

About the Author



Born 1929, Prof. Werner Arber is a well known microbiologist. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1978 for the discovery of restriction enzymes and their application to problems of molecular genetics. The discovery of restriction enzymes provided new tools for the detailed chemical analysis of the mechanism of gene action and opened new paths to genetic engineering and gene therapy.

From 1949 to 1953, he studied towards the diploma in Natural Sciences at the Swiss Polytechnical School in Zurich. He earned his Ph.D. in 1958 and took faculty position in 1960 at the University of Geneva. After serving as the faculty at Geneva from 1960 to 1970, he became professor of molecular biology at Biozentrum Research Institute, University of Basel, Switzerland in 1971. He received several awards and honors including the Platanour-Prevost prize of the University of Geneva (1962) and a grant from Swiss National Science Foundation (1965-1970). He has also served as the President (1996-1999) of the International Council for Science (ICS), a worldwide non-governmental organization of scientists. He had contributed several papers in the *Journal of Molecular Evolution*, *Molecular Genetics and Genomics* etc., and has edited the book *Genetic Manipulation: Impact on Man and Society* (1984).