



Ada E. Yonath

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Born in Jerusalem in 1939, Yonath grew up in unfavorable conditions, losing her father at the age of eleven and having to work to contribute to the family income. She attended the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she obtained a BSc in 1962 and an MSc in chemistry, biochemistry and biophysics in 1964. Her doctoral research was carried out at the Weizmann Institute in Israel.

She did her postdoctoral fellowship between 1968 and 1969 at the Mellon Institute in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), both in the USA. Upon her return to the Weizmann Institute, Yonath established a biological crystallography laboratory, the first of its kind in the country. She focused on determining the 3-D structure of the ribosome in order to better understand its functioning — a task that took over twenty years to be accomplished.

Her research was carried out in collaboration with Heinz-Günter Wittmann from the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, Berlin. She was the head of the Max Planck Research Unit in Hamburg between 1986 and 2004 and visiting professor or scientist at various universities from Chile to Alabama. In 1989, Yonath became the director of the Helen and Milton A. Kimmelman Center for the Study of Biomolecular Structure and Assembly at the Weizmann Institute (founded in 1988), a position that she still holds today.

WORK CITED

“Ada E. Yonath - Biographical” (2014), *Nobelprize.org*, Nobel Media AB, <http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/chemistry/laureates/2009/yonath-bio.html> (last accessed 19 Jul. 2016).