Debashis Ghosh, Ph.D., of the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute spoke at the 16th International Conference on Cytochrome P450. The conference was held in Okinawa, Japan from June 21-25, 2009.

An international series of biennial meetings is held on the cytochrome P450 enzymes. The P450 enzyme, better known as aromatase, is the key enzyme in the production of estrogen. Ghosh will be speaking on his recent aromatase breakthrough, in which he determined the three-dimensional structure of the enzyme aromatase. Seventy-five to eighty percent of breast cancers are estrogen dependent. By knowing the three-dimensional structure of the aromatase inhibitors, drugs with minimal side effects can be developed to stop the production of estrogen and in turn reduce the growth of tumors.

The series was established in 1976 as a means of facilitating contact of scientists in this area working in Eastern Bloc and western countries but has developed into a timely international series with meetings rotating among Europe, Asia, and North America. Issues addressed at these research meetings include biochemistry, biophysics, and gene regulation.

About Dr. Debashis Ghosh
In addition to his position as an HWI senior research scientist, Ghosh is an associate member of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at RPCI and in the Department of Structural Biology of UB. Ghosh received his bachelor’s degree with honors in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics from St. Xavier's College, University of Calcutta, India and his master’s degree in Physics from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India. He completed a post-master’s fellowship in Biophysics at the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics in Calcutta, India. Ghosh then earned his doctorate in Crystallography from the University of Pittsburgh and completed his post-doctoral fellowship in Material Science at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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.