



PRESS RELEASE

Local Scientist To Present at Schools in Morocco and Turkey

William Duax, Hauptman-Woodward distinguished research scientist, to speak to international students

For Release: May 1, 2006

William Duax, Ph.D. will give presentations on three topics to students in Morocco from May 8-13, 2006 and Turkey from May 15-19, 2006.

He will make presentations on three topics:

- * The genes, amino acids and crystal structures of short-chain oxidoreductase enzymes
- * Mechanism of ion transport and gating of gramicidin nanotubes
- * Crystallography and the Nobel Prize

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.

As a past president of the International Union of Crystallography (IUC), Duax also will discuss ways in which the IUC can help build the scientific infrastructure of economically disadvantaged nations and promote international understanding and cooperation.

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.