September 2025

Remembering Scientists in Woods Hole: A Map of Their Resting Places

This document serves as a guide to the tombstones of famous scientists in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Many of these scientists have notable ties to the Marine Biological Laboratory, and their work influenced the world of science and contributed to the world around us. The cemetery where their graves can be found is located next to the Church of the Messiah, 22 Church St., Woods Hole, MA 02543.

Data collection by: Emma Paulini, Pomona College; Jordan Bolling, University of Alabama; John Wang, Columbia University. Map and guide created by: Emma Paulini, Jordan Bolling and John Wang.

All three students were members of the Hydra Lab, Whitman Program, Marine Biological Laboratory, Summer 2018. Project under the guidance and editing of Dr. Rob Steele, University of California, Irvine and Dr. Rafael Yuste, Columbia University.

View an interactive map! Locate the graves in real time and access the information about each scientist via this link:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fUMkIyOOY7OBJc01MaRBcb0BsOlvXYBZ&usp=sharing

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1. Charles Richard Crane
1858-1939

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Richard_Crane

Credit: Rob Steele

Charles Richard Crane was a wealthy American businessman, heir to a large industrial fortune and connoisseur of Arab culture, a noted Arabist. His widespread business interests gave him entree into domestic and international political affairs where he enjoyed privileged access to many influential power brokers at the top levels of government. He was also a philanthropist and donated to MBL.

Location coordinates: 41.52185° -70.66291°

2. Prince Sears Crowell, Jr.
1909-2002

http://www.mbl.edu/obituaries/prince-s-crowell-jr/

Credit: Rob Steele

Crowell, Jr. had strong ties to Woods Hole, having taken classes at the Children's School of Science when he was young, worked at the MBL as a teen, and continued research at the MBL as an adult. At Indiana University, where he was a professor, Crowell Jr. taught"invertebrate zoology as well as embryology, anatomy, ornithology and introductory zoology." He was also the first program officer of the American Society of Zoologists. When Hirohito, the Emperor of Japan, visited MBL, Dr. Crowell was one of his hosts. Hirohito studied marine hydrozoans and published several papers on them. You can find these papers in the MBL library.

Location Coordinates: 41°31'20" N 70°39'47" W or 41.52164, -70.66287

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3. Hans Albert Einstein
1904-1973

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Albert_Einstein

Credit: Emma Paulini

Son of physicist Albert Einstein, Hans Albert Einstein was a hydraulic engineer and professor at the University of California, Berkeley. He was attending a symposium in Woods Hole when he collapsed and died from heart failure.

Location Coordinates: 41°31’20” N 70°39’41” W or 41.5222, -70.66108

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4. Herman Eisen
1918-2014

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herman_Eisen

Credit: Rob Steele

Herman Nathaniel Eisen (1918–2014) was an American immunologist and cancer researcher. He secame the Chief of Dermatology at the Washington University School of Medicine in 1955, erved on the faculty at New York University School of Medicine in the early 1950s, band was a founding member of the MIT Center for Cancer Research (now called the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research). Eisen retired and assumed professor emeritus status in 1989, but continued to be active as a researcher; he was working on a manuscript the day he died in 2014.

Location coordinates: 41.52180, -70.66237

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5. Viktor Hamburger
1900-2001

https://www.nytimes.com/2001/06/14/us/viktor-hamburger-100-dies-embryologist-revealed-architecture-of-nervous-system.html
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viktor_Hamburger

