

NOBEL LAUREATE JOINS UBC

UBC is pleased to announce that a Nobel laureate renowned for his leadership in science education is the latest addition to an already strong faculty.

Professor Carl E. Wieman was awarded the 2001 Nobel Prize in Physics and named United States Professor of the Year in 2004. Currently working at the University of Colorado (CU), he is the only faculty member to hold both the highest research (Distinguished Professor) and teaching