



Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Breast cancer research topic of colloquium

Virinder Moudgil, Oakland University's interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, is the featured speaker at the next President's Colloquium on Wednesday, March 13, in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms. The event is open to the public, but seating is limited. Reservations must be made by Monday, March 4, by calling (248) 370-4648.

Moudgil's discussion, titled "Hormones in Health and Disease," will present breakthroughs in his research on breast cancer. A reception begins at 11:30 a.m., with the presentation following at noon. The event is being held in conjunction with Women's History Month.

Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers inflicting women. Nearly 40,000 women will die from the disease in 2002, Moudgil says.

Although specific causative agents remain elusive, epidemiological studies point to a number of risk factors for breast cancer, including women's age, family history, early age puberty, late age at first child birth and menopause, and exposure to ionizing radiation. However, nearly 60 percent of women diagnosed with breast cancer have no established risk factors, Moudgil says.

The scientific focus now is shifting to examining the influence of women's endogenous hormones on the development of breast cancer. In recent years, associations have been made between the circulating levels of estrogen and progesterone, the hormones released by a woman's ovaries during menstrual periods and the major hormones during pregnancy, and the incidence of breast cancer.

Since Moudgil came to Oakland University in 1976, his research has focused on the mechanism of steroid hormone action. His lab is currently involved in studying the molecular mechanism of the hormonal regulation of tumor suppressor proteins in breast cancer cells.

The President's Colloquium Series was established in 1995 to showcase achievements of Oakland University researchers, to promote communication and collaboration among scientists and to recognize the outstanding work of 'Nobel Class' scientists.

SUMMARY

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