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Paul W. Sternberg is Bren Professor of Biology at the California Institute of Technology. He joined the Caltech faculty in 1987 after postdoctoral research in yeast molecular genetics with Ira Herskowitz at UCSF. He received his Ph.D. in Biology from MIT in 1984 for work on nematode development with H.R. Horvitz, and his B.A. from Hampshire College in 1978. He was an Investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute from 1989 to 2017, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences since 2000, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences since 2009. He is lead-PI of WormBase and the Alliance of Genome Resources, a PI of the Gene Ontology Consortium, and has served on the U.S. National Advisory Council for Genome Research, and as President of the Genetics Society of America. His research focuses on the systems biology, genetics and genomics of *Caenorhabditis elegans* and other nematodes.