufts University School of Medicine. In 1963, he elected to join the graduate program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and worked closely with his mentor Gordon Hammes with whom he developed an interest in the thermodynamics and chemical kinetics of biological molecules. He received his Ph.D. from MIT in 1966 and shortly after accepted a position at Stanford University to conduct postdoctoral research. He returned to MIT in 1967 and remained on the faculty for 30 years serving as an Assistant and Associate Professor of Biology and Chemistry, a Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics, and the John D. and Catherine D. MacArthur Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics.

Paul Schimmel currently serves as the Ernest and Jean Hahn Professor at The Skaggs Institute for Chemical Biology at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California. He continues to research the minute forms and intricate functions of molecular biology in an effort to better understand how life works. He currently leads a team of researchers at "The Schimmel Lab" in investigating the components in cells that are responsible for protein synthesis and the genetic code. By better understanding how these components interact with one another, Paul Schimmel and his team hope to learn how they might be used to turn off a variety of disease processes, including infectious microorganisms, viruses, and cancers. He was elected to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences and is the author or co-author of more than 400 scientific papers and has been the recipient of the Biophysical Society's Emily M. Gray Award for his "significant contributions to teaching and education in biophysics." He is also the author of a widely used three volume textbook on biophysical chemistry and has received numerous academic honors including an Alfred P. Sloan fellowship, American Academy of Arts and Science fellowship, American Association for Advancement of Science fellowship and National Institutes of Health Merit Award. He has also been active in numerous scientific and academic organizations and has served on the editorial boards of ten scientific journals. In 1996, Paul received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Ohio Wesleyan University.

In addition to his research and teaching achievements, Paul Schimmel is the co-founder of among others, Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Alkermes Inc. and the Repligen Corporation. Like his scientific research, his focus in working with these ventures has been part of his long-standing interest in utilizing innovative biomedical research in an effort to promote overall public health. Such efforts are directed to developing new therapies for human diseases and disorders.

We join his reunioning classmates, including his wife Cleo Ritz Schimmel who is also a member of the Class of 1962, in saluting Paul Schimmel and recognizing his outstanding accomplishments through the presentation of this Distinguished Achievement Award.