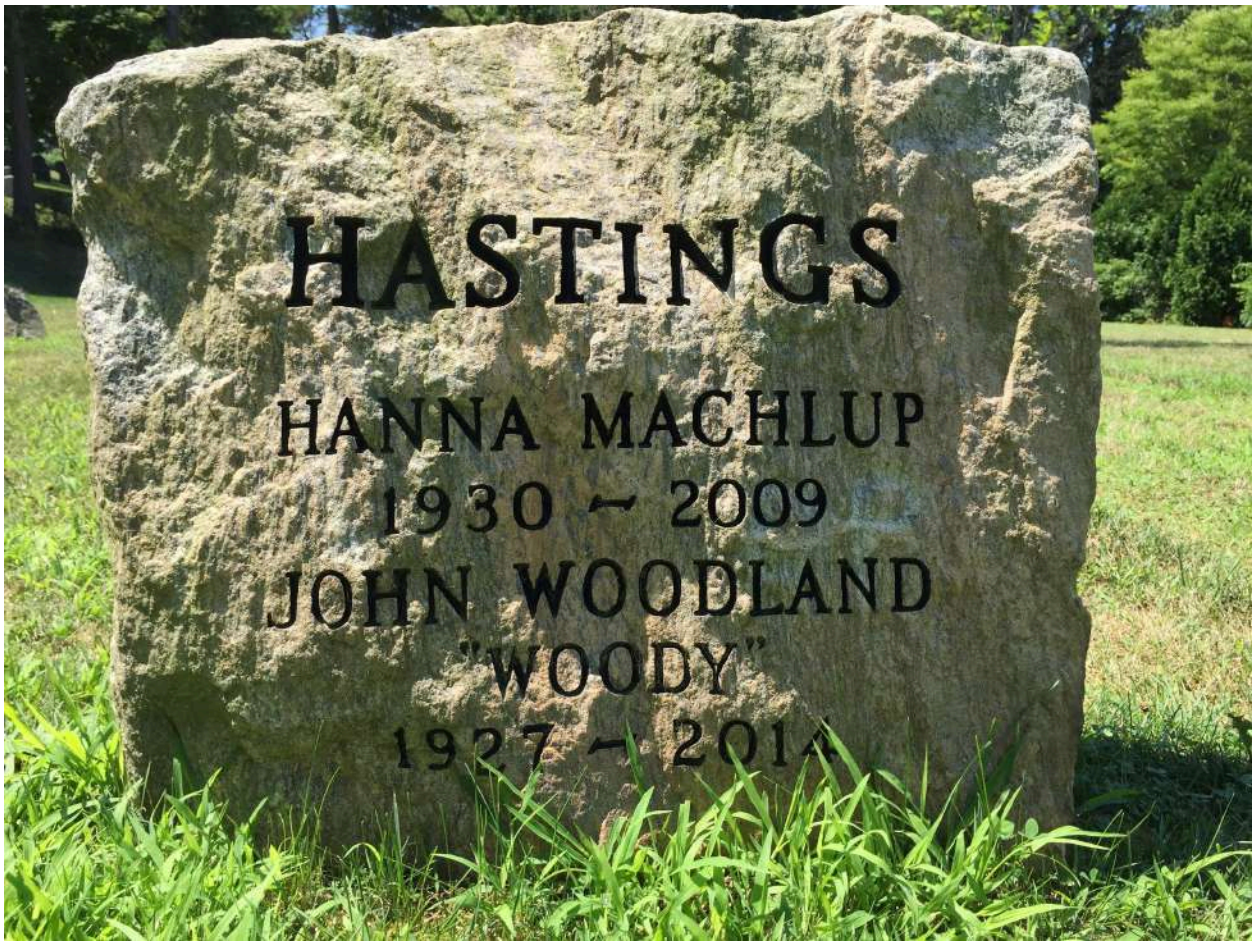
Credit: Rob Steele

A German scientist, Hamburger studied the origin of behavior using chick embryos, going beyond the knowledge and beliefs at the time with his discovery that chick embryos move predictably and spontaneously. In collaboration with Dr. Rita Levi-Montalcini, Hamburger identified nerve growth factor, the protein that contributes to the growth and maintenance of certain neurons. Hamburger spent most of his career as a faculty member at Washington University in St. Louis and was both an instructor and a course director in the MBL Embryology Course.

Location Coordinates: 41°31’18” N 70°39’43” W or 41.52168, -70.66202

6. J. Woodland Hastings
1927-2014

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Woodland_Hastings



Credit: Rob Steele

J. Woodland Hastings was a leader in the field of photobiology, especially bioluminescence, and was one of the founders of the field of circadian biology (the study of circadian rhythms, or the sleep-wake cycle). He was the Paul C. Mangelsdorf Professor of Natural Sciences and Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology at Harvard University.] He published over 400 papers and co-edited three books.

