



## Richard Wassersug

I grew up just south of Boston, Massachusetts, but spent most of my life in Halifax, Nova Scotia where I was a Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology at Dalhousie University. In 2011 I retired and moved to Vancouver with my wife Kathy Young.

I'm a scientist, who started doing research in high school, majored in geology and biology as an undergraduate, then went on to the University of Chicago for a PhD in evolutionary biology. Most of my life has been spent studying the biology of tadpoles.

Some 20 years ago, after being diagnosed with prostate cancer, I started investigating ways to improve the life of cancer patients. For five years I worked at the Vancouver General Hospital to help set up their Prostate Cancer Supportive Care Program. I am the lead author on the book *Androgen Deprivation Therapy: An essential guide for prostate cancer patients and their loved ones*, and I help run an internet accessible, educational program for prostate cancer patients starting on that treatment.

I have also worked with NASA and other space agencies studying the development and behavior of animals in weightlessness. In addition I have been a columnist for a science news show on the Discovery Channel and have published ~300 scientific papers and popular science essays. Much my research now deals with issues around sex, gender, and health. In sum, I am a hardcore academic, who has delighted in the freedom I have had to investigate just about anything that has caught my interests.

As an academic, I love exploring ideas and enjoy the chance to talk about almost anything with others in the Or Shalom community....which I have found to be a community full of people full of ideas. When I first walked into the synagogue for a Shabbat service, I was surprised by how well the congregation could sing. The collective voices balanced against the diversity of the people in our Shul. A major appeal of the Or Shalom community for me is how the great diversity of our members can come together and spontaneously sing in harmony.

Feel free to ask me about what I'm thinking about today. I'll be happy to tell you. But I'll also want to hear what you are thinking about today.

Richard Wassersug  
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