



Suzanne Walker, PhD

Professor

Microbiology

Harvard Medical School

New Developments in Assembly of the Staphylococcal Cell Envelope

Suzanne Walker is Professor of Microbiology at Harvard Medical School and an affiliate of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Harvard University. After receiving a B. A. in English Literature at the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at Princeton, she joined the faculty at Princeton as an Instructor of Chemistry in 1995. She was promoted directly to Associate Professor with tenure in 2001 and to Professor of Chemistry in 2003. She joined the faculty at Harvard Medical School in 2004. She has been Director of the Harvard University Chemical Biology Ph.D. program since 2011 and is an associate editor for the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

Professor Walker is known for her work on bacterial cell envelope biosynthesis and on O-GlcNAc transferase (OGT). She is an expert on antibiotic mechanism of action and has pioneered approaches to discover and characterize new antibiotic targets and compounds that inhibit them. Her research is characterized by the creative integration of chemistry and biology.

Professor Walker has received a number of awards, including an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship, the Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award, the Emil Thomas Kaiser Award in Protein Chemistry, the Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award, the ACS Chemical Biological Lectureship Award, and the Society for Glycobiology President's Innovator Award. She has also been honored with several distinguished lectureships, including a Frontiers in Chemistry Distinguished Lecturer (Scripps, 2016), the Ada Doisy Lectureship in Biochemistry (University of Illinois, 2015), the Mary Sue Coleman Lectureship in the Life Sciences (University of Michigan, 2016), the T.Y. Shen Distinguished Lectureship in Biological Chemistry (MIT, 2016), the Andrew Braisted Award Lecture in Chemical Biology (Joint UC Berkeley/UCSF lectureship, 2017), the NIH Director's WALSH Lectureship (Bethesda, 2017), the I.M. Koltoff Lectureship in Chemistry (University of Minnesota, 2019), and the Irwin Goldstein Lectureship in Glycobiology (University of Michigan, 2019). Professor Walker was elected to the American Society of Microbiology (2019), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2020), and the National Academy of Sciences (2020).

Keynote presenter

Of all her professional achievements, Professor Walker is most proud of being a pretty good mentor to her many wonderful students, past and present.