

Alanna Schepartz

Biography

Alanna Schepartz, Ph.D. is the Milton Harris '29 Ph.D. Professor of Chemistry and Professor of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology at Yale University.

Professor Schepartz was born on January 9, 1962 in New York City. After receiving a B.S. degree in Chemistry from the State University of New York-Albany in 1982, Alanna carried out graduate work at Columbia University under the supervision of Ronald Breslow. Following postdoctoral work with Peter Dervan at the California Institute of Technology, she joined the faculty at Yale University in July of 1988. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 1992, to Full Professor with tenure in 1995, and was named the Milton Harris, '29 Ph.D. Professor of Chemistry in 2000. From 2002-2007, she held a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professorship. From 2011-2014, she served as the inaugural Director of the Yale Chemical Biology Institute.

Alanna Schepartz is known for the creative application of chemical synthesis and principles to understand and control biological recognition and function. Her research has contributed to and shaped thinking in multiple areas, including the molecular mechanisms of protein-DNA recognition and transcriptional activation; protein design and engineering and their application to synthetic biology; and the mechanisms by which chemical information is trafficked across biological compartments. She is also widely recognized for her design of β -peptide bundles, the first and only example of a protein-like architecture that lacks even a single α -amino acid.

Alanna Schepartz has received a number of awards for her work, including a David and Lucile Packard Foundation Fellowship (1990), a N.S.F. Presidential Young Investigator Award (1991), a Camille and Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award (1993), an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship (1994), an A.C.S. Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award (1995), the A.C.S. Eli Lilly Award in Biological Chemistry (1997), the Dylan Hixon '88 Award for Teaching Excellence in the Natural Sciences (1999), the Agnes Fay Morgan Research Award (2002), the Frank H. Westheimer Prize Medal (2008), the ACS Chemical Biology Prize & Prize Lecture (2010), for which she was the inaugural recipient, the Alexander M. Cruickshank Prize (2010), the Ronald Breslow Award for Achievement in Biomimetic Chemistry (2012), and the Wheland Medal (2015). In 2010, Schepartz was elected as a Fellow of both the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and the American Chemical Society. Since 2005, she has served the chemical biology community as an Associate Editor of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. In 2014, she was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.