



### The Scientific Legacy of Har Gobind Khorana

Total Synthesis and the Genetic Code By Sahotra Sarkar

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**This book describes the inspiring journey and scientific legacy of Nobel laureate Har Gobind Khorana.**

This book is the only scientific biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Indian American chemist, Har Gobind Khorana. It begins with the story of Khorana's origins in poverty in rural India and how he manages to emerge from that to be trained in chemistry in Britain and Switzerland before immigrating to Canada and the United States. Science was the dominant focus of Khorana's life, and his biography is treated chronologically in conjunction with his scientific career.

The book explains in detail Khorana's most important scientific achievements, his role in deciphering the genetic code (the reason for his Nobel Prize), the first synthesis of a functional gene in the laboratory, the elucidation of the idea behind the PCR technology that has since become ubiquitous in biotech, and his seminal studies of how structure determines the function of biological macromolecules in membranes. Finally, it focuses on his scientific legacy, and what his career means for future generations of scientists.

#### Readership

This book would be of interest to biologists, particularly molecular biologists, and to historians, philosophers, and sociologists of science.

#### Key selling points

Presents a scientific biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Indian American chemist, Har Gobind Khorana

Describes how the genetic code was deciphered in the 1960s to earn Khorana and Marshall Nirenberg a Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine

Describes the first synthesis of a functional gene in the laboratory

Provides the history of PCR and the relative role of the major players in its creation

#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Sahotra Sarkar is Professor in the Departments of Philosophy and Integrative Biology at the University of Texas at Austin.

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