

File Name: Roundt.

Avery Roundtable

4pm Feb. 3 94

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This event marks the date on which half a century ago the the paper of Avery, MacLeod and McCarty appeared, in which they claimed that the **Transforming Principle** "consists principally, if not solely, of a highly polymerized, viscous form of desoxyribonucleic acid." It is our privilege to have with us several of those who played a decisive part in strengthening the evidence and in opening up the consequences of that claim, including one who also played so decisive a part in the original discovery, Dr. McCarty.

Our aim today is to return to those times, to recall how the 1944 paper influenced the members of our panel, to describe the uncertainties, doubts, and hopes they had, and to indicate **briefly** the important lines of research which they took up. They will reflect on the significance of the period between 1944 and the early 1950s. What lessons can the young researcher today take away from this episode? Is it characteristic of the manner in which science develops? How cautious should scientists be in making claims for the significance of their work? How do you compute the risk of changing your research program?

Program of Roundtable:

The moderator will give a brief introduction to bacterial transformation in 1944, after which a question on the general theme of the impact of the Avery paper will be given to each member of the roundtable. How did they react to it and what

effect did it have on their research plans? The order of the panel will be as follows:

1. Dr. Cohen
2. Dr. Chargaff
3. Dr. McCarty
4. Dr. Hotchkiss
5. Dr. Hershey
6. Dr. Lederberg

This will lead on to discussion between members of the panel, and if there is time some questions will be taken from the floor. Drs. Cohen and Chargaff will deal with the situation outside the Rockefeller, Drs. McCarty and Hotchkiss will be concerned with their work in the Rockefeller, and Drs. Hershey and Lederberg will concentrate on developments in phage biology and bacterial genetics respectively.

Timing: Introductions etc.	7 min.
Convenor	13
Panel questions	
@ 10 min each	60
 General panel discussion	 10

1 hr. 30 min.

Any remaining time for
questions from floor max. 15 min ?

5.45 pm.