



Media Alert

Attention: What's On, Diary editors

Date: 31 July 2006

The science of genomics explained

The man who unravelled the genetic sequence of the bacterium that causes syphilis will demystify the science behind the discovery when he gives a free public lecture on Wednesday, 16 August.

Professor George Weinstock, the co-director of the Baylor College of Medicine Human Genome Sequencing Centre in Texas, US, will give his lecture on genomics as part of National Science Week 2006.

Professor Weinstock is an expert on the molecular basis of infectious diseases and led the team that sequenced the genome of the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*, the cause of syphilis.

He is visiting Monash University's ARC Centre of Excellence in Structural and Functional Microbial Genomics over five days during National Science Week.

The centre's research programs manager, Ms Marianne Johnston, said few people understood genomics.

"Genomics is a word that often draws a blank in your average conversation but the outcomes from scientists studying the structure and function of genes - which is basically what genomics is - often have highly practical results," she said.

"For instance, genomics includes the development of new vaccines and the identification of novel drug targets."

The ARC Centre in Microbial Genomics at Monash University conducts research into key aspects of microbial pathogens and the hosts they infect. The centre is working towards developing new veterinary vaccines and identifying novel antimicrobial targets with a focus on diseases of importance to Australian primary industry.

Lecture attendees are also invited to a special viewing of the Monash Science Centre's "63%H2O – The Body in Question" exhibition. The exhibition showcases many examples of cutting edge Australian biomedical research.

What: Professor George Weinstock explains the science of genomics
When: 6.30pm, Wednesday 16 August
Where: South One Lecture Theatre, Building 64, Clayton Campus, Monash University

For more information contact Ms Johnston on 9905 8592 or 0408 356 504 or Professor George Weinstock on + 1 713 798 4357 or via email gwstock@bcm.tmc.edu