

Charles G. Kurland

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Charles Kurland received his PhD in Biochemistry from Harvard University in 1961, and did postdoctoral work at the Microbiology Institute of the University of Copenhagen. Since 1971, he has been a Professor of Molecular Biology at Uppsala University, Sweden. Professor Kurland has been a member of the European Molecular Biology Organization since 1994, and has represented Sweden on the Councils of both the EMBC and the EMBL (1989-1992). He has been chairman of several national councils and committees, and is a member of the Royal Science Society, Uppsala, the Royal Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, the Royal Academy of Sciences, Copenhagen, the Estonian Academy of Science, Tallinn, and the Royal Physiographical Society, Lund. Professor Kurland has published more than 170 scientific papers, among them a series of signal papers on the biochemistry and biophysics of the ribosome. His prominence in this field was witnessed by his contribution to the authoritative text *The Ribosome*¹. Kurland's study of the *E. coli* ribosome is, however, but part of a career devoted to the molecular biology of bacteria, the most recent avenues of which have led him to study the evolution of endoparasitic bacteria and cellular organelles. Professor Kurland continues to be an enthusiastic promoter of molecular biology, whilst taking a keen interest in the communication of science to the public. As well as chairing the EMBO committee on

Science and Society, he co-wrote the EMBO statement on genetically modified organisms and the public, which was published in February this year, and which is the starting point for the EMBO on-line discussion forum on GMOs.

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