

Metals in Medicine to be Focus of May 26 Talk at SWOSU

05.19.2009

Dr. Steve Archibald, an academic and scientific researcher in the area of biological and medicinal chemistry at the University of Hull in the North of England, will talk about the roles of metals in biological systems and how these powerful elements can be used to produce new medicines on Tuesday, May 26, at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

The 7 p.m. event in the SWOSU Conference Center is free and part of the Al Harris Library Showcase series. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Dr. Archibald will speak at a non-scientist level and will, following some background information, focus on the ways that metal ions can be used in medicines with special attention on drugs for combating cancer, anti-virals and medical imaging agents.

Jason Dupree, head of public services at the Al Harris Library, said people often think of metals as either toxic (e.g., Mercury) or as dietary supplements (e.g., Zinc, Iron), but rarely as medicines. However, the most expensive single dose drugs and one of the biggest selling anti-cancer drugs both contain a metal centre. The presentation will cover how such compounds work in bodies and the potential for new powerful metal containing drug molecules to be developed.

Dr. Archibald holds a B.S.c.(Hons) degree in chemistry, life systems and pharmaceuticals from the University of York, UK, and Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Edinburgh, UK. He grew up in Scotland and then pursued undergraduate level studies at the University of York before returning home to Edinburgh to carry out his graduate studies in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Edinburgh. He then moved to the United States and worked with Professor Daryle Busch at the University of Kansas for two years followed by a further period of postdoctoral research in England before establishing his own research group at the University of Hull in 2000. Dr. Archibald has published numerous journal articles in the fields of chemistry and biology.

Dr. Archibald is currently developing new metallodrugs in his laboratory with collaborations in London, Belgium, Canada and Oklahoma. Dr. Tim Hubin of Southwestern Oklahoma State University and Dr. Archibald have been working together for a number of years with seven joint papers and one patent published from their collaborative research.

For more information about the program, please contact Dupree at 580.774.3031 or see the library's web site at <http://www.swosu.edu/library>.