Robert Kolter is past president of the American Society for Microbiology, an author of several books, and Professor Emeritus of microbiology at Harvard Medical School. He was Co-director of Harvard's university-wide Microbial Sciences Initiative. In 2016, he became co-blogger of the popular microbiology blog Small Things Considered. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the American Academy of Microbiology. He co-authored over 240 research and other scholarly articles.

Roberto Kolter was among the first to characterize ABC transporters. His studies of regulatory systems exclusive for stationary phase laid the foundations for experimental evolution. He was a pioneer in the field of genetics of bacterial biofilms. His recent studies focused on microbial interspecies interactions, cell differentiation and division of labor in mixed bacterial communities.

Roberto Kolter is famed for being an independent thinker, for his out-of-the-box and creative views and for his lecturing abilities. This is a fantastic possibility for students to be inspired.