



2024 NATIONAL INVENTORS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: Jan. 13, 1960

Primary Connections:

- University of California, Berkeley; Eugene D. Commins Presidential Chair in Experimental Physics; Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology; 2018-present
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute: Investigator (UC Berkeley), Senior Fellow, Janelia Research Campus, 2018-present
- Group Leader, Janelia Research Campus, 2005-18
- Ann Arbor Machine Co.: Vice President of Research and Development, 1996-2002
- AT&T Bell Labs: Member of Technical Staff, 1988-94

Education:

- California Institute of Technology: B.S., Physics, 1983
- Cornell University: M.S., Applied Physics, 1985; Ph.D., Applied Physics, 1988

Key Memberships/Awards:

- National Academy of Sciences: Member, 2015
- Royal Society of Chemistry: Honorary Fellow, 2015
- Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 2014

10 Things You Need to Know About

Eric Betzig

Photoactivated Localization Microscopy (PALM)

U.S. PATENT NO. 7,535,012

1. Betzig was born in 1960 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
2. He was a Boy Scout.
3. Betzig taught himself to program at age 12 when he spent Sunday mornings exploring the machine shop where his father worked.
4. He told the New York Times in 2015, "If there is one way I characterize myself, it's as an inventor. My father is that, too. He spent his life inventing and making tools for the automotive industry. I grew up around inventors."
5. Betzig and Harald Hess each invested \$25,000 to build a prototype of their PALM technology. They worked in Hess' living room and built a prototype in two months.
6. Zeiss received a license in 2007 from Betzig and Hess to commercialize PALM.
7. He shared the 2014 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with William E. Moerner and Stefan Hell for "super-resolved fluorescence microscopy."
8. Betzig is a co-founder and scientific adviser of Eikon Therapeutics.
9. Among his many honors are Caltech's Distinguished Alumni Award and the AAAS Newcomb Cleveland Prize.
10. Betzig has 42 U.S. patents.