



PRESS RELEASE

**Local Scientist To Present at Scientific Meeting in Slovenia**

*William Duax, Hauptman-Woodward distinguished research scientist, to speak to scientists from around the world*

*For Release: May 31, 2006*

**William Duax, Ph.D.** will give a presentation at the Slovenian National Crystallographic Meeting from June 14-16, 2006 on "Multiple Open Reading Frames, Codon Bias and the Evolution of the Genetic Code."

The presentation provided information on the original evolution of the genetic code and the protein in the body that controls growth and development.

Duax received his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the University of Iowa and a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the St. Ambrose College.

***About Duax's Research Interests***

Duax is conducting research in the areas of bioinformatics, proteomics and genomics. He is predicting the structure and function of 5000 hypothetical genes that are members of the steroid dehydrogenase family. Members of that family of enzymes are implicated in the origin of cancer, high blood pressure, Alzheimer's disease, arteriosclerosis and polycystic kidney disease. Through analysis of the system of these 5000 proteins and the genes that express them, he is tracing the evolution of the genetic code to its origin more than three billion years ago. He is testing his predictions using the technique he applied in the past to determine the molecular basis for the action of hormone drugs and antibiotics.

***About HWI***

Celebrating 50 years of exceptional scientific 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.