

Communicating Science to Politicians and the Public

Friday, January 30, 2015

Eagleton Institute of Politics, Douglass Campus

The Eagleton Science and Politics Workshop offers students and postdocs in both the natural and social sciences the opportunity to explore ways in which science intersects with politics, policy making, and public discourse – and how to build careers in that space.

Open to current Rutgers students and postdoctoral fellows only.

Supported in part by the Rutgers Interdisciplinary Job Opportunities for Biomedical Scientists program, which is funded by a Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training grant from the NIH, and the Rutgers - RWJMS Postdoctoral Career Development Program.

Campus Partners:

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities and the Departments of Neuroscience and Cell Biology and Pediatrics at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (list in formation).

RSVP Required:

(848) 932-9384 or eagleton.rutgers.edu

9:00 AM

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Paul Offit

Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases and Director, Vaccine Education Center, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Author of: *Do You Believe in Magic? The Sense and Nonsense of Alternative Medicine* and *Deadly Choices: How the Anti-Vaccine Movement Threatens Us All*.

10:30 AM

Discussion Featuring:

Dahlia Sokolov, Ph.D.

Staff Director, Subcommittee on Research & Technology
United States House of Representatives

Michael D. Lemonick

Writer at Large
Climate Central

Noon

Networking Lunch

Paul A. Offit, MD is the Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. In addition, Dr. Offit is the Maurice R. Hilleman Professor of Vaccinology and a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He is a recipient of many awards including the J. Edmund Bradley Prize for Excellence in Pediatrics from the University of Maryland Medical School, the Young Investigator Award in Vaccine Development from the Infectious Disease Society of America, and a Research Career Development Award from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Offit has published more than 140 papers in medical and scientific journals in the areas of rotavirus-specific immune responses and vaccine safety. He is also the co-inventor of the rotavirus vaccine, RotaTeq, recommended for universal use in infants by the CDC; for this achievement Dr. Offit received the Luigi Mastroianni and William Osler Awards from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, the Charles Mérieux Award from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases; and was honored by Bill and Melinda Gates during the launch of their Foundation's Living Proof Project for global health.

In 2009, Dr. Offit received the President's Certificate for Outstanding Service from the American Academy of Pediatrics. In 2011, Dr. Offit received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Biologics Industry Organization (BIO), the David E. Rogers Award from the American Association of Medical Colleges, the Odyssey Award from the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest, and was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

In 2012, Dr. Offit received the Distinguished Medical Achievement Award from the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and the Drexel Medicine Prize in Translational Medicine from the Drexel University College of Medicine.

In 2013, Dr. Offit received the Maxwell Finland award for Outstanding Scientific Achievement from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases and the Distinguished Alumnus award from the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Dr. Offit was a member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is a founding advisory board member of the Autism Science Foundation and the Foundation for Vaccine Research.

He is also the author of five medical narratives: *The Cutter Incident: How America's First Polio Vaccine Led to Today's Growing Vaccine Crisis* (Yale University Press, 2005), *Vaccinated: One Man's Quest to Defeat the World's Deadliest Diseases* (HarperCollins, 2007), for which he won an award from the American Medical Writers Association, *Autism's False Prophets: Bad Science, Risky Medicine, and the Search for a Cure* (Columbia University Press, 2008), *Deadly Choices: How the Anti-Vaccine Movement Threatens Us All* (Basic Books, 2011), and *Do You Believe in Magic?: The Sense and Nonsense of Alternative Medicine* (HarperCollins, 2013).

Dahlia Sokolov, PhD is the Democratic Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in Washington D.C. She has been Democratic Staff Director since January 2009. The Subcommittee on Research and Science Education has oversight responsibility for the National Science Foundation, K-12 science and math education, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, international science and technology cooperation, and major interagency R&D programs such as the National Nanotechnology Initiative. From 2004 to 2008 Dr. Sokolov was a member of the Professional Staff, of the Committee on Science and Technology, U.S. House of Representatives. She was assigned to the Research and Science Education Subcommittee, which deals with science policy and science education programs across the federal government, and oversees the National Science Foundation. Her first two years spent on Energy Subcommittee, covering primarily nuclear energy, but also energy efficiency and renewable energy. From 2002 to 2004 Dr. Sokolov was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the National Institutes of Health. She has a PhD degree in bioengineering from the University of Washington (2002), and a BS degree in Engineering Physics University of California, Berkeley (1996).

Michael D. Lemonick is Writer at Large at Climate Central, a nonprofit research and journalism organization based in Princeton, New Jersey. Prior to joining Climate Central, he spent nearly 21 years at Time magazine, where he wrote more than 50 cover stories on about science and the environment, including major pieces about climate change, the Exxon Valdez oil spill, ozone depletion and human impacts on Antarctica. He has also written six books, and written on a freelance basis for Discover, Slate, Audubon, Scientific American, National Geographic, Yale E360, Newsweek and other magazines. He teaches science journalism at Princeton, and has also taught at Columbia, Johns Hopkins and New York University. He holds an A.B. in Economics from Harvard College and an M.S. in Journalism from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.