

David A. Watson, Ph.D.

Dr. Watson completed a Ph.D. in Microbiology at the Institute for Molecular Biology of the University of Houston in 1991. He previously earned a B.S. in Biology at Millikin University in 1981 (Magna Cum Laude), and an M.S. in Marine Biology in 1986, also at the University of Houston.

While working toward his doctoral degree, Dr. Watson served as Chief Research Technician and Lab Manager for the Infectious Diseases Research Laboratories of the Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He was next a postdoctoral fellow at Baylor College of Medicine and at the Eijkman-Winkler Institute for Medical and Clinical Microbiology at Utrecht University in The Netherlands. Following this, Dr. Watson served on the faculty of the Department of Veterinary and Microbiological Sciences at North Dakota State University. Dr. Watson then returned to Texas, where he was an Assistant Professor of Microbiology at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

For the past nearly eight years he has been Program Manager for Peer Review for the NASA-funded National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI; headquartered at Baylor College of Medicine). While serving in this capacity, he has not only administered the review of nearly 700 scientific research and educational outreach proposals, but has also completed three terms as the elected Executive Secretary of the NSBRI Industry Forum, a group of mainly Fortune 500 aerospace and pharmaceutical companies interested in commercialization of nascent Institute technologies. Dr. Watson is currently a reviewer of grant proposals for numerous federal agencies, of manuscripts for several scientific journals, and of proposed new technologies for venture capital investment groups.

Since moving to the NSBRI, Dr. Watson has also been a very active and involved Adjunct Associate Professor at UTMB, both in teaching medical and graduate students, and in publishing novel research findings in the area of environmental control of gene expression in the extremely important human bacterial pathogen *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Promotion of Dr. Watson to Adjunct Professor at UTMB is currently in process.

Dr. Watson and his wife of 22 years, Fay Watson, have four children, ages 18, 15, 11, and 8. In his free time he serves as the President of the Board of Trustees of the Pearland, Texas Independent School District, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Houston-Galveston Area Council, and as a member of the Executive Board of the Bay Area Council (for Southeast Texas) of the Boy Scouts of America. He is also a regular monthly columnist for BayRunner magazine (Kemah, Texas) on the broad topic of science in the public interest.

*For additional biographical detail please see: <http://home.houston.rr.com/doctorwatson/index.htm>