IS BEAUTY SKIN DEEP?

The Fascinating Biology of the Skin

The Sixth Annual ***Women & Science*** Spring Luncheon Program

Thursday, May 8, 2003
Noon to 2 p.m.

The Rockefeller University
Caspary Auditorium

We cleanse, manipulate, moisturize and adorn them — but skin and hair are more than just elements of beauty. Together, they constitute our largest organ, a vital and self-renewing barrier that protects us from the dangerous rays of the sun and harmful microbes in our environment.

The skin's remarkable ability to regenerate is one of the reasons Dr. Elaine Fuchs, head of Rockefeller's Laboratory of Mammalian Cell Biology and Development, has chosen to focus her research on understanding the biology of normal — and abnormal — human skin cells. It also is one of the reasons this seemingly simple organ continues to provide scientists with a wealth of information about what goes wrong at the molecular level when diseases arise.

At this year's *Women & Science* Spring Luncheon, Dr. Fuchs will discuss the cellular meshwork that is skin — from the "glue" proteins that hold our skin together, to the stem cells that allow our hair to go through spurts of growth and our skin surface to be constantly renewed. One of the world's leading molecular geneticists and cell biologists, Dr. Fuchs will also discuss how by studying the fascinating way skin proteins normally work, she and her research team have been able to shed light on skin cancer and discover the genetic causes of a dozen different diseases.

Dr. Fuchs, who is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, recently joined the faculty of The Rockefeller University. A member of the National Academy of Sciences and its Institute of Medicine, she has also been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Last year, *Discover* magazine named her one of its 20 "biotech geniuses to watch."

For ticket information, please call Ms. Laurel Birch at (212) 327-8963
or contact her at birchl@rockefeller.edu