

Dennis Brown  
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My name is Dennis Brown, I am professor of Microbiology and Director of the Cell Research Institute at the University of Texas at Austin. I received my Ph.D. degree in 1967 from one of the first departments of molecular biology that was created in the United States. I have been an independent scientist practicing molecular biology for over 20 years. I have served on the faculties of the Department of Biology at Dartmouth College, the Department of Cell Biology at the University of Maryland Medical Center and I have been professor of genetics at the University of Cologne in Germany. During this period, I have had the opportunity to work in, and visit, laboratories dedicated to research in molecular biology on two continents. I have often been impressed with the fact that certain of these institutions excel in their ability to recruit and retain the very best scientists from all over the world. The success of these research groups is due, in large part, to the buildings which they occupy. Two of these organizations come immediately to mind. One is the European Laboratory for Molecular Biology in Heidelberg, and another is the Max Plank Institute in Gottingen, both in Germany. These buildings are major recruiting assets for two primary reasons. Firstly, they are architecturally beautiful and have been designed to blend harmoniously with, and complement, their surrounding environment. Indeed, members of the EMBO Laboratory in Heidelberg who travel to other institutions begin their lectures with slides showing the

EMBO labs in an autumn setting, or under freshly fallen snow. The impact of this illustration is to render the audience green with envy of the beautiful house in which these people live and work. Secondly, inside, these buildings are marvels of functional efficiency. The laboratories have been designed to optimize the interprofessional interactions among the various scientific groups and to absolutely minimize the necessity for redundant acquisition of expensive laboratory apparatus. Invariably, this efficiency is accomplished by distributing the research laboratories in a horizontal configuration and minimizing the necessity for vertical movement of members of the research staff. The buildings that I refer to are two and three stories tall. The construction of high-rise research buildings, or research towers, has exactly the opposite effect. They minimize group interactions and maximize the necessity for the acquisition of identical pieces of scientific equipment, thereby reducing the actual usable research space. Molecular biology is a technologically intensive science, requiring apparatus similar to that of the computer sciences in the respect that it is frequently outdated shortly after it is installed. In order to minimize the necessity to duplicate expenses, scientists in different research groups attempt to, whenever possible, share pieces of expensive, highly specialized apparatus. I can assure you from personal experience that nothing will raise the anxiety level of a research scientist faster than witnessing a graduate student, postdoctorate, or technician heading for a stairwell with an ice bucket containing a \$5,000 experiment. The inevitable

stumbling on the stairs, fumbling to open fire doors, or having fire doors pushed into them by another individual headed toward your laboratory can result in the emptying of the contents of this ice bucket and any associated radioactive, biohazardous, or noxious materials onto the floor or onto the people involved. The construction of the molecular biology building on the selected site will provide the architecturally attractive, and functionally efficient structure to which I refer. It will be a major asset in recruiting some of the best scientists practicing molecular biology to The University of Texas. The establishment of a high quality, highly visible, molecular biology research group on the Austin campus will, as has been the case with the development of computer sciences, draw biotechnology research firms to Texas, for it is absolutely true that all of the individuals who work in this new and rapidly expanding industry are trained in molecular biology departments of the type planned for this building. The only design and construction site which our committees at The University have considered which would match or exceed the design that you have seen in these essential qualities are those designs which require the total demolition of the Anna Hiss Gymnasium. I feel, and I think my colleagues also feel, that the compromise we have reached is an excellent one. The new building will have that attractive and functionally efficient quality that is absolutely essential for recruiting and retaining high quality scientists. Its presence on the site we have recommended will improve the appearance of the inner campus area, especially with respect to its approach from

Speedway. The building will also complement the remaining Anna Hiss Gymnasium and will result in a maximum utilization of the inner courtyard area.