

SAVE THE DATE

FALL BREAKFAST FORUM

Hormone Replacement Therapy Revisited: Four Years Later**Date:** Tuesday, October 10, 2006**Place:** Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall
The Rockefeller University
York Avenue at 66th Street
New York City**Time:** 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. Registration &
Breakfast Buffet
8:00 – 9:30 a.m. Program

In July 2002, the National Institutes of Health set off a shockwave when the Women's Health Initiative abruptly halted a clinical trial of hormone replacement therapy, announcing that the leading form of HRT did more harm than good in women taking it longer than five years. Many women jettisoned hormone therapy, fearing an increased risk of breast cancer or heart disease. Others remained on HRT, but worried about the consequences.

Although the WHI study had enormous impact, its results raised more questions than they answered. The clinical trial tested only one hormone replacement product, given at a fixed dose that did not mimic normal monthly fluctuations in hormone levels. What about other forms of estrogen and progesterone, at different dosages? Estrogen is essential for healthy brain function, but the study did not address whether HRT is beneficial for the brain. Does hormone replacement therapy affect memory, mood, and cognition, or lessen susceptibility to Alzheimer's disease?

Most participants in the WHI trial were older women, at least 10 years past menopause when they started HRT. Many people wondered: would therapy be more effective if begun at an earlier age, before a drop in hormone levels leads to physiological changes? Since 2002, at least two clinical trials have been launched to determine whether earlier intervention with HRT is advantageous for the heart or the brain.

On October 10, in a discussion moderated by Nobel laureate and Rockefeller University president **Paul Nurse**, three distinguished scientists and a prominent physician will provide an update on hormone replacement therapy, review the clinical trials and basic research that are shedding new light, and point out what remains to be discovered.

Darcy Kelley, Ph.D., an alumna of Rockefeller's doctoral program, is a professor of biological sciences at Columbia University and codirector of its Program in Neurobiology and Behavior.

Bruce McEwen, Ph.D., head of Rockefeller's Laboratory of Neuroendocrinology, studies how sex and stress hormones affect brain function, behavior, and disease susceptibility.

Margaret Polaneczky, M.D., a gynecologist who focuses on menopause and adolescence—the transition years in women's health—is an associate professor at Weill-Cornell Medical College.

Samuel E. Gandy, M.D., Ph.D., an expert on Alzheimer's disease, who is a member of Rockefeller's adjunct faculty and a professor at Thomas Jefferson University.

For more information please call (212) 327-7434.