
Joan A. Steitz, Ph.D.



Dr. Joan A. Steitz is currently the Sterling Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry at Yale University and since 1986 has been an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Dr. Steitz obtained her bachelor of science degree in Chemistry from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio and a Ph.D. from Harvard University where she did her thesis work with James D. Watson. She was a Jane Coffin Child Postdoctoral Fellow at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, England before joining the faculty of Yale University as an Assistant Professor in 1967. Her research has led to numerous seminal discoveries including the mechanisms of ribosomal recognition of the prokaryotic mRNA, the role of small nuclear RNAs (snRNA) in splicing, and the contribution of nucleolar RNAs (snoRNA) in RNA modification and processing. Her work has been recognized by many awards including the Warren Triennial Prize, the Lewis S. Rosenstiel Award, the Rosalind E. Franklin Award for Women in Science from the National Cancer Institute, and the Gairdner Foundation International Award. She was a 1986 recipient of the National Medal of Science.

Dr. Steitz serves as a member of the editorial boards of *Science*, *Genes and Development*, and *RNA*. She is a past scientific director of the Jane Coffin Child Fund for Medical Research. She currently serves on the Board of Overseers of Harvard University and the selection boards of the Wiley Prize and the Lasker Medical Research Award. She is a member of the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Academy of Sciences.