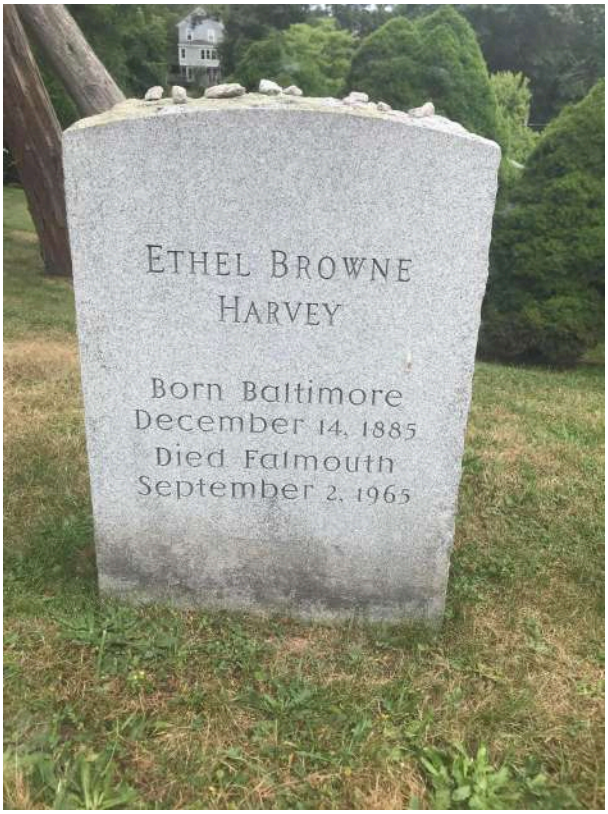
Hastings research on bioluminescence principally focused on bacterial luminescence (over 150 papers) and dinoflagellates (over 80 papers). In addition to bacteria and dinoflagellates, he, with his students and colleagues, also published papers on the

biochemical and molecular mechanisms of light production in fungi, cnidarians, ctenophores, polychaetes, insects (fireflies and dipterans), ostracod crustaceans, millipedes, tunicates, and fishes with bacterial light organs. His laboratory produced the first evidence for quorum sensing in bacteria, early evidence of the molecular mechanisms of circadian clock regulation in organisms (first using dinoflagellate luminescence and then expanded to other cellular proteins), and some of the initial studies of energy transfer in green fluorescent proteins (GFP) in cnidarian luminescence.

Location coordinates: 41.52224° -70.66205°

7. Ethel Browne Harvey
1885-1965

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethel_Browne_Harvey



Credit: Emma Paulini

A notable female in the field of biology during the early to mid-1900s, Ethel Browne Harvey was an embryologist who used sea urchins for her research on cell division.

As a graduate student at Columbia University in the lab of Thomas Hunt Morgan, Browne carried out the first experiments demonstrating a developmental axial organizer in an animal, using grafting of *Hydra*. A discussion of these experiments can be found in the following article:

Lenhoff, Howard M. “Ethel Browne, Hans Spemann, and the Discovery of the Organizer Phenomenon.” *Biological Bulletin*, vol. 181, no. 1, 1991, pp. 72–80. *JSTOR*, JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/1542490.

Browne received her Ph.D. for work she did in the laboratory of E.B. Wilson, who is also buried in the Woods Hole Cemetery (Grave 10 on this list). Browne spent many summers at MBL and served as a member of the MBL Corporation and as an MBL Trustee.

Location Coordinates: 41°31’17” N 70°39’44” W or 41.52221, -70.66184

8. Stephen William Kuffler
1913-1980

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Kuffler

Credit: Rob Steele

A Hungarian-American scientist, Kuffler is sometimes referred to as the "Father of Modern Neuroscience" for his research on topics including the neurotransmitter GABA, glia, neuromuscular junction, and neural coding. He was the John Franklin Enders University Professor of Harvard University, and oversaw the construction and development of the Department of Neurobiology. He was awarded the Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize from Columbia University in 1972.
Kuffler was known for his innovative idea of combining physiology, biochemistry, histology, neuroanatomy, and electron microscopy in one single group for novel neurobiology research. Kuffler also spent numerous summers at MBL with his family and co-workers and started the first experimental lab courses devoted to neuroscience (the “Nerve-Muscle Program,” later to become the neurobiology course).

