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Life Sciences Research Weekend *At Pacific Science Center Nov. 6-8, 2009*

SEATTLE— Learn how antibodies fight disease...touch a pig heart...check out your genetic traits and compare with friends and family. The third annual Life Sciences Research Weekend at Pacific Science Center Friday through Sunday, Nov. 6-8, 2009, promises guests hands-on science and face-to-face time with real scientists.

Pacific Science Center (pacificsciencecenter.org) has teamed up with The Northwest Association for Biomedical Research (NWABR) to create three days of demonstrations, interactive exhibits and talks for school children, families and citizen scientists interested in learning more about the crucial role of life science research and its benefits.

Guests will have a rare opportunity to meet some of the nation's top research scientists from companies and research institutions across the state. They will lead interactive, hands-on activities and talk about the focus of their research.

The event will also showcase a variety of career opportunities in the life sciences. The event opens at 10 a.m. daily and research scientists will be available to interact with the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. A schedule of events is available at pacificsciencecenter.org

Last year more than 10,000 people visited Pacific Science Center during the second annual Life Sciences Research Weekend.

"Last year's exhibits reflected many areas of life sciences research and the relevance to our lives," said Reitha Weeks, PhD, Resident Scientist and Program Manager, Northwest Association for Biomedical Research. "It was an opportunity for the public to see the exciting, groundbreaking research that is being done throughout our state. Science presented in a friendly, accessible manner inspired students to consider careers in science."

One of the many highlights will be "Journey into the Brain," a special demonstration on Friday only by Dr. Eric Chudler, Research Associate Professor and Director of Education and Outreach, at the University of Washington's Department of Bioengineering. Guests also will have the opportunity to design and build a DNA double helix (presented by Iverson Genetic Diagnostics).

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Additional Event Highlights Include:

- The Northwest Center for Research on Eating Behaviors has created an activity to identify the amounts of sugar in our favorite foods and why we are "wired" to seek out sweet foods.
- UW Biochemistry and UW Computer Science & Engineering will demonstrate

an interactive protein-folding videogame where guests can handle 3D protein models.

- *Swedish Medical Center will teach how to conduct a clinical trial, providing actual research tools, models, and devices. Guests can use pipettes and vacutainers to simulate lab work, listen to real heartbeats, and learn how to predict heart flow. There will even be an actual Pig Heart on display,*

Other activities (and their presenters) include:

- *Extract strawberry DNA just like scientists in the lab (UW Medicine, South Lake Union Group).*
- *Play a virtual snowball fight and capture a virtual spider. Learn how these activities are used by doctors. (UW Mechanical Engineering, HITS Lab).*
- *Experience brain tricks! See how your brain interprets the world (UW Neurobiology and Behavior Community Outreach Program).*
- *Play a “clogged artery” game. Touch a sheep heart (Youth Take Heart and The Hope Heart Institute).*
- *Meet and talk to scientists working for better health for people everywhere (Northwest Association for Biomedical Research).*
- *Learn about great careers in the life sciences.*

Participating Organizations Include:

- *Amgen*
- *Bates Technical College, Biotech Lab Tech Program*
- *Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason*
- *Iverson Genetic Diagnostics*
- *Northwest Association for Biomedical Research*
- *Northwest Center for Research on Eating Behaviors*
- *Renton Technical College*
- *Seattle Biomedical Research Institute and Washington Global Health Alliance*
- *Swedish Medical Center*
- *UW Biochemistry and Computer Science & Engineering*
- *UW Molecular & Cellular Biology Program, School of Oceanography, Plant Laboratory*
- *UW Computer Science and Engineering*
- *UW Genome Sciences, by Women in Genome Sciences (WiGS)*
- *UW Mechanical Engineering, HITS Lab, Photonics Lab, and UW Harborview Burn Center*
- *UW Medicine, South Lake Union Group (SLUGS)*
- *UW Neurobiology & Behavior Community Outreach*
- *WSU, Department of Horticulture*
- *Youth Take Heart (UW Engineered Biomaterials and The Hope Heart Institute)*
- *Institute for Systems Biology*
- *UW Biomedical Engineering Society*
- *Western Institution Review Board*

Entry to Life Sciences Research Weekend is included with the price of general admission. It's free for Pacific Science Center members.

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STORY IDEAS/PHOTO OPPS

- ***See how virtual snow can relieve pain***
A virtual reality snow world with snowfall, skiers and flying snowballs is proving beneficial to burn patients by relieving excessive pain during wound care and physical therapy. Experience a 3D, virtual snow world at the exhibit from UW Mechanical Engineering, Human Interface Technology Laboratory.
- ***Learn what makes a heart healthy***

Explore the fat, sugar, and salt content of fast food menu items, dissect a sheep heart, and play a blood pressure game at the Youth Take Heart exhibit. Explore models of the heart and replacement blood vessels. Youth Take Heart is a middle school and community outreach program specializing in heart health and bioengineering.

*Pacific Science Center's Life Sciences Research Weekend in partnership with NWABR
Presented by The Boeing Company with additional support from Battelle*

Pacific Science Center (pacificsciencecenter.org) is an independent, not-for-profit educational institution that inspires lifelong interest in science, math and technology by engaging diverse communities through interactive and innovative exhibits and programs in every county of Washington state and beyond.

The Northwest Association for Biomedical Research (NWABR) is the Northwest's leading voice for understanding biomedical research and its ethical conduct.

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