

GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

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Woodward, Robert Burns

1917 - 1979

DEGREE: PhD

DATE: 1937

PLACE: MIT

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Ashdown

Nobel Prize 1965; developed Woodward rules for the structural interpretation of UV spectra; synthesized quinine, cholesterol, strychnine, chlorophyll, lysergic acid, cephalosporin c, reserpine, tetracycline, vitamin B12 (with Eschenmoser), and prostaglandin F; deduced structures of penicillin, tetrodotoxin, and ferrocene (with Wilkinson); co-developed the octant rule for the structural interpretation of optical rotatory dispersion spectra, the Woodward-Hoffmann rules for the stereochemistry of electrocyclic reactions, and the concept of conservation of orbital symmetry; delineated role of squalene in the biogenesis of steroids (with Bloch); early advocate of IR and UV spectroscopy and HPLC in organic synthesis.

1. Personal communication to A. J. Ihde (1970) confirmed PhD advisor.
2. *Biog. Mem. Fell. Roy. Soc.* **1981**, 27, 629-695.
3. *Chem. Brit.* **1980**, 16, 210-216.
4. Asimov, I. *Asimov's Biographical Encyclopedia of Science and Technology (2nd Ed.)*; Doubleday: 1982; p864-865.
5. *McGraw-Hill Modern Scientists and Engineers*; McGraw-Hill: 1980; vol. 3, p347-348.
6. *Boston Globe* **1937**, June 8 issue.
7. *Heterocycles* **1977**, 7, 1-35.