



Mike O'Donnell attended the University of Portland after graduating from Hudson Bay High School, Vancouver Washington in 1971. He obtained the first B.S. degree in the new Biochemistry program that was instituted at the University of Portland in 1975, graduating in the top ten of the Universities graduates. O'Donnell then followed his path of interest by obtaining a Ph.D. in biochemistry in 1982 from the Department of Biological Chemistry at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI, studying the chemistry of electron transfer between the vitamin cofactors of riboflavin and NADP that occur within an enzyme called thioredoxin reductase. O'Donnell then switched to the protein-DNA interaction field by performing postdoctoral studies with Dr. Arthur Kornberg, a Nobel Prize winner in the field of DNA replication at the Department of Biochemistry at Stanford University. In 1986, he left Stanford to set up his own laboratory at Cornell Medical College in New York City as an Assistant Professor. He became a member of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in 1991 while running his laboratory at Cornell Medical College, and then moved to The Rockefeller University in New York City, where he remains today running a lab as a Full Professor and an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. His studies have continued to pursue the mechanisms of how the DNA genome is duplicated by dozens of proteins that work together as a machine. The model organisms from which he purifies the replicating machine include the bacterium, *Escherichia coli*, the eukaryote, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (brewers yeast), and human. In 2006 O'Donnell was inducted into the National Academy of Sciences and is currently the Anthony and Judith Evans Professor at Rockefeller University. O'Donnell also has three children, a daughter, Brogan, that is a Masters of Occupational Therapy in New York, and twin sons, Mason, a jazz musician in New York City, and Ian, an engineer currently working near Los Angeles.