



February 28, 2006

The First Science Café Kicks off with a Discussion of “Humankind's Future On the Head of a Pin: Nanotechnology - What is it? What can it do?”

What: “Science Café” – what is it? “Science Café steals a page from the salons of France, Café Philosophique and our CNS-ASU colleagues at Wisconsin to bring together community members and academics concerned with how science, including nanotechnology, will change the future. “People don’t often have the chance to meet with an expert and to talk about how the scientist’s work is going to impact their lives and society,” said Guston. The typical café is a casual event in an informal setting where a scientist speaks for 5-20 minutes on a topic, and the public has the opportunity to ask questions and interact with the scientist. The Center for Nanotechnology in Society at ASU is offering the first gathering March 23 at 7:30 p.m. at Mills End Espresso and featuring Dr. Stuart Lindsay, PhD, who will make a short presentation and then engage the audience in discussion. This series of informal chats will focus on Nanotechnology, which is the relatively new science of working with tiny materials or structures –tiny being one billionth of a meter – for use in health care, golf clubs and tennis balls, security and surveillance, human enhancement and a raft of other applications, some more controversial than others.

Who: Interested community members should attend

Sponsored by the Center for Nanotechnology in Society at ASU

Dr. Stuart Lindsay, PhD, will make a short presentation and then engage the audience in an informal discussion. Lindsay, director of the Center for Single Molecule Biophysics in the Biodesign Institute at ASU, is a world-renowned scientist, inventor and entrepreneur. Lindsay’s lab is learning how to build atom by atom at the nanoscale, manipulating and seeing their results through a variety of new instrumentation.

All of life can be broken down into the actions of millions of single molecules working in concert to maintain our health. Specifically, Lindsay’s scientific research uses nanotechnology to investigate the role of single molecules in basic cellular processes. His interests include: how genes are switched on and off; how molecules can function as biosensors; how molecules move about and communicate inside an organism. Many of the goals of his work are aimed at speedier diagnosis and at medical breakthroughs needed to understand and cure a wide variety of diseases.

Lindsay has 18 nanotechnology-related patents to his credit with and is a international leader in the field. As an entrepreneur, he co-founded a start-up company in 1993, Molecular Imaging, Inc., to produce scanning probe microscopes-the “eyes” of nanotechnology. The Tempe-based company was recently acquired by Agilent Technologies, Inc.

When: March 23, 2006, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. (same locale for future meetings-April 20)

Where: Mills End Coffee Shop, 310 S. Mill Ave, 2 blocks south of Rio Salado.

Why: To promote a dialog about science, Nanotechnology in particular, with the larger community. “People don’t often have the chance to meet with an expert and to talk about how the scientist’s work is going to impact their lives and society,” said Dave Guston, project director of the Center for Nanotechnology and Society at ASU.

Cost: Free

Center for Nanotechnology in Society at ASU is an NSF-funded organization where an essential element of the research and education programs is the involvement of underrepresented groups. The participative processes used by CNS researchers will focus especially on the unique location of ASU, therefore on Latinos and Native Americans, and other groups who are underrepresented in the scientific/technology/engineering/math (STEM) fields, such as people with disabilities and women. This commitment is more than just a matter of equity – it speaks to the conceptual core of the Center--that contextual knowledge is critical in shaping research choices and outcomes.

#####

Source:

David Guston, (480) 727-8829

Media contact:

Cory Dillon

Program Manager

Center for Nanotechnology in Society

480-727-8832

corinne.dillon@asu.edu