Location coordinates: 41°31’17” N 70°39’44” W or 41.52189, -70.66198

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9. Frank Rattray Lillie
1870-1947

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Rattray_Lillie

Credit: Emma Paulini

Frank Rattray Lillie “was an American zoologist and an early pioneer of the study of embryology. Born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Lillie moved to the United States in 1891 to study for a summer at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Lillie formed a lifelong association with the laboratory, eventually rising to become its director in 1908. His efforts developed the MBL into a full-time institution.

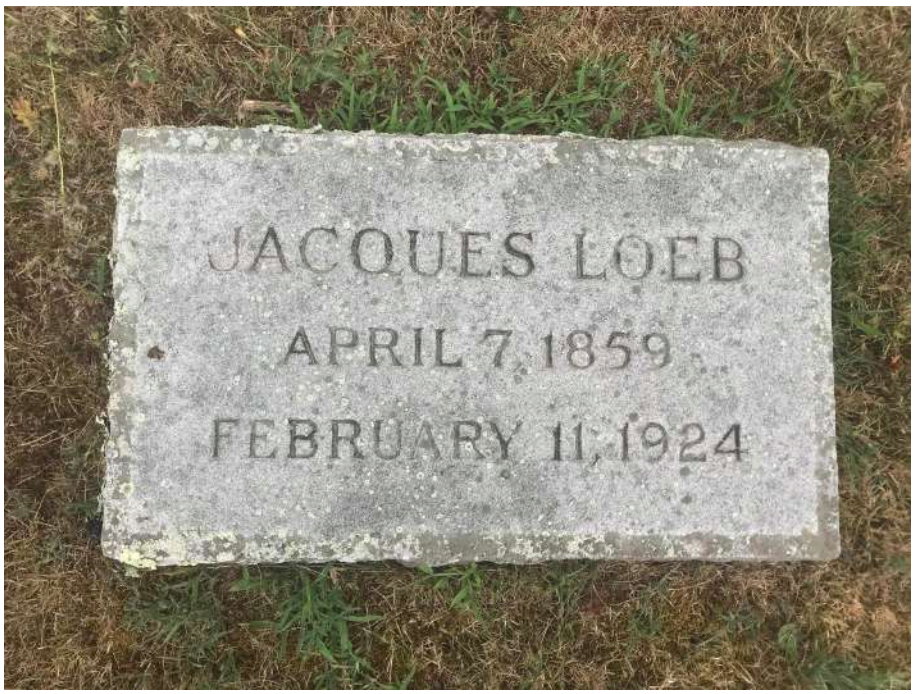
Lillie was appointed an Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago in 1900. He was named Chairman of the Department of Zoology in 1910 and Dean of the Division of Biological Sciences in 1931. His research there was instrumental in the development of the field of embryology. He identified the influence of potassium on cell

differentiation and elucidated the biological mechanisms behind free-martins. Lillie was instrumental in founding the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and served as its first president. He also served at times as the chairman of the National Academy of Sciences and the United States National Research Council."

Location Coordinates: 41°31'20" N 70°39'47" W

10. Jacques Loeb
1859-1924

https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jacques-Loeb



Credit: Emma Paulini

Jacques Loeb was a "German-born American biologist noted chiefly for his experimental work on artificial parthenogenesis (reproduction without fertilization)." He was famous for approaching the question "Does free will exist?" via scientific methods. While serving as heads of departments at University of Chicago, University of California and eventually Rockefeller University, much of Dr. Loeb's experimental work was done at the MBL, including research developing sea urchin larvae from unfertilized eggs and the production of parthenogenetic frogs. "Loeb's work was significant in showing that the initiation of cell division in fertilization was controlled chemically and was in effect separate from the transmission of hereditary traits. Loeb

also is remembered for his work on the physiology of the brain, animal tropisms (involuntary orientations), regeneration of tissue, and the duration of life."

