



Wednesday, October 8, 2003

OU to host Dr. Craig Venter during its Varner Vitality Seminar

Oakland University will host Dr. Craig Venter, president of the Center for the Advancement of Genomics, as part of the Varner Vitality Seminar Series on Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 3 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the Oakland Center on the university's campus.

In his discussion, "Our Genomic Future," Venter will detail the lessons gleaned from sequencing the human genome, as well as a multitude of other species' genomes. Venter will speak about the impact genomic information will have on the future of biology and medicine; our evolutionary history recorded in the human genome sequence; the complex relationship between genes, environment, disease and behavior; and the small number of genetic differences between people and how this should profoundly change our view of race.

Venter is the former president and founder of Celera Genomics and has played a leading role in sequencing and analyzing the human genome. His accomplishments in decoding the genetic sequences of other organisms, particularly the fruit fly and mouse, have provided important scientific insights, including a new understanding of the genetic relationship between species, as well as human evolution. He has published more than 200 research articles and is among the most frequently cited scientists in biology and medicine.

He earned his Ph.D. in Physiology and Pharmacology from the University of California at San Diego and became a researcher at the National Institutes of Health. While serving first as a section chief and then as a lab chief in the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, he developed expressed sequence tags or EST's, a revolutionary new strategy for gene discovery. In 1992, he and his wife, Dr. Claire Fraser, founded the Institute of Genomic Research, where he served as president and chief scientific officer until 1998.

Venter and his team decoded the genome of the bacterium *haemophilus influenzae*, making it the first free-living organism to have its full DNA deciphered. To date, Venter and his team have sequenced more than 30 genomes.

This free lecture is open to the public. For more information call (248) 370-2190.

Oakland University is a comprehensive state-supported institution located in Oakland County, Michigan. The university has 114 bachelor's degree programs and 82 graduate degree and certificate programs. Dedicated to delivering a distinctive undergraduate experience that is complemented by the strength of its graduate offerings and research accomplishments, Oakland University is organized into the College of Arts and Sciences and the Schools of Business Administration, Education and Human Services, Engineering and Computer Science, Health Sciences, Nursing, and the Honors College. Visit Oakland University on the web at www.oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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