

City University of Hong Kong
Biographies of the 2016 Honorary Doctorates

Professor Ada Yonath, a distinguished scholar and a Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, received an Honorary Doctor of Science.

Professor Yonath's research interests are in protein biosynthesis and the antibiotics hampering it, pathogenic parasites and the origin of life. She received a bachelor's and master's degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, obtained a PhD from the Weizmann Institute of Science (WIS), and held post-doctoral positions at the Mellon Institute and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US.

In the seventies she joined the WIS, where she established the first structural-biology laboratory in Israel and currently she is the Director of the Helen and Milton A. Kimmelman Center for Biomolecular Assemblies at the WIS. From 1986 to 2004, Professor Yonath headed the Max-Planck Research Unit for Ribosome Structure in Hamburg, Germany.

She is a member of a dozen academies, including the US National Academy of Sciences; the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities; the German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina); and the Pontificia Accademia delle Scienze (Vatican).

Professor Yonath has received numerous honours and awards for her scientific accomplishments. She holds 27 honorary doctorates from universities in different countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Greece, Poland and the Philippines.

Professor Yonath received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2009, along with two other scientists, for her studies on the structure and function of the ribosome, making her the first woman in 45 years to receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Her other awards include the Israel Prize, Louisa-Gross-Horwitz Prize, Linus-Pauling Gold Medal, Wolf Prize, L'Oreal-UNESCO for Women in Science Award, and Albert-Einstein World Award of Science.