



News Release

*Carnegie Institution of Washington
1530 P Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20005*

For release 27 January 1987
Call: Ray Bowers or Pat Parratt
(202-387-6411)

MAXINE SINGER TO BE
PRESIDENT OF CARNEGIE INSTITUTION

The Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Institution of Washington today announced that Maxine Frank Singer, a leading molecular biologist, will become the Institution's eighth President. Dr. Singer is now serving as Chief, Laboratory of Biochemistry, Division of Cancer Biology and Diagnosis, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, Maryland. Her presidency at Carnegie will begin on March 1, 1988.

Dr. Singer's research has yielded forefront contributions in nucleic acid chemistry and metabolism, in the biochemistry of animal viruses, and in other areas of modern biology. Her current work deals with genome organization in primates, and she plans to continue these investigations during her tenure at Carnegie. She has also written on such broader topics as genetics and the law, integrity in scholarship, possibilities and hazards in genetic engineering, perspectives on recombinant DNA research, and ethical questions in frontier biological research.

Singer graduated from the Midwood High School, Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1948; she received the A.B. degree with high honors from Swarthmore College in 1952 and the Ph.D. (biochemistry) from Yale University in 1957. She has served at NIH as Postdoctoral Fellow (Public Health Service and National Institute for Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive

Diseases, or NIAMD), as Research Chemist in the NIAMD's Section on Enzymes and Cellular Biochemistry (1958-1974), and as Chief, Section on Nucleic Acid Enzymology, Division of Cancer Biology and Diagnosis, National Cancer Institute (1974-1979). She undertook her present role, first as Acting Chief in 1979 and then as Chief in 1980. Intervening were periods as Visiting Scientist, Department of Genetics, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel (1971-1972), and as Regents Visiting Professor, Department of Biochemistry, University of California, Berkeley (1981).

In other professional activities, she currently serves as Chairman of the Editorial Board, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; Trustee of Yale University; Member of the Board of Directors, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research; and Member of the Board of Governors and Scientific Advisory Council, Weizmann Institute. She has served as Member, Editorial Board, Journal of Biological Chemistry (1968-1974) and Science (1974-1982), Director of the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences, Inc. (1972-1978), and Member, Scientific Advisory Council, International Institute of Genetics and Biophysics, Naples, Italy (1982-1986).

She has been elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences (The Vatican). She holds honorary doctoral degrees from Wesleyan, Swarthmore, University of Maryland (Baltimore County), and Cedar Crest College (Pennsylvania). Among her honors are the Katherine D. McCormick Distinguished Award of Stanford University (1983) and the Award for Research in Biological Sciences, Yale Scientific and Engineering Association (1974). Her 1984 U.S. Government Senior Executive Service Outstanding Performance Award is the most recent of

several governmental awards. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi. She is married to Daniel Morris Singer, an attorney in Washington.

The President of Carnegie Institution since 1978 has been James D. Ebert. On July 1, 1987, upon his retirement from the Institution, Dr. Ebert will become the Director of the Chesapeake Bay Institute of the Johns Hopkins University; he will continue as Vice President of the National Academy of Sciences.

Founded in 1902 by Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Institution of Washington is an nonprofit research and educational organization whose scientists conduct basic investigations in biology, astronomy, and the earth sciences. The Institution's five research centers are the Department of Embryology in Baltimore, the Department of Plant Biology in Stanford, California, the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism and the Geophysical Laboratory, both in Washington, D.C., and the Mount Wilson and Las Campanas Observatories (offices in Pasadena, California). There are about 60 scientific staff members and about 140 fellows, research associates, and students.

Dr. Singer's predecessors as President of the Institution are here listed:

Daniel Coit Gilman, 1902-1904
Robert S. Woodward, 1904-1920
John C. Merriam, 1921-1938
Vannevar Bush, 1939-1955
Caryl P. Haskins, 1956-1971
Philip H. Abelson, 1971-1978
James D. Ebert, 1978-present

END