**Chaudhuri Joins Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute**

*Appointment Made as HWI Research Scientist and Assistant Professor in the UB Structural Biology Department*

For Release: Tuesday, February 14, 2006

Barnali (Neel) Chaudhuri has joined the staff of Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute as a research scientist. She also has been named an assistant professor in the Department of Structural Biology Department in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences of the University at Buffalo.

Chaudhuri has extensive experience in working on macromolecular crystallography and high-throughput structural genomics. She has solved two crystal structures from M. tuberculosis which are both potential drug targets.

Chaudhuri’s work at HWI will focus on the study of the tRNA modification process. RNA modification database lists about 90 modified bases specific to tRNA, with varied roles in stability, codon recognition, reading-frame maintenance etc. A large number of RNA modification enzymes have evolved to target the base modifications of the tRNAs in all domains of life. The goal of this work is to understand the structural determinants of the site-specific tRNA:enzyme recognition (e.g. dependence on the tRNA architecture). She is also interested in the naturally occurring rare amino acids (e.g. selenocysteine, pyrrolysine).

Chaudhuri received her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from Uppsala University in Sweden and has spent the last seven years in post-doctoral positions at Purdue University and the University of California at Los Angeles. Prior to her post-doctoral work, Chaudhuri received her master’s degree in Physical Chemistry from the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur, India and her bachelor’s degree in Chemistry from the Presidency College, University of Calcutta in India.

Chaudhuri resides in Buffalo, New York.

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