

Contact: Reitha Weeks, Ph.D.
Resident Scientist and Program Manager
Northwest Association for Biomedical Research
(206) 957-3337 x 305
rweeks@nwabr.org

Meet Scientists & Join the Activities at Life Sciences Research Weekend

Pacific Science Center - Ackerley Gallery
Friday - Nov. 5 - 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday & Sunday - Nov. 6-7 - 10 am to 5 pm
Price: Included with standard admission

SEATTLE - Nov. 3, 2010 - Northwest Association for Biomedical Research (NWABR) and Pacific Science Center (PSC) are co-presenting this 4th annual event that is sure to pique your curiosity and bring science to life!

Life Sciences Research Weekend is three days full of hands-on activities and demonstrations for children, parents, and citizen scientists interested in learning more about the innovative life sciences research and talented scientists in our community.

Scientists from top research institutions, academic departments, and companies throughout the state will be presenting activities such as **touching a sheep heart, extracting strawberry DNA, making an antibody**, and many displays designed to engage children and their parents!

This event is a unique opportunity to increase the public's trust and understanding of research. Guests can learn about exciting careers in the life sciences, see their tax dollars at work in funding research, and discover science as it applies to their everyday lives.

"Meeting scientists from Washington companies and research institutions makes science - and scientists - 'real' and approachable. Encouraging the next generation of scientists and demonstrating the ground breaking research being done in our state makes this event rewarding for scientists as well as the public" said **Reitha Weeks, Ph.D.**, Resident Scientist and Program Manager, Northwest Association for Biomedical Research.

More than 240 local researchers and volunteers will be at the event, representing 27 organizations, companies, and academic departments including Amgen, Benaroya Research Institute, Swedish Medical Center, and several groups from the University of Washington and Washington State University. The event is a learning experience for the scientists, who find new ways to communicate the importance of their research to children and the general public.

STORY IDEAS/PHOTO OPPS

New activities this year include **an appearance by Tommy T-Cell Superhero** on Saturday, November 6. Get your picture with Tommy T-Cell and learn how T-cells regulate the immune system, presented by Benaroya Research Institute.

The popular **SimMan and SimBaby** return to the event - they are anatomically correct mannequins with which you can measure pulse, heart rate, and many other physiological functions, presented by Renton Technical College.

NWABR invites guests to be a scientist with several activities. You can observe regenerating flatworms, evaluate lotions, and more.

At Swedish Medical Center's table, guests can **touch a pig heart, use lab equipment, and learn how clinical trials are done.**

Learn how antibodies help protect us from disease and build antibody models, by Amgen.

Try a protein folding video game, coloring book, and 3D models from the Department of Biochemistry and Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington.

Trick your brain! with optical and auditory illusions presented by the University of Washington's Neurobiology and Behavior Community Outreach program.

The **Northwest Association for Biomedical Research** believes that understanding the life sciences empowers individuals and society to make informed decisions about biomedical research. We are a non-profit educational organization established in 1988 to promote the public understanding of biomedical research and its ethical conduct. Our work centers on supporting excellence in science teaching, building connections between scientists and students, and strengthening the research community.

Pacific Science Center is a not-for-profit educational institution which inspires a lifelong interest in science, math, and technology by engaging diverse communities through interactive and innovative exhibits and programs. Pacific Science Center began as the United States Science Pavilion during the 1962 Seattle World's Fair. Millions came to explore the wonders of science during the World's Fair and upon closing ceremonies, the Science Pavilion was given new life as the private not-for-profit Pacific Science Center, becoming the first U.S. museum founded as a science and technology center.

NWABR would like to thank our participating member organizations and their many volunteers who make Life Sciences Research Weekend so successful - please visit activity tables presented by:

Amgen
Benaroya Research Institute
Institute for Systems Biology
North Seattle Community College - SHINE Nanotechnology Program
Northwest Association for Biomedical Research
Pacific Science Center -Science Communication Fellows
Renton Technical College
Shoreline Community College - Biotechnology Dept.
Swedish Medical Center
The Hope Heart Institute and UW Engineered Biomaterials
University of Washington:
 UW Biochemistry, Computer Science and Engineering Depts.
 UW Bioengineering & Biomedical Engineering Society
 UW Genome Sciences, presented by Women in Genome Sciences
 UW Human Photonics Lab, Human Interface Technology (HIT) Lab, Mechanical Engineering,
 and Harborview Regional Burn Center
 UW Medicine, South Lake Union Group (SLUGS)
 UW Neurobiology & Behavior Community Outreach Washington State University
Washington State University Horticulture Dept.

For more information visit <http://www.nwabr.org/education/lsw.html> or <http://www.pacsci.org/life-sciences-research-weekend/>