

Bette Korber

Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
May 28, 2026



Positions

2013-present	New Mexico Consortium, scientist
2023-present	Scientific consulting
1993-2023	Scientist 6 (highest level), Laboratory Fellow, Theoretical Biology and Biophysics (T6), Los Alamos National Laboratory
1993-2010	Santa Fe Institute external professor

Education

California State University, Long Beach, CA	B.S.	05/1981	Chemistry
California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA	Ph.D.	05/1988	Chemistry/Immunology
Harvard School of Public Health	Postdoc	10/1990	
Los Alamos National Lab (LANL), Postdoctoral fellow	Postdoc	09/1993	

My Background and Personal Statement

I retired from Los Alamos National Lab in 2023, but I'm still affiliated with LANL as a guest scientist. I am working part time as scientist at the New Mexico Consortium, and I have continued consulting for several universities on projects related to viral evolution and vaccines. My professional career has been devoted to developing computational strategies to study pathogen evolution and our immune response, with the end goal of enabling vaccine design and assessment. The major focus has been on HIV-1, although I have also worked on the evolution of SARS-CoV-2, and other emerging pathogens including Ebola, Mpox, Hepatitis C, and drug-resistant Tuberculosis. I am currently part of the NIH SARS-CoV-2 Assessment of Viral Evolution (SAVE) project, and I am a member of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on emerging pathogens. Several vaccines I helped designed are still being tested in animal and human trials, and so I am continuing to help with their assessment. But as I am coasting into retirement, I've had more time to devote to environmental activism, music and writing, a heady combination of things I love. I currently working on ways to bring those three together, and to share what I can learn with others.

Web Summary Links

[Google Scholar](#) 05/28/2026:

- Citations: 78,546
- H-index: 143 (143 of my publications have 141 or more citations)
- i10-index: 399 (399 of my publications have 10 or more citations)

[Publication list](#): A list of 390 of my scientific publications is available through NCBI's "My Bibliography"

Selected Honors, scientific and others

1981	BS summa cum laude, outstanding graduate of the School of Natural Sciences, CSULB
1997-2003	Elizabeth Glaser Scientist
2001	Outstanding alumna, CSULB, 2001
2002	Los Alamos National Laboratory Fellow (lifetime honor for sustained outstanding contributions)
2004	The E.O. Lawrence Award, the Department of Energy's highest scientific honor
2005	Finalist, Wired Magazine's Rave Award for "People Who Change People's Minds"
2007	Adrian P. Lovell Spirit Award, World Tae Kwon Do Association, West Point, NY, Blackbelt Camp

2007	Los Alamos Star Award for Outstanding Scientific Contributions
2009	Award for Women Who Have Made a Difference in New Mexico
2016	Award for best mentoring of postdoctoral scientists, Los Alamos National Laboratory
2016	Norm Letvin Scholar, Center for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Immunology and Immunogen Discovery
2017	Award from the Secretary of the Dept. of Energy for work on the Ebola Task Force
2018	Richard P. Feynman Innovation Prize
2018	R&D 100, Scientist of the Year Award
2019	Battelle's Inventor of the Year Award
2020	Duke CHAVD Norman Letvin Award for Excellence
2020-2021	Member of the COVID-19 vaccine safety working group for the state of New Mexico
2021	Los Alamos National Laboratory Medal, for "changing the course of science" (LANL's highest honor)
2022	Best song in World Music Category for my song "Veneration", New Mexico Music Awards
2022	California Institute of Technology Distinguished Alumni Award 2022 (their highest honor)
2023	Global Music Awards bronze medal for my song "D614G: An Evolutionary Tale"
2023	Whitehouse letter of commendation for a collaborative response to emergent SARS-CoV-2 variants
2023	CHAVI/CHAVI-ID/CHAVD Award for Contributions to Progress in HIV Vaccine Development
2023	Charles C. Shephard Award for Scientific Excellence, for participation in a study with the CDC on the global monkeypox outbreak
2024	I became a New Mexico "Climate Master" for completing a curriculum on climate change and regional solutions, and for my volunteer work in the field
2024-present	Member of the World Health Organization Technical Advisory Group on SARS-CoV-2 Evolution
2025	My music video, Hermosa Mariposa, was shown at the Frome International Climate Film Festival
2025-present	GISAID scientific advisory board member
2026	Member of the New Mexico Pesticide Reform Group
2026	Ranked the top scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory in terms of my publication record, and 134 th globally in the field of immunology