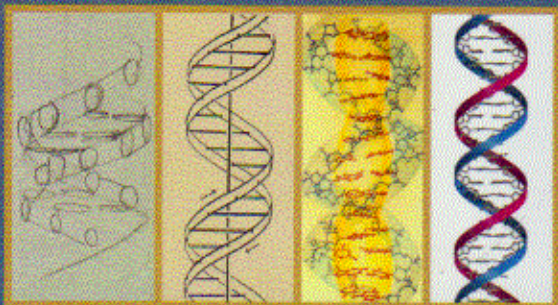


This year marks the 60th anniversary of the solving of the structure of DNA, an event that in many ways represents the birth of the field we know today as molecular biology. In recognition of this occasion, we have chosen four images of the double helix for the cover of this new edition of *Molecular Biology of the Gene*, from a very early sketch to a modern computer-generated image.

The first image, on the left, is a sketch by Francis Crick, who, with James Watson, proposed the double helix model of DNA. This drawing is perhaps the first representation of the now classic shape and is held in the Crick archives at the Wellcome Trust in London. The second image is also hand drawn, in this case by Crick's wife, Odile, and is the illustration that was used in the original publication of the double helix model—a one-page paper by Watson and Crick that appeared in the journal *Nature* on April 25th, 1953 together with companion papers by Maurice Wilkins, Rosalind Franklin, and their colleagues containing the structural data that supported critical features of the model.



The third image is a beautiful illustration from 1984 by Irving Geis, a great scientific illustrator of textbooks, particularly admired for his depiction—in paintings and drawings—of molecular structures. His images, the originals now held in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute archives, still compare well to modern computer-generated versions, and are still used—we have two in the protein structure chapter in this edition of our text. The final image is one such modern computer-generated image: this elegant example was produced using the open-source community program PyMOL, by Leemor Joshua-Tor, a crystallographer at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, who also produced many of the molecular images in this book.



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