Dr. Joshua Brumberg has to be ranked as one of the most brilliant educators around. His laboratory at Queens College, CUNY is a veritable United Nations.

Students from all over the world can be found there working to make their mark in sciences. Under Dr. Brumberg's care and supervision many of these students will graduate and become ambassadors in their fields. Dr. Brumberg takes all of this in his stride as his humility, simplicity and compassion for others win the day.

Dr. Joshua Brumberg was born in New York City. His dad Dr. Stephen Brumberg hails from Baldwin in Long Island while his mom Patricia was born in the Bronx. Sadly, she is no longer with us but both of his parents have instilled in young Joshua qualities that would take him to the very top of his profession. Joshua attended PS 172 in Manhattan and Jumere High School 165. In New York City. While he was in the third grade, his teacher Mr. Burns, got him interested in science and from then there was no turning back.

Growing up in Manhattan meant regular visits to the American Museum of Natural History, including weekends and in his senior year. There came the big break. Dr. Stephen Brumberg is an education historian and a distinguished scholar in his own right. He has a wealth of knowledge about the school system in New York. When the President of Rockefeller University wanted to write his memoirs he called on Dr. Stephen Brumberg for some feedback about schools. The Presi- dent of Rockefeller University was very satisfied.

He was Professor Joshua Lieber who had won a Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1956. Professor Lieber urged that books that can move and exchange genes. As a result of a meeting with Professor Lieber the young Joshua Brumberg was contacted by a laboratory. Little did he know that this lab was located by another distinguished academic, Professor Terocyte Wieser. He too was a Nobel Prize winner whose seminal work was to figure out how the visual system works. Dr. Joshua Brumberg says, "I would go to the lab about two to three days a week while I was still in high school and they offered me an internship in the summer. I didn't know that Terocyte Wieser had won the Nobel Prize. He was nice to me and I am forever grateful to him. He is one of the outstanding figures in Neu- robiology. Whenever I see him I would tell him that he is responsible for what I do today."

As it happens, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark paper that Professor Wieser wrote on the organization of the visual system. It was published in the Journal of Physiology in 1959. After Joshua finished high school at Bronx Science, it was time for him to go to College. He went to Williams College in Massachusetts where he did his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. In 1997 he completed his Doctorate in Neuro- biology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. This was followed by post-doctoral studies at Yale University in Neuro-biology 2000 in 2002. Joshua Brumberg was a post-doctoral Research Scientist in the De- partment of Biological Sciences at Columbia University. In the Fall of 2002, he joined the faculty at Queens College in the Department of Psychology. What is Neurobiology and why was Joshua Brumberg attracted to it? Neurobiology is the science of trying to understand the brain in a general way. The brain is a complex organ and there are many tech- niques that can be used to study it, some of which include biology, genetics, behavior, and pharmacology. Joshua Brumberg and his team points out further that the object is to find out how the system works in the native state and "this can tell us how the system dysfunc- tions in the pathological state." Dr. Brumberg considers himself very privileged to be working with many talented scholars in the CUNY sys- tem. He says that he feels "very fortunate that I have had the oppor- tunity to be my own boss and pick the research questions and get to answer them."

Dr. Brumberg re- alizes that his success is due to a num- ber of people. He credits his wife Dr. Heather Brumberg, a physician, for her unstinted support and encouragement and for being a won- derful mother to their daughters Tama, and Sydney. There are also others who have helped to shape Dr. Brumberg into an outstanding scientist. Teacher. Professor Heather Williams, his undergraduate research advisor was instrumental in get- ting the young Joshua to ask ques- tions that were ans- werable by experi- ments. Professor Daniel Simmons, his Ph.D. supervi- sor, taught Joshua to keep things in perspective. Nobel Laureate, Torsten Wiesel remained his idol. But it was Professor Simmons who provided the focus and a sense of direction for Dr. Brumberg. He also credited his mentor for his success in the field of neu- roscience research in particular, and his success in the overall field of neuroscience research.

In his career Dr. Brumberg has published several research papers in well-regarded journals. His research has focused on the anatomy and the physiology of the visual system. The popular image of the brain is an organ that is compli- cated. That is the cortex or the outer portion. Neurobiology fo- cuses on the areas that process touch information. According to Dr. Brumberg, "If you raise the brain in a normal environment, you get one result but if you deprive the animal of this environment, you will see that change in experience affect the structure of the senses. The environment can impact the development of the neocortex which is important because you hear in early childhood education the im- portance of the environment.

Dr. Brumberg points out that the idea is to understand how the system works. He says that if we want to cure the disease we have to understand what the baseline circuitry is and how pathology alters and repair that circuit. He

"If there is something you want to do in life, never take 'no' for an answer. Do not give up. Be as free, follow your dreams and in the end success will be yours." - Dr. Joshua Brumberg