

## **Rosalind Franklin and DNA**

**Brian Sutton<sup>1</sup>**

***<sup>1</sup>No affiliation given***

***brian.sutton@kcl.ac.uk***

Although Rosalind Franklin spent only two years at King's College London, she will probably always be remembered most of all for her work there on DNA, her name forever associated with the iconic "Photograph 51", arguably one of the most important photographs ever taken. Her contribution to the discovery of the structure of DNA, and to the model proposed by James Watson and Francis Crick, was certainly critical, although not properly acknowledged at the time. I shall describe the background to the work on DNA at King's, Franklin's contribution and experimental approach, and show how her results enabled Watson and Crick to build their model. How close was Franklin herself to the answer? Tragically she died never knowing that her data had played such a key role in establishing DNA's structure, but today her contribution is fully appreciated and she rightly receives the recognition due to such an extraordinarily gifted scientist.