

Lila M. Gierasch '70, Doctor of Science

Lila M. Gierasch '70, professor of chemistry and professor and head of biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at Mount Holyoke, graduating summa cum laude and with great distinction, and a doctorate in biophysics from Harvard University. Having taught at Amherst College, the University of Delaware, and the University of Texas Southwestern, she joined the faculty of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1994. While doing research supported by grants totaling \$3 million there, she spearheaded a rebuilding of both the chemistry department and the department of biochemistry and molecular biology.

Gierasch has published more than 170 papers, her research focusing on human proteins and the "mistakes" in the protein folding and assembly process that give rise to diseases such as cystic fibrosis and Alzheimer's. She has been a member of the National Advisory Council to the General Medical Sciences Institute of the National Institutes of Health and a member of the Advisory Committee to the Math and Physical Sciences Directorate of the National Science Foundation.