Location Coordinates: 41.52166, -70.66194

11. Otto Loewi
1873-1961

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otto_Loewi
https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/1936/loewi/biographical/

Credit: Rafael Yuste

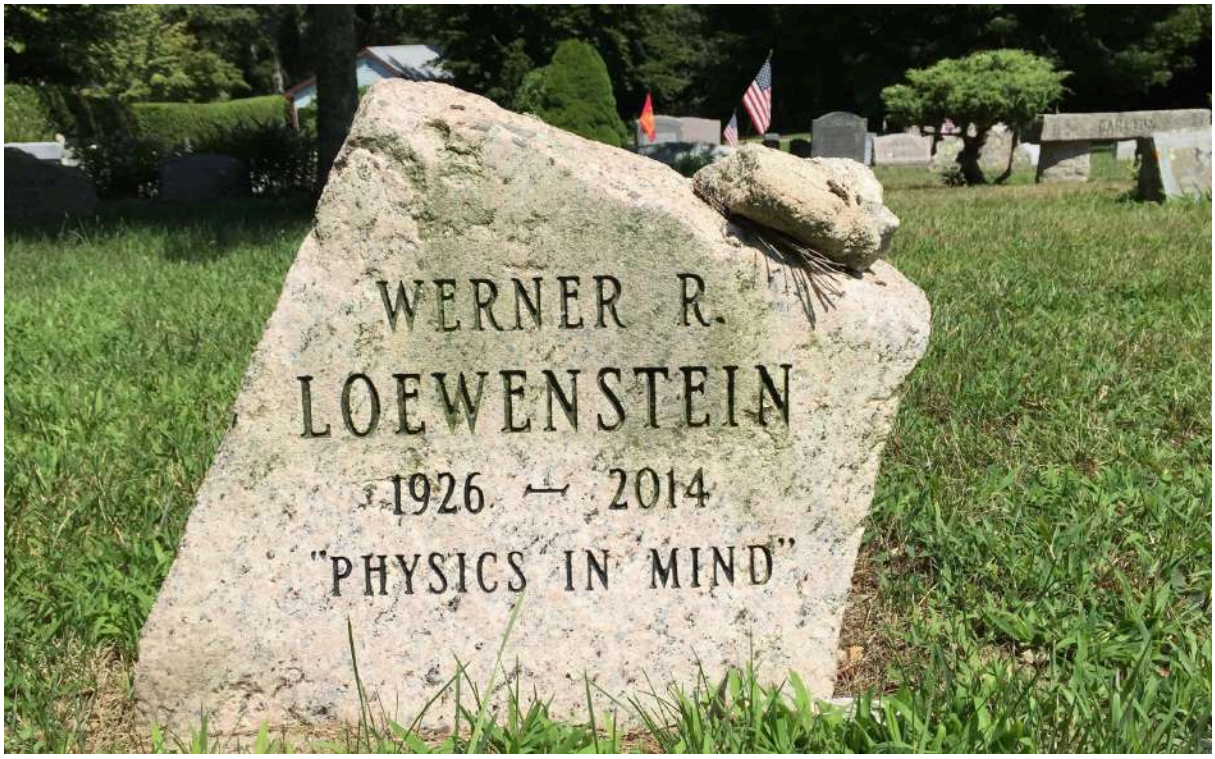
A German-born pharmacologist and psychobiologist, Loewi was known for discovering the role of acetylcholine as an endogenous neurotransmitter. For this discovery he was

awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1936, which he shared with Sir Henry Dale. After German invasion of Austria in 1938, Loewi moved to the United States and became a research professor at the College of Medicine New York University. He continued to stay academically active in his newly adopted country and spent his summers at Woods Hole and MBL. He was also able to relive his childhood delights by surrounding himself with the music and literature of the New World. As a New York Times obituary noted, “The years of Dr Loewi have so overflowed with devotions to art, literature, music, mountain climbing, human fellowship, and the science of biology [...]”.

