



Photograph by Robert Ladd

Keeping a balance in life

Dr. Smithies: There are several sorts of remedies. One, of course, is to drink yourself into a stupor. I don't recommend that and I never tried it. [Dr. Smithies and audience laugh] But the other thing is to go away, go on vacation or something and go and do something different. You come back energized; and that happened in the gene target thing with me. That everything didn't seem like it was working and my graduate student at the time didn't want to work on this anymore and my post docs weren't keen either. Because we had thought of so many things as to why it could go wrong. And I went off with my friends. We went flying and sailing and I came back and I said I'm going to start again with a different, slightly different approach and started again; and it worked then. So you get refurbished by going and doing something else. So it's important not to just have science as your only thing. You should have at least have a hobby and it's very nice to have a companion that you're fond of. And then if you have a happy companion and a hobby then you got three things and you can afford for one of them to go wrong occasionally, [laughter] maybe. maybe even two. [laughter]