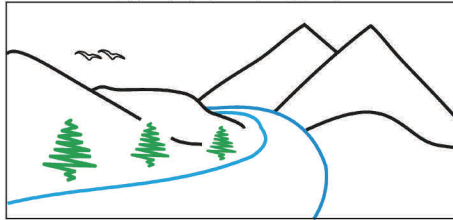


NRESi



"Our environment is our future"

For **El**luminat**e** information and link to the webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Dr. Rosie Redfield

Professor, Dept. of Zoology
UBC



Friday
Jan. 18, 2013

3:30 - 4:30

LECTURE THEATRE

CanFor

THE ORIGIN(S) OF LIFE, SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE #ARSENICLIFE DEBACLE

The #arseniclife story started with a bang in late 2010, when NASA proudly announced the discovery that some bacteria could synthesize their DNA with arsenic in the backbone in place of phosphorus. But within a few days it all fell apart, as scientists used blogs and Twitter to conduct impromptu 'post-publication peer review'. ('#arseniclife' is the Twitter hashtag used to identify relevant tweets.) Working with collaborators at Princeton, my lab has now shown that the key results cannot be replicated. This debacle has implications for many aspects of science, from the origin of life to how personal biases and funding sources affect scientific judgement to the increasing roles of social media in both the practice and public communication of science.

**Special joint seminar with the
Cell and Molecular Biology Interest Group**