

# GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

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Wislicenus, Johannus Adolph

1835 - 1902

DEGREE: PhD

DATE: 1861

PLACE: Zürich

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Heintz

proved that carbohydrate and fat oxidation is responsible for muscle energy; studied constitution of lactic acid, obtained first evidence of stereoisomers, and was the first to suggest that such compounds have identical structural formulas but different arrangements of the atoms in space; established the presence of cis and trans isomers in unsaturated organic compounds; explained geometric relationship between maleic and fumaric acids; introduced metallic silver as a synthetic agent for the activation of organic halides; synthesized vinyl ether, vinylacetic acid, and cyclic ketones; established structure of phosphorous acid.

FOOTNOTE: Like his father, a Lutheran priest who was jailed twice for "giving full expression to his revolutionary views on the foundations of faith", Wislicenus came to regard the enunciation of his political and religious principles as part of his life's work. Wislicenus left Halle in 1859 in protest before completing his PhD degree because the Hochschule wouldn't grant it unless he promised to refrain in the future from publicly expressing his political opinions.

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2. *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*; Charles Scribner's Sons: 1970-1990; vol. 14, p454-455.
3. Partington, J. R. *A History of Chemistry*; Macmillan: 1964; vol. 4, p759-764.
4. Asimov, I. *Asimov's Biographical Encyclopedia of Science and Technology (2nd Ed.)*; Doubleday: 1982; p471.
5. *A Biographical Dictionary of Scientists*; Williams, T. I., Ed.; Wiley: 1969; p565-566.
6. *Chem. Ber.* **1904**, 37, 4861-4946.
7. *Chem. Ber.* **1902**, 35, 4244-4246.
8. *Mem. Lect. Chem. Soc.* **1901-1913**, 2, 59-92.