



PRESS RELEASE

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**Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute Distinguished Research Scientist  
Scheduled to Attend Crystallography Meeting in Morocco**

William L. Duax, Ph.D., will attend the 24<sup>th</sup> European Crystallographic Meeting in Marrakech, Morocco from August 22-27, 2007 at the Convention Center “Le Palais des Congrès de Marrakech.”

This will be the first European Crystallographic Meeting to be held in Morocco. Duax will cover the meetings on behalf of the newsletter of the International Union of Crystallography that goes to 15,000 crystallographers worldwide. He also will present a paper on gene duplication and the origin of the genetic code.

*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 5,000 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 5,000 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. Duax received his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the University of Iowa and a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from St. Ambrose College.

*About HWI*

With more than 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 [www.hwi.buffalo.edu](http://www.hwi.buffalo.edu) or call (716) 898- 8600.