

Steven L. McKnight, Ph.D.



Dr. Steven McKnight is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. He also holds the Distinguished Chair in Basic Biomedical Research and the Sam G. Winstead and F. Andrew Bell Distinguished Chair in Biochemistry.

Dr. McKnight received his B.A. from the University of Texas and his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Virginia in 1977. He then moved to the Carnegie Institute of Washington, Department of Embryology in Baltimore as a postdoctoral fellow and was subsequently appointed as a staff member. He was also appointed as an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in 1988. At the Carnegie Institution, Dr. McKnight made numerous key contributions to understanding the molecular basis of viral gene transcription and of gene regulation in mammalian cells. In 1991, he left his position at the Carnegie Institution to co-found Tularik, a biotechnology company focused on identifying drugs that target gene expression. He returned to academia in 1995, becoming Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry UT Southwestern Medical Center the following year. His current research centers on the role of a cell's metabolic state in regulating different biological pathways.

Recognition of Dr. McKnight's many contributions include election to the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the Eli Lilly Award of the American Society of Microbiology, the Newcomb-Cleveland Award of the AAAS, and the Monsanto Award of the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. McKnight has served on many important committees and advisory boards and is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and the Scientific Advisory Board of the Institute of Molecular Pathology in Vienna.

