

Free Public Lecture
Leukemia – the science and soul of the disease



Dr. David Gaumont-Guay
Vancouver Island University

Leukemia, generally known as the cancer of the white blood cells, is a disease that affects hundreds of thousands of people worldwide every year. While the true causes of leukemia are unknown, this type of disease normally manifests itself in association with various genetic disorders at the stem cells level. In January 2009, Dr. Gaumont-Guay, then a Professor at Vancouver Island University, was diagnosed with a rare form of the disease that almost took his life. In this lecture, please join him as he will share his tale of survival and retrace the evolution of his disorder with a special emphasis on the scientific aspects of his case and the treatments used to remediate it. While transporting you through the emotional challenges associated with this type of life event, he will introduce you to the different forms of leukemia affecting the population and the role of genetic mutations in generating the disease, as well as inform you on the potential cures for the disease, such as targeted drug therapies and stem cell transplants, and the complications associated with these types of treatments.

David received his B.Sc. in Biology from the Université du Québec à Rimouski. He did his M.Sc. at Laval University in forest eco-physiology with Dr. Hank Margolis and Dr. Francine J. Bigras, and his Ph.D. in biometeorology with Dr. T. Andrew Black, at the University of British Columbia. The focus of his teaching and research is to provide a better understanding of the biophysical mechanisms determining the carbon balance of terrestrial ecosystems within the context of climate and land-use change.

Wednesday, February 15th, 2011
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Building 356, Room 109 (Education Building)

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