Location Coordinates: 41°31’22” N 70°39’47” W or 41.52236, -70.66228

12. Werner R. Loewenstein
1926-2014

http://www.mbl.edu/obituaries/werner-r-loewenstein/



Credit: Rob Steele

Werner Loewenstein is an German-American scientist and author. He was the former chair of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. As a long-term member of the MBL community, Dr. Loewenstein

started coming to the MBL as a visiting investigator in the mid-1950s and continued as a visiting researcher until 1994 when he moved full-time to the MBL to serve as a Senior Investigator, a position he held until 1999. At this time he also relocated the editorial office of the *Journal of Membrane Biology* to the MBL. “In 1994 Dr. Loewenstein and his wife, Dr. Birgit Rose Loewenstein, established the Laboratory of Cell Communication at the MBL, devoted to the study of intercellular communication. Their research focused on the cell-to-cell channel, a membrane channel built into the junctions between cells. Dr. Loewenstein became a member of the MBL Corporation in 1961 and served on the MBL Investment Committee in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He was named a MBL Society Emeritus member in 2011.” The following paper describes his findings with electrical and dye coupling in epithelial cells.

https://slack-files.com/T15D3DDS9-FC5SFNKD3-606e8b47af

Location coordinates: 41.52245, -70.66277

13. Irving London
1918-2018

http://news.mit.edu/2018/irving-london-founding-director-harvard-mit-program-health-sciences-and-technology-dies-0525

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Credit: Rob Steele

Irving London was a longtime biology professor and expert in hemoglobin synthesis was committed to the integration of biomedical research, education, and medical practice. Dr. London begin his internship at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center after medical school in 1943. After his military service as captain in the Medical Corps, London returned to Columbia-Presbyterian as a medical resident, then as a research fellow in the department of biochemistry at Columbia University. In 1954, at age 36, Dr. London accepted the position of founding chair of the department of medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York where he served as professor and chair of the department -- and directed medical services at the Bronx Municipal Hospital Center -- from 1955 until 1970. He was a founding member and the first director of the Harvard-MIT Program in Health Sciences and Technology -- now the longest surviving collaboration between Harvard and MIT -- from 1971 to 1985.

Location coordinates: 41.52249° -70.66251°

14. Lionel Rebhun

1926-2002

http://www.mbl.edu/obituaries/lionel-israel-rebhun/

Credit: Rob Steele

Dr. Rebhun was educated in public schools in New York City and graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School before earning a Masters in Mathematics and a doctorate in Zoology from the University of Chicago. He served in the Navy during World War II. Over his long academic career as a professor of Biology, he taught at the University of Illinois Medical School and at Princeton University. At the University of Virginia, he was Commonwealth Professor of Biology from 1970 until his retirement in 1996. He taught and did research almost every summer at the Marine Biological Laboratories of Woods Hole, Mass., where he also served several terms on the board of trustees. He was the author of more than 130 scientific papers.

Location coordinates: 41.52237° -70.66207°

15. Albert I. Szent-Györgyi

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1893-1986

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Szent-Györgyi

Credit: Emma Paulini

Szent-Györgyi was a Hungarian biochemist who discovered the biological combustion process with special reference to vitamin C and the catalysis of fumaric acid, for which he won the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1937. Szent-Györgyi began his research career at the University of Groningen, where his work focused on the chemistry of cellular respiration. He transitioned to University of Szeged in 1930 and continued his work on cellular respiration, which eventually earned him his nobel prize. In 1947, Szent-Györgyi established the Institute for Muscle Research at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts with financial support from Hungarian businessman Stephen Rath. Later in his academic career Szent-Györgyi developed interests in cancer research and quantum mechanics, and continued to contributions to the study of free radicals as potential cause of cancer.

Location coordinates: 41°31’22” N 70°39’47” W or 41.52204, -70.66175

16. John Philip Trinkaus
1918-2003

https://embryo.asu.edu/pages/john-philip-trinkaus-1918-2003

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Credit: Rob Steele

Trinkaus was a developmental biologist who studied cell migration and gastrulation, specifically in teleost fish. Trinkaus published dozens of academic papers during his career on a variety of subjects within embryology, but much of his research focused on cell migration and development during gastrulation. He found a particularly appropriate research subject in the fish Fundulus heteroclitus. The transparent eggs and embryos of this teleost served his needs, as much of his research was primarily observational. Though he used dye-stains and transmission electron microscopy, many of his research publications were based on simple photomicrographic images of the teleost eggs. Through observation and dissection, Trinkaus became an expert on the developmental processes occurring within the eggs.
He both took and taught in the Embryology Course at MBL. Trinkaus was a professor at Yale University and had a summer research lab at MBL for many years.
Trinkaus's papers (including his autobiography) are available on-line at:
https://hpsrepository.asu.edu/handle/10776/6583/browse?type=dateissued

