



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Amy VanRemmen  
(716) 898- 8596

FOR RELEASE: Thursday, October 25, 2007

**THEY COME, THEY TALK, SOME WIN**

Marking its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Annual Pittsburgh Diffraction Conference is being held at the Hauptman-Woodward Institute. The conference begins today and concludes on Saturday, October 27, 2007. The conference brings together biomedical researchers and students from around the world to participate in specialized topic discussions. The 26 invited lecturers, along with a couple dozen students, will be presenting to the audience of about 100 scientists. Five specialized topics will be discussed during the conference. Each one of the five will include contributions from lecturers from across the nation and Canada. Each topic is rooted in bio-crystallographic research.

“It is an honor and a privilege to host this year’s conference,” HWI’s Senior Research Scientist, Dr. Robert Blessing, Pittsburgh Diffraction Society President-Elect, said. “This opportunity allows us the distinct ability to focus on cutting-edge diffraction science.”

More interaction and intellectual exchange are possible at this conference than at larger gatherings. “With a conference of this size there is a greater opportunity for the exchange of ideas and the strong representation of crystallographic methods and developments than at other, larger conferences,” HWI’s Principal Research Scientist, Dr. Jane Griffin said.

A networking opportunity will take place tonight at 7 p.m. at Hauptman-Woodward. There also will be a conference banquet and awards ceremony at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 26, 2007 at the Jacobs Executive Development Center at 672 Delaware Avenue. The awards banquet will include:

- ∞ The **Chung Soo Yoo** award for the best poster presentation was established by the Pittsburgh Diffraction Society to honor the memory of Dr. Chung Soo Yoo, who was killed in the Korean Airlines Flight 007 disaster. The students will be judged by a three-person panel.
- ∞ Four students will be awarded **travel grants** in recognition of their scientific accomplishments.

***ABOUT THE PITTSBURGH DIFFRACTION SOCIETY***

The Pittsburgh Diffraction Society is a not-for-profit organization that was founded in 1942. It is dedicated to promoting interest in all forms of fundamental and applied diffraction and crystallographic research and to encouraging the exchange of ideas and information concerning the research.

***ABOUT HWI***

With more than 50 years of exceptional scientific research, HWI is an internationally-renowned independent, non-profit facility specializing in the area of fundamental biomedical research known as structural biology. HWI’s team of more than 75 staff members is committed to improving human health by studying the causes of diseases, as well as potential therapies, at their basic molecular level. For more information, visit HWI’s website at [www.hwi.buffalo.edu](http://www.hwi.buffalo.edu) or call 716-898-8600.