



## Science 2008

Saturday 10 May 2008 10.00 – 17.00

Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2DD

Presented by **The Open University** in association with the Science Museum in London

***An excellent opportunity to find out about current issues in Science in the inspiring surroundings of the Science Museum.***

During the day there will be a number of talks on subjects including Infections ~ the Rosetta spacecraft ~ Living without Oil ~ Volcanoes ~ Forensic Archaeology.

### 10.30 – Hospital-Acquired Infections

Infections acquired on hospital wards were once a major cause of death, particularly after childbirth. Antibiotics and antiseptics banished these infections, until the 1980s, when new strains of resistant organisms began to run rampant in British hospitals. What light can science shed on the causes of and solutions to this modern medical problem?

**Dr Basiro Davey, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Science, The Open University**

### 11.30 – Blast into Science

Mike Bullivant is one of the scientists from the BBC-OU series *Rough Science*. He will share some of the insights gained from six series of the programme that has taken him from the Mediterranean to Colorado, via Zanzibar, to solve real science problems in harsh environments. He will talk about other broadcast-linked outreach activities at the OU and the team's plans for the next couple of years.

**Dr Mike Bullivant, TV presenter and former Course Manager, Chemistry Department, The Open University**

### 12.30 – Rosetta: A Spacecraft That Is on Its Way to a Comet

In 2014 Rosetta will, after a journey of several billion miles, rendezvous with a comet; the parent craft will travel alongside the comet as it heads towards the Sun, whilst the Philae probe will attempt to land on the comet's surface.

**Professor Ian Wright, Professor of Planetary Science, The Open University**



### Win £100

*Register your details on the day for your chance to win £100 to put towards an Open University course.*

### Advice area

Open University advisers will be available throughout the day to answer your queries and provide advice about choosing Open University courses.

*(Advice will be available on all Open University subjects, not only science)*

### 13.30 – Can We Live Without Oil?

Oil is at the centre of modern life, fuelling transport and providing a huge variety of modern materials. Scientists are developing alternatives to oil products – but these bring their own problems, for example the prospect of turning over large areas of agricultural land to biofuel production. The talk will explore the science behind alternatives to oil and the ethical issues raised.

**Dr John Baxter, Science Staff Tutor, The Open University**

### 14.30 – Volcano-Environment Interactions

Persistently active volcanoes are those which continuously emit heat and gas. The talk will be about the processes which scientists monitor at these volcanoes, enabling them to predict when eruptions may happen and allowing the investigation of the subtle effects of these volcanoes on their local environment.

**Dr Hazel Rymer, Associate Dean, Science Faculty, The Open University**

### 15.30 – Forensic Archaeology

Archaeology, and heritage in general, are often seen as the preserve of the humanities. However, it is precisely in these areas that Science and the humanities converge. Case studies will be examined where science techniques have been used to aid the understanding and interpretation of artefacts and assisted in their conservation.

**Dr Paul Hatherly, Teaching Fellow, Department of Physics and Astronomy, The Open University**

During the day there will also be a host of other activities running at the Museum. Why not take the family to an immersive IMAX® film, or visit the brand-new hands-on, brains-on *Launchpad* gallery? Explore the *Science of Survival* exhibition or investigate some of the amazing objects the Museum has on display; from the Apollo 10 Command Module to a mummified cat!

For full details please see [sciencemuseum.org.uk](http://sciencemuseum.org.uk) or ask at an information desk.

Owing to the anticipated popularity of the talks we would suggest you book your place by returning the reply slip below. You will receive an acknowledgement which you will need to bring along on the day.



Please reserve the following places for me:

- 10.30  Hospital-Acquired Infections
- 11.30  Blast into Science
- 12.30  Rosetta: A Spacecraft on Its Way to a Comet
- 13.30  Life Without Oil
- 14.30  Volcano-Environment Interactions
- 15.30  Forensic Archaeology

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Identifier (if you have one): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return to: Ray Wheeler, The Open University in London, 1 – 11 Hawley Crescent, Camden Town, London NW1 8NP, tel: 020 7556 6184, email: R01-outreach-promotions@open.ac.uk