



The Salome Gluecksohn-Waelsch Prize for the best doctoral dissertation in the biomedical sciences is awarded annually by the Spemann Graduate School of Biology and Medicine (SGBM) and the Department of Genetics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine to commemorate the extraordinary achievements of Dr. Salome Gluecksohn-Waelsch.

Salome Gluecksohn-Waelsch was born in Danzig (at that time Germany, now Poland) in 1907 and died in New York in 2007, a month after celebrating her 100th birthday. She first studied zoology in Berlin and in 1928, started her graduate work in Freiburg

under the supervision of Hans Spemann.

She obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Freiburg in 1932 and her graduation document bears the signatures of two future Nobel Prize winners (Hans Spemann, who won the Nobel Prize in medicine and physiology in 1935, and Hermann Staudinger, at the time Dean of the Faculty, who won the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1953).

Salome Gluecksohn-Waelsch then moved back to Berlin, but in 1933 the political situation deteriorated to such an extent that as a Jewish scientist she had to leave Germany for the United States.

From 1936 to 1955, she worked at Columbia University, first with L.C. Dunn and later independently at Columbia Medical School. Unable to secure a faculty position, she moved to the newly founded Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1955, where she was appointed professor in 1958. At Einstein, she headed the newly established department of genetics — the first at any medical school in the U.S. — from 1964 to 1976 and remained scientifically active until 1997.

Salome Gluecksohn-Waelsch received numerous awards and honors. Among others she received the National Medal of Science from the President of the United States in 1993. In 1995, she became a foreign member of the Royal Society of the United Kingdom and, in 1999 she was the recipi-

ent of the prestigious Thomas Hunt Morgan Medal of the Genetics Society of America. In addition, Salome Gluecksohn-Waelsch was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the New York Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Salome Gluecksohn-Waelsch's life and scientific career are exemplary in many respects and should be a source of inspiration for all SGBM doctoral students.

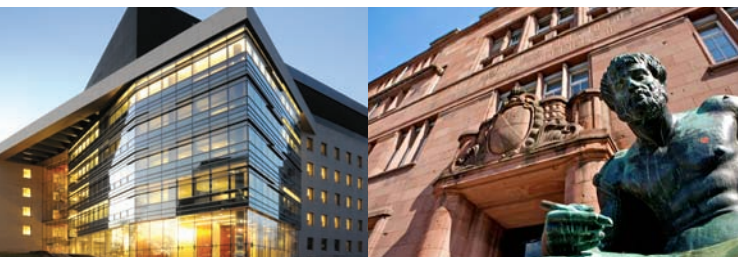
She selected Hans Spemann as her supervisor and admired his work. Yet, her supervisor apparently did not reciprocate this esteem and, according to Salome Gluecksohn-Waelsch, her intuition that genetics was bound to play an important role did not appeal to her mentor. Spemann's lack of intellectual support did not prevent her from developing her own ideas and from becoming one of the founders of the field of developmental genetics.

She successfully bridged the fields of embryology and genetics and thus is the perfect illustration of the concept of multidisciplinary that SGBM wishes to foster.

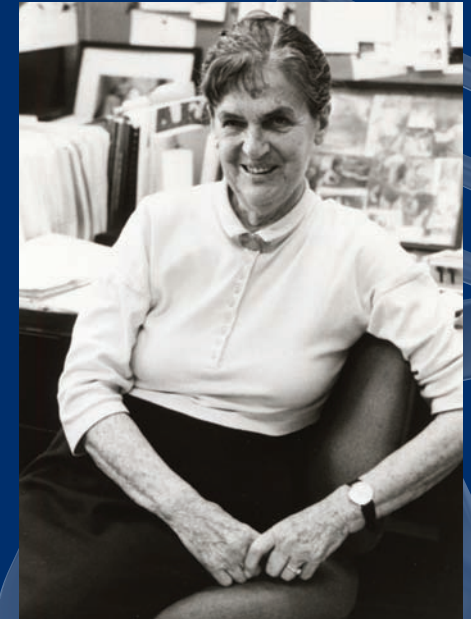
As a Jewish woman in a rather adverse environment, first in Germany and then (albeit to a far lesser extent) in the U.S. she did not give up and her extraordinary career and scientific longevity should remind SGBM students that tenacity and resilience are ultimately rewarded.

The Salome Gluecksohn-Waelsch Prize will be awarded once a year. To be considered for the award, candidates must write a two-page summary of their dissertation and provide a one-page CV, which will be assessed by an awards committee of the Spemann Graduate School of Biology and Medicine (SGBM) at the Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg. The files for a select group of candidates will then be provided to an awards committee at Albert Einstein College of Medicine (Department of Genetics). This committee will recommend its selection for the laureate and then a final decision on the prize winner will be made jointly by Einstein's Department of Genetics and SGBM.

 To make your submission, visit <http://www.sgbm.uni-freiburg.de>



The Salome Gluecksohn-Waelsch



 **PRIZE**