Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute Distinguished Research Scientist to Present Series of Lectures at the University of Iowa

William L. Duax, Ph.D., is slated to present a series of seminars entitled “Tracing the Origin and Evolution of the Genetic Code” and “Amino Acids and Folding of Protein,” respectively, at the University of Iowa’s Department of Biological Sciences from May 3-7, 2007.

The “Tracing the Origin and Evolution of the Genetic Code” seminar will discuss the tracing of the origin and evolution of the genetic code through the analysis of gene duplication.

The “Amino Acids and Folding of Protein” seminar will discuss thoughts on developing a technology for predicting the structure and function of 10,000 genes in 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, atherosclerosis 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 or call (716) 898-8600.

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