Location Coordinates: 41°31'17" N 70°39'44" W or 41.52168, -70.66198

17. Byron Halsted Waksman
1919-2012

http://www.aai.org/About/History/Past-Presidents-and-Officers/ByronHWaksman

Credit: Emma Paulini

As the son of the nobel laureate Selman Abraham Waksman, Byron Halsted Waksman is an established in the field of multiple sclerosis and other inflammatory diseases as a faculty member at both Harvard and Yale Medical Schools. He later became an administrator and public spokesman for science. He was president of the American Association of Immunologists from 1970 to 1971 and vice president for research programs and medicine at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society from 1980 to 1989. Convinced that raising public awareness of science was key to securing the future of basic medical research, he founded and directed the Science Writing Program at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts (1990–1995), and the European Initiative for Communicators of Science program at the Max Planck Institute for Psychological Research near Munich (1992–1995).

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Location Coordinates: 41°31’20” N 70°39’40” W or 41.52217, -70.66097

18. Selman Abraham Waksman
1888-1973

https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/1952/waksman/biographical/

Credit: Emma Paulini

A Ukrainian-born scientist, Selman Waksman was a professor of microbiology as well as the head the department at Rutgers University, and researched microorganisms in soil, plant and animal waste decomposition, role of bacteria in the ocean, and more. “He was invited to organize a division of Marine Bacteriology at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in 1931; he was also appointed marine bacteriologist at the same institution, where he served until 1942. He was then elected as a Trustee, and later a Life Trustee.” He also isolated many antibiotics, including streptomycin, for which he received the Nobel Prize in 1952.

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Location Coordinates: 41°31’19” N 70°39’43” W

19. Edmund Beecher Wilson
1856-1939

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Beecher_Wilson

Credit: Rob Steele

Wilson was an American zoologist and geneticist who wrote “one of the most famous textbooks in the history of modern biology, *The Cell*.” In subsequent editions, the book acquired the title “The Cell in Heredity and Development.” Wilson joined the faculty of Columbia University in 1891, where he elevated the department of zoology to a peak of international prestige. His first experimental studies, in embryology, led him to investigations at the cellular level.

Location Coordinates: 41°31’18” N 70°39’45” W or 41.52191, -70.66203

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20. Thomas Hunt Morgan
1866-1945

https://www.mbl.edu/news/decades-after-their-deaths-thomas-hunt-morgan-and-lilian-vaughan-morgan-are-laid-rest-woods-hole

Credit: Elizabeth Trencheny

Thomas Hunt Morgan (1866–1945) was an MBL investigator and the 1933 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine for proving that genes are located on chromosomes, laying the foundation of modern genetics. He worked extensively with Drosophila (fruit flies), but also studied regeneration and embryology across many species, leaving a lasting legacy at the Marine Biological Laboratory and in biology as a whole.

Location Coordinates: 41°31'18.1"N 70°39'45.7"W or 41.521692, -70.662706

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20. Lilian Vaughan Morgan
1870-1952

https://www.mbl.edu/news/decades-after-their-deaths-thomas-hunt-morgan-and-lilian-vaughan-morgan-are-laid-rest-woods-hole

Credit: Elizabeth Trencheny

Lilian Vaughan Morgan (1870-1952) was a pioneering geneticist known for her work on the X chromosome of Drosophila, where she discovered the attached-X and closed-X chromosomes. An MBL summer investigator from 1891 to 1906, she published six papers on embryology and regeneration. After raising her four children, she returned to research, publishing 12 more papers in experimental genetics. In 1913, she co-founded the Children's School of Science in Woods Hole, which still operates today.

Location Coordinates: 41°31'18.1"N 70°39'45.7"W or 41.521692, -70.662706