

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with William Walden

PERSON

Walden, William , 1954-

Alternative Names: Walden, William , 1954-;

Life Dates: October 13, 1954-

Place of Birth: Washington, District of Columbia

Residence: Oak Park, IL

Occupations: Biology Professor; Molecular Biologist

Biographical Note

Molecular biologist and biology professor William Walden was born in 1954 in Washington, D.C. to George Ray Walden and Erma Lucille Walden. After graduating from Suitland High School in 1972, he received his B.S. degree in biology from Morgan State University in 1976. During college, Walden worked as a research assistant for the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, Baltimore Cancer Research Program. Walden went on to earn his Ph.D. degree in molecular biology from Washington University in St. Louis in 1983. His final dissertation was entitled, "mRNA Competition in vivo."

In 1987, Walden started his over twenty-year career at the University of Illinois at Chicago as an assistant professor in the College of Medicine's Department of Microbiology and Immunology. He was a recipient of the Scheppe Foundation Career Development award from 1988 to 1991. In 1992, Walden was promoted to associate professor and associate department head of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. He began working with the Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) in 1994, where he chaired the steering committee. Since 2004, Walden has held

the position of full professor. In 2006 and 2007, he served as co-chair of the Campus Promotion and Tenure Committee. Walden was a fellow of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation-Academic Leadership Program from 2006 to 2007, which mentors administrators for higher leadership opportunities. Since 2006, he has served as director of the Office of Graduate Diversity Programs, which works to increase the number of underrepresented students who successfully earn a Ph.D. degree in the College of Medicine. In 2007, Walden became the Special Assistant to the Provost for Diversity. His research focuses on cellular iron regulation and iron-related gene expression in eukaryotes. Walden has published numerous scientific research articles including his 2006 paper, "Structure of Dual Function Iron Regulatory Protein 1 Complexed with Ferritin IRE-RNA," which was published in the journal, "Science".

In addition to his research, Walden has mentored many graduate researchers, and has served on NIH grant review panels and as a peer reviewer for top scientific journals including, "Science," "EMBO Journal, Blood, and Journal of Biological Chemistry". William Walden lives in Oak Park, Illinois and has two adult children, William A. Walden and Michael D. Walden.

William Walden was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 21, 2012.

Related Entries

Walden, Nellie Mae [GRANDCHILD**OF**]
Grandmother (P)

Ross, Leatha M. [SIBLING**OF**]
Sister

Walden, Michael D. [SIBLING**OF**]
Brother

Walden, George Ray [CHILD**OF**]
Father

Powell, Leatha Jane [GRANDCHILD**OF**]
Grandmother (M)

Powell, John Edward [GRANDCHILD**OF**]
Grandfather (M)

Walden, Erma Lucille [CHILD**OF**]
Mother

Walden, Michael D. [PARENT**OF**]
Daughter

Walden, Jr., George Ray [SIBLINGOF]
Brother

Walden, William A. [PARENTOF]
Son

Walden, William Anthony [GRANDCHILDOF]
Grandfather (P)

Morgan State University [STUDENTOF]
B.S.

Washington University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1983-05]
Ph.D.

Brooks Road Elementary [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1966-06]
Diploma

Suitland High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to 1976-05]

NIH, NCI, Baltimore Cancer Research Program [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1974 to 1975]
Research Assistant

NASA-Ames Research Center [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1975 to 1975]
Research Assistant

Washington University, St. Louis [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1976 to 1987]
Graduate Research Assistant

USDA [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1976 to 1976]
Research Assistant

Washington University, St. Louis [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to 1987]
Research Associate

University of Illinois at Chicago [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1987 to 1992]

Assistant Professor

University of Illinois at Chicago [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1992 to 2004]

Associate Professor

University of Illinois at Chicago [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1992 to 1997]

Associate Department Head, Microbiology and Immunology

University of Illinois at Chicago [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2004 to ?]

Professor

University of Illinois at Chicago [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2006 to ?]

Director Graduate Diversity Programs: College of Medicine

University of Illinois at Chicago [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2007 to ?]

Special Assistant to the Provost for Diversity

NIH, Molecular Cellular Hematology Study Section [MEMBEROF]
Member

NIH, Metallobiochemistry Study Section [MEMBEROF]
Member

Leukemia Research Foundation [MEMBEROF]
Member

AAAS [MEMBEROF]
Member