

STATEMENT OF TEACHING INTERESTS AND PHILOSOPHY

David A. Watson, Ph.D.

9 June 2005

I am firmly committed to excellence in teaching, and very interested in continuous improvement of my lectures and my informal teaching style. I believe in grading fairly and in asking students to express themselves clearly using both written and oral means. I feel strongly that teaching (the dissemination of existing knowledge), research (the creation of new knowledge), and service (the facilitation of the academic enterprise) are all equally vital to the success of higher education, and I therefore endeavor to carry out each of these functions to the very best of my ability. My lectures are consistently rated among the very best by medical students at the University of Texas Medical Branch; last summer, for example, I was chosen by a committee of first year students to deliver the keynote lecture to the National Youth Leadership Forum on the UTMB campus.

I have taught greater than 1000 students at various levels from college freshmen to medical and graduate students in more than 20 different courses in both university and medical school environments. This include a number of microbiology courses, as well as molecular biology and genetics courses, journal clubs and seminar series, and laboratory courses (see appended course list below).

In addition, I have served as a mentor for numerous student research projects. I have assisted young people in a wide variety of settings and at various levels, to date totaling more than 20 junior high school, high school and undergraduate students, and 11 graduate and medical students. In many cases, individuals with whom I have worked have won awards for their efforts.

I have also contributed to the education of a large and diverse group of students participating in summer research participation programs. I have done this as director of the Summer Undergraduate Research Program at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) from 1996 to 1997, and currently as director of UTMB's Summer High School Student Research Program. These Howard Hughes Medical Institute-funded efforts continue to function as highly successful programs that together host upwards of 50 students per summer from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds and from all across the United States.

Lecture Courses:

Microorganisms and Infectious Disease
Pathobiology of Human Disease
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Medicine
Advanced Bacterial Pathogenesis
Microbial and Molecular Genetics
Advanced Molecular Biological Techniques
Medical Microbiology
Microbiology for Pharmacology Students
Molecular Recognition in Infection & Immunity
Pathogenesis of Infectious Diseases

Laboratory Courses:

Introductory Microbiology
Medical Microbiology
Cellular Physiology
Plant Physiology
Mycology
Introduction to Biology

Seminar/Journal Club Coordination and Course Direction:

Microbiology & Immunology Graduate Student Seminar
Medical Microbiology Laboratory
Weekly Research Conference/Journal Club
Weekly Seminar Series
Senior Biology Seminar
Introduction to Molecular Biology
Pathogenesis of Infectious Diseases

Special Lectures:

Pre-Matriculation Introduction to Medical School Lecture: Introduction to Bacteria.
USMLE Step 1 Exam Review Team Lecture: Gram Positive Bacteria.
Keynote Lecture, National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, UTMB