

Cholesterol is the most highly decorated small molecule in biology. Thirteen Nobel Prizes have been awarded to scientists who devoted major parts of their careers to cholesterol. Ever since it was first isolated from gallstones in 1784, almost exactly 200 years ago, cholesterol has exerted a hypnotic fascination for scientists from the most diverse domains of science and medicine.....

....Cholesterol is a Janusfaced molecule. The very property that makes it useful in cell membranes, namely its absolute insolubility in water, also makes it lethal.

Nobel lecture, 9. December 1985, Michael S. Brown and Joseph L. Goldstein,
from: www.nobelprize.org