



PRESS RELEASE

University of Michigan Scientist to Give Lecture at Hauptman-Woodward
Janet Smith, acclaimed scientist and professor, to speak at HWI on May 9

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Janet Smith, Ph.D., is scheduled to lecture at the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute on Tuesday, May 9, 2006 on the "Structures of Macromolecular Complexes." The lecture begins at 4 p.m. at 700 Ellicott Street and a reception will follow.

Smith received her bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and her Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she developed a focus on structural biology. After her thesis research on crystal structures of protein synthesis inhibitors, Smith pursued an interest in protein structure at the Naval Research Laboratory as a National Research Council Research Fellow. After her postdoctoral work, she held positions at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Columbia University, established a research program in structural biology at Purdue, has been a visiting scientist at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory and the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility in Grenoble, France, and lectured internationally on structural biology and synchrotron radiation.

Smith's research focuses on understanding biological processes through knowledge of the structures of key protein molecules. She has made major contributions to the understanding of catalysis and regulation in glutamine amidotransferases and phosphoribosyltransferases by solving and interpreting crystal structures of several enzymes of each type. She has solved crystal structures of photosynthetic proteins, leading to a new understanding of their function. She has also contributed to the development of methods for rapid determination of protein crystal structures, particularly using synchrotron X-ray sources. Smith is co-author or author of more than 70 publications, and has served on the editorial boards of four journals: *Current Opinion in Structural Biology*, *Macromolecular Structures*, *Protein Science*, and *Structure*. She is a recipient of and National Institutes of Health (NIH) MERIT (Method to Extend Research in Time) Award for her work on understanding the function and structure of complex enzymes.

Smith holds membership in several scientific societies and has served on numerous on grant review panels. From 1996 to 1998, she chaired the Biophysical Chemistry Study Section A at NIH. She is a founder and the current chairperson of the Structural Biology Synchrotron Users Organization. She also served on the Department of Energy's Biological and Environmental Research Advisory Committee and is a frequent advisor to synchrotron radiation facilities and synchrotron structural biology labs both in the U.S. and abroad. Smith is director of the NIH Collaborative Access Team for National Institute of General Medical Sciences and the NIH National Cancer Institute at the Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory. She was Professor of Biological Sciences at Purdue University from 1987 through 2004.

About HWI

Celebrating 50 years of exceptional crystallographic research, HWI is an independent, non-profit facility specializing in the area of fundamental biomedical research known as structural biology. Our team of more than 70 staff members is committed to improving human health by studying the causes of diseases, as well as potential therapies, at their basic molecular level. We are located in the heart of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus in downtown Buffalo, New York, in a new state-of-the-art structural biology research center at 700 Ellicott Street. For more information, visit HWI's website at <http://www.hwi.buffalo.edu> or call 716-898-8600.