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JAMES WATSON

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For immediate release

Nobel Prize winner James Watson celebrates his 84th birthday on 6 April and you can watch him discuss pivotal moments from his illustrious career, including one of the most celebrated scientific achievements of a generation, in a series of compelling in-depth recordings at Web of Stories.

American molecular biologist, geneticist and zoologist James Dewey Watson has enjoyed an impressive and far-reaching career but is best known for discovering the structure of DNA for which he was jointly awarded the 1962 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine along with Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins. Author of many science books, including the bestselling *The Double Helix* (1968) and textbook *The Molecular Biology of the Gene* (1965), Watson spent time teaching at Harvard University before being associated with the National Institutes for Health and later, as director, president and then chancellor of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York where his work changed focus to concentrate on cancer.

In this series of insightful video clips, Watson remembers the most pivotal moments from his life, including his decision to become a scientist, despite what he felt was his low IQ: *'The number was too low to be equated with great success... you didn't have to be a mathematical whiz to be a naturalist... The heroes in those days were the physicists, and then below them were the chemists, and the biologists were, you know, microbe hunters or something, and that seemed sufficiently exciting.'*

He also recounts key events from his truly astonishing career, including the realisation that he and Crick had determined the structure of DNA and

the reasoning behind writing *The Double Helix*: *'I knew there was a story to be written up... there was always the question, had Crick and I behaved correctly in thinking about someone else's data, which was shown to us, not for us to use to solve the structure but, you know, we could show to be saying it's a helix, yes.'*

He also discusses winning the Nobel Prize, the Warren Prize and his time as a White House advisor, as well as his more-recent controversial research into the links between melatonin and sex: *'This completely explained why... supermodels had to be under drugs because the fashion dictated they were so thin that they weren't producing any leptin, they weren't making endorphins, they were miserable... you wouldn't be happy unless you were doing what your body wanted you to do. And that makes perfect evolutionary sense.'*

All of Watson's in-depth, honest and captivating recordings can be watched as a number of short clips ranging in length between one and several minutes, with a fully searchable transcript. All Web of Stories videos are easy to share with friends and colleagues, and may be embedded into personal blogs and websites.

Find out more:
<http://www.webofstories.com/people/james.watson/1>

NOTES FOR EDITORS ABOUT WEB OF STORIES

Everyone has a story to tell. Over time many stories become forgotten, but now Web of Stories offers members of the public the chance to tell their stories for future generations to enjoy. The project is built on the belief that we all have wonderful stories to share, and have family and friends whose tales we would like to hear.

Web of Stories began as an archive of life stories told by some of the great scientists, writers and artists of our time. As the number of stories grew, it became obvious that some were on related topics and that a web was slowly being created of connected stories.

We welcome anyone to come and talk about virtually anything they like. Just like our famous speakers, we hope you will record your stories for others to enjoy.

CONTACT

For more information on Web of Stories or any of our videos please contact the Press Desk on +44(0)20 7323 0323 or press@webofstories.com

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