

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, October 11, 2005

Scents and Sensibility



Leslie Vosshall, Ph.D.

Chemers Family Assistant Professor

The evocative fragrance of a familiar perfume, the alarming scent of unseen smoke, the olfactory bond between a mother and infant—our sense of smell is both primal and mysterious. Scientists have recently made great progress in understanding the biology of olfaction, though much remains to be learned about how human beings perceive thousands of different odors, and what role a scent can play in influencing behavior.

The Fall *Women & Science* Breakfast Forum will feature Dr. Leslie Vosshall, one of the leading researchers studying olfaction today. A neuroscientist and geneticist, Dr. Vosshall focuses on sensory systems and behavior, using the fruit fly olfactory system as a model. Last year, her research group also launched clinical studies at The Rockefeller University Hospital, exploring the mechanism underlying the human sense of smell. Their ongoing clinical investigations are aimed at answering such questions as: How do we identify a scent or distinguish between closely related odors? Why does the sense of smell differ so much from one person to another? In research important for global health and development, Dr. Vosshall is also exploring how her discoveries about the insect olfactory system may be used in the effort to control pests that take a toll on agriculture and human health.

An alumna of The Rockefeller University Ph.D. program, Dr. Vosshall returned to campus in 2000 to head a new Laboratory of Neurogenetics and Behavior. Since rejoining Rockefeller, Dr. Vosshall has received a Beckman Young Investigator Award, a McKnight Scholar Award, and a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists—the United States government’s highest honor for young researchers.

Host: **Robin Neustein**
Senior Director
Goldman, Sachs and Co.

Moderator: **Paul Nurse, Ph.D.**
President, The Rockefeller University
Recipient of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

Time: 7:30 a.m. Registration & Breakfast Buffet
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Program

Location: The Rockefeller University Caspary Auditorium

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