



Dr. Warren W. Wakarchuk



Date of birth: October 19, 1959

Awards: My kids made me T-shirts many years ago for being a good Dad...do they count?

Current research interests: Glycobiology. Understanding how glycosyltransferases perform their job with the remarkable specificity they have, and how we can use that to produce new therapeutics. Microbial glycobiology. How do soil bacteria make and use glycoproteins for their interaction with the environment and neighbours.

Hobbies: Learning to be a better guitar player, playing piano, photography, searching out excellent espresso everywhere!

When I was sixteen I wanted to be ... a scientist of course!

The best stage in a scientist's career is ...once you get over the "getting established" phase and can concentrate on doing the work you really want to do.

My biggest motivation is ... finding out how things work, and then explaining it to people and having them understand.

A good workday begins with ... a good coffee and new data to think about.

When I'm frustrated, I ... step back from it all, let things rest and try to gain a better perspective to try again.

My top three films of all time are ... Lord of the Rings (the whole trilogy), Shrek, The Princess Bride.

Looking back over my career, I ... value the mentors who taught me to value people first, to value integrity in my work, and to try hard to keep your mind open!

The biggest challenge facing scientists is ...making the science clear to the general population. If people cannot understand why what you do is important, how can they value it?

My first experiment was ...in the kitchen making food when I was 12.

My favorite time of day is ... morning when the day presents its possibilities.

The most important thing I learned from my students is ... that no two are alike and that everyone needs different things from a mentor.

My motto is ... do your best or don't do it at all.

The person who has had the greatest scientific influence on me is ... my PhD supervisor Professor R.A.J. (Tony) Warren. His philosophy on work-life balance and scientific integrity had a profound effect on how I view science as a profession.