

Ruth Lehmann is the Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Professor of Developmental Genetics and the director of the Skirball Institute in New York City.

Dr. Lehmann received her Ph.D. in the laboratory of Nobel laureate Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard, where she participated in the identification of maternal effect genes that organize the embryonic axis in *Drosophila*. After postdoctoral training in Tübingen and at the Medical Research Council in Cambridge, UK, she joined the Whitehead Institute and the faculty of MIT in 1988. Molecular characterization of *nanos*, *pumilio* and *oskar* in her lab showed that RNA localization within a cell is tightly linked to translational regulation.

In 1996, Dr. Lehmann moved to the Skirball Institute at NYU School of Medicine, where she is an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Dr. Lehmann and her students study germ cell specification and survival and have discovered a role for lipid signaling in germ cell migration. Her group has also characterized mechanisms that protect the genome of germ cells against transposable elements and other intruders that interfere with reproductive success.

She is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and a foreign associate of EMBO. In 2011, Dr. Lehmann received the Edwin Grant Conklin Medal for her distinguished and sustained research in developmental biology.