

FRANK HENRY WESTHEIMER

Frank Henry Westheimer, one of the most eminent and influential chemists of this century, has created new areas of chemistry, invigorated others, and contributed significantly to American science as a whole. Born in Baltimore, he was educated at Dartmouth and Harvard. He first taught at the University of Chicago and in 1953 moved to Harvard.

The pioneering research of Professor Westheimer has brought together in important new ways the twin disciplines of chemistry and biochemistry. Among his contributions are studies that have led to a better understanding of the action of enzymes and the chemistry of phosphate esters. He is the inventor, with co-workers, of a method called photo affinity labeling which is widely used in a variety of biochemical research problems. He has laid the groundwork for the application of isotope effects to the investigation of the mechanism of chemical and biochemical reactions. He chaired a committee of the National Academy of Sciences in 1965 which produced a document known as The Westheimer Report; it has stimulated broadly significant chemical research. He has served as a member of the President's Science Advisory Committee and on other national, policy-making bodies.

Professor Westheimer has been honored by membership in the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in many other ways. To mention only the most recent awards, he won the Welch Award and the American Chemical Society's Cope Award last year, and this year he received the Ingold Medal of the Royal Academy of Chemistry, London. This University celebrates the remarkable achievements of a renowned scientist.