

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2013

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



A beer, some nuts and a serve of science

Hobart is a hub of brilliant new research and now there is the chance to have a drink and a chat with some of the scientists without having to go to a lecture.

Science in the Pub takes the form of a Q and A style panel discussion with questions from the audience and then a casual chat with researchers Rene Vaillancourt, Susan Dodds and Emily Hilder from the University of Tasmania.

The topic will be: what are your fears and hopes about new directions in biotechnology and nanotechnology?

Members of the community are invited to pop in for a drink and a chat with local researchers who work with new technology, genetics, plant sciences and the ethical issues of these technologies. Everyone over 18 is welcome.

Dr Derek Muller will MC the night. Derek is a presenter for Catalyst on the ABC and the creator of Veritasium, an educational science channel on YouTube. Veritasium has more than 250,000 subscribers and has received more than 15,000,000 views. Derek completed his PhD at the University of Sydney on the design of educational science multimedia. He has lectured at UTS and the University of Sydney. You can catch him on Thursday nights at 8pm on ABC1 in the six part series Catalyst On The Road.

Panellists:

Rene Vaillancourt is Head of the UTAS School of Plant Science. His research involves studying the natural history and genome structures of Tasmanian plants species, especially forest trees and eucalypts. It involves using molecular tools to help the conservation of endangered as well as widespread plant species. He also uses genetic analysis to help the improvement of Eucalyptus plantations in Australia.

Susan Dodds is the Dean of the UTAS Faculty of Arts and Professor of Philosophy. Sue has two research projects currently funded by the Australian Research Council, one of which explores the ethical issues associated with developments in bionics and nanotechnology, and for which she is a Chief Investigator and Director of the Ethics program on the Australian Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science.

Emily Hilder is a Professor of Chemistry at UTAS. Emily works in separation science, which involves taking complex samples – something like blood - separating all of the components and then identifying what they are and how

much of each component is present. Emily said: "For example, there is a portable instrument we have developed here at the University and we use this mostly for looking at bomb markers - so we use it in counter-terrorism research."

Event details:

Who: MC Derek Muller, UTAS academics Associate Professor Rene Vaillancourt, Professor Susan Dodds and Professor Emily Hilder; all over 18s are welcome

What: Science in the Pub Q and A session

When: 6pm, Thursday 7 March 2013

Where: Doctor Syntax Hotel, 139 Sandy Bay Road, Hobart

All are invited to this free public event. No bookings required.

Presented by UTAS, the Australian Government and Inspiring Australia

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