About the Brother Lucian Blersch Symposium

Organized by the School of Natural Sciences at St. Edward’s University, the event is free and open to the public. This symposium honors Brother Lucian Blersch, CSC, a longtime professor of engineering at St. Edward’s who died in 1986 and in whose name a professorship in the School of Natural Sciences was endowed by a gift from J.B.N. Morris hs ’48, ’52 and his family.

PAST SYMPOSIA

Fall 2010  Global Health & Infectious Disease: HIV/AIDS
Fall 2009  Hominid Evolution: New Looks at Old Fossils
Spring 2009  Swarm: Bees, Robots and the Intelligence of the Collective
2008  The Evolution of Sociality
2007  The Origin and Search for Life
2006  Biodiversity
2005  Harvest of the Future: Exploring Genetic Alteration of Food
2004  Scientific Modeling from Abstraction to Reality
2003  The Life Sciences of the 21st Century
2002  New Science and Technology at the Nanometer Scale
2001  Advances in Science through Mathematics

Learn more at www.stedwards.edu/lucian
Global Health & Infectious Disease

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a preeminent global health crisis. TB is the leading cause of death worldwide due to bacterial infection annually, with more than three million people living with HIV, and many millions more are infected. Co-infection with HIV has resulted in increasing levels of morbidity and mortality attributable to TB.

TB infections are spread through the air, often in crowded areas, and are estimated to cause the death of one million people per year. Estimates suggest that three million people die from TB annually, and many millions more live with the infection. Co-infection with HIV is a major factor in the high mortality associated with TB worldwide and represents the most likely source for new infections. The magnitude of the impact of latent TB infection cannot be underestimated as approximately one third of the world's population harbors latent TB infection.

From a survey of both the targets and compounds associated with modern TB drug development, to anti-infective strategies that might help control of TB over the past two decades, the need to identify novel targets for the treatment of drug-resistant TB strains, to an investigation of the role of bacterial proteins in the formation of the tuberculous granuloma, this symposium seeks to examine different components of this global epidemic.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Welcome
12:30 p.m.

Eamonn F. Healy, Ph.D. — “A role for Heat Shock Proteins in the formation of the tuberculous granuloma.”
12:40 p.m.

Clifton E. Barry III, M.D. — “Inhibitors of the metalloproteinases associated with CXCL16 shedding.”
1 p.m.

Khisimuzi Mdluli — “Novel targets for drug discovery.”
1:10 p.m.

Khinla B. Khunzai, M.D. — “Tuberculosis drug discovery.”
2 p.m.

Dr. Healy received his doctorate in chemistry from St. Edward's University. As a former任 the Laboratory of Clinical Infectious Diseases at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Healy has worked in the field of tuberculosis for many years. He has published more than 130 research articles, including 110 in peer-reviewed journals, and has authored more than 30 book chapters.

Dr. Khunzai received his doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Missouri in 1998. Since then, he has been involved in research on tuberculosis drug discovery and development. He has contributed to the development of new drugs and drug candidates for the treatment of tuberculosis. His current research focuses on the design of structure-activity relationships for TB drug development.