



H A U P T M A N - W O O D W A R D  
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**AAAS and Hauptman-Woodward Announce 2007 Fellows**

Washington D.C. – Dr. William L. Duax of Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute has been awarded the distinction of AAAS Fellow. Election as a Fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers.

This year 471 members have been awarded this honor by AAAS because of their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. New Fellows will be presented with an official certificate and a gold and blue (representing science and engineering, respectively) rosette pin on Saturday, February, 16, 2008 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Fellows Forum during the 2008 AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston.

This year's AAAS Fellows will be announced today in the AAAS News & Notes section of the journal *Science*.

As part of the Biological Sciences section, Duax was elected as an AAAS Fellow for determining numerous 3-D structures of steroids and proteins, predicting protein substrates, tracing the evolution of the genetic code, and contributing to minority education.

The tradition of AAAS Fellows began in 1874. Currently, members can be considered for the rank of Fellow if nominated by the Steering Groups of the Association's 24 sections, or by any three Fellows who are current AAAS members (so long as two of the three sponsors are not affiliated with the nominee's institution), or by the AAAS Chief Executive Officer. Each Steering Group then reviews the nominations of individuals within its section and a final list is forwarded to the AAAS Council, which votes on the aggregate list. The Council is the policymaking body of the Association, chaired by the AAAS President, and consisting of the members of the Board of Directors, the Retiring Section Chairs, delegates from each electorate and each regional division, and two delegates from the National Association of Academies of Science.

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

Duax is the Hauptman-Woodward Institute H.A. Hauptman Distinguished Scientist. In addition, he is a professor in the Structural Biology Department of the University at Buffalo and an executive officer with the American Crystallographic Association. He 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. His Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry is from the University of Iowa and his bachelor's in Chemistry is from St. Ambrose College.

***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. HWI 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.

***About AAAS***

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest general scientific society, and publisher of the journal, *Science* ([www.sciencemag.org](http://www.sciencemag.org)). AAAS was founded in 1848, and includes some 262 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals. *Science* has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general science journal in the world, with an estimated total readership of 1 million. The non-profit AAAS

([www.aaas.org](http://www.aaas.org)) is open to all and fulfills its mission to "advance science and serve society" through initiatives in science policy; international programs; science education; and more. For the latest research news, log onto EurekAlert!, [www.eurekalert.org](http://www.eurekalert.org), the premier science-news Web site, a service of AAAS.