1. Betzig was born in 1960 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
2. He was a Boy Scout.
3. Betzig taught himself to program at age 12 when he spent Sunday mornings exploring the machine shop where his father worked.
4. He told the New York Times in 2015, “If there is one way I characterize myself, it’s as an inventor. My father is that, too. He spent his life inventing and making tools for the automotive industry. I grew up around inventors.”
5. Betzig and Harald Hess each invested $25,000 to build a prototype of their PALM technology. They worked in Hess’ living room and built a prototype in two months.
6. Zeiss received a license in 2007 from Betzig and Hess to commercialize PALM.
7. He shared the 2014 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with William E. Moerner and Stefan Hell for “super-resolved fluorescence microscopy.”
8. Betzig is a co-founder and scientific adviser of Eikon Therapeutics.
9. Among his many honors are Caltech’s Distinguished Alumni Award and the AAAS Newcomb Cleveland Prize.
10. Betzig has 42 U.S. patents.