HOW SCIENCE TAKES ROOT: David Baltimore's Caltech Family Tree

When we talk about Caltech as an incubator for great scientific ideas, we sometimes forget to consider the scientists from whose minds those ideas come. Great science doesn't spring from nowhere; nor, most often, do great scientists.

The Caltech laboratory of Nobel Laureate and Robert Andrews Millikan Professor of Biology David Baltimore has, over the past decade and a half, been an incubator for more than three-dozen scientists—graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and physicians in training. And they, in turn, have driven the lab's thriving research programs aimed at understanding and exploiting signaling pathways, transcription factors, and more, to assist in treating and preventing diseases such as AIDS, influenza, and cancer.

Labs across the Caltech campus foster this same kind of scientific growth. The Institute's scientists and engineers all take the academic portion of its mission—to "educate outstanding students to become creative members of society"—just as seriously as they do any crucial experiment. In the end, the Institute is just as proud of its legacy of educating our country's future leaders, scientific and otherwise, as it is of its legacy of innovation. After all, you can't have one without the other. —LO





