



Wednesday, November 6, 2002

Renowned researcher speaking at OU

Etienne-Emile Baulieu, best known for his discovery of RU486 – the morning-after pill – will be speaking at Oakland University, Wednesday, Nov. 13, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in 201 Dodge Hall. A reception will follow from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Baulieu, director of the INSERM research unit and professor of human reproduction, College of France, also will receive OU's College of Arts and Sciences Center for Biomedical Research Distinguished Biomedical Science Achievement Award.

Baulieu's presentation, called "Neurosteroids: Myelin, Memory and Aging" will focus on his research in the area of aging and memory loss. He discovered that certain steroids are synthesized within the central and peripheral nervous systems where their actions go beyond reproductive functions.

These neurosteroids are synthesized in the nervous system and have demonstrated potent actions on brain functions, including promoting the formation of new myelin sheaths, and memory at physiological and pharmacological levels.

Baulieu became famous with his discovery of the controversial RU486, the pill that ends early pregnancies. Despite strong and continued opposition by several religious groups, the morning-after pill is widely used. RU486 also has far-reaching potential, including the therapeutic applicability to a variety of pregnancy-related conditions and to contraception, endometriosis and cancer.

Those interested in attending the public lecture should contact the **Center for Biomedical Research** at (248) 370-2085 or **butler@oakland.edu**. Seating is limited.

SUMMARY

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