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Life's Matrix: Genes, Proteins and Small Molecules

How is the marriage of biology, chemistry and computer science, and the use of small designer molecules as precision tools, changing the future of biomedical science? Students and teachers in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and around the world will find out when research scientists Eric S. Lander and Stuart L. Schreiber present the 2002 Holiday Lectures on Science on December 5-6, 2002. Sponsored annually by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the lectures take place before an audience of high school students at HHMI headquarters in Chevy Chase, Maryland. They also are webcast live.

Schreiber is an HHMI investigator at Harvard University and Morris Loeb Professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. He and his research team pioneered an investigative method called chemical genetics, which involves systematic synthesis and screening of small molecules that disrupt protein functions in highly specific ways.

Lander is director of the Center for Genome Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. A driving force behind the genomics revolution, Lander and his team helped build a series of maps that show the basic layout of the human and mouse genomes, providing the foundation for sequencing the entire human genome, completed in 2001, and the newly completed mouse genome.

The Holiday Lectures on Science give students and teachers an opportunity to learn about cutting-edge research from some of the world's leading scientists. The program targets a high school audience but provides useful information for college students and the general public, as do related materials on the Holiday Lectures website (www.holidaylectures.org). The website includes biographical sketches of the lecturers; a summary of each lecture, including key concepts; and other educational resources.

The lectures will be webcast at www.hhmi.org/lectures/webcast on Thursday, December 5, and Friday, December 6, from 10-11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. each day. RealOne Player is required to view the webcast and can be downloaded free from RealNetworks.

The lectures will be rebroadcast on the Channel One Networks Channel One Connection on January 15 and 22, 2003. They will be available free on

videotape and DVD in spring 2003.