



Alejandro Sánchez Alvarado, Ph.D.

Dr. Alejandro Sánchez Alvarado's thirst for knowledge began at an early age, having been exposed to biology and literature by teachers who made these subjects fascinating and influenced his continued search for knowledge. After completing his high school education in Venezuela, he moved to Tennessee to attend Vanderbilt University and excelled despite arriving with a limited background in English. In 1987, he took a year off his formal education to backpack throughout South America to learn more about the culture, peoples and landscapes of the region.

Currently, Sánchez Alvarado is Professor of Neurobiology and Anatomy at the University of Utah and an investigator for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, (HHMI), a non-profit medical research organization which is the nation's largest philanthropy and plays a powerful role in advancing biomedical research and science education in the United States.

Sánchez Alvarado's work as a scientist extends into his laboratory in which he mentors many student researchers in the field of stem cells and regeneration. His lab at the University of Utah, the Sánchez Laboratory for Regeneration Research, supports 21 graduate and post-doctoral students, staff and visiting researchers. Sánchez Alvarado has won the Marcus Singer Award and an Albert J. Ryan Fellowship Award.

Sánchez Alvarado's wife, whom he states is the strongest and deepest influence in his life, Dr. Tatjana Piotrowski, is also a professor at the University of Utah School of Medicine, and together they have two children.

What made you pursue the career you have chosen?
"A keen interest for the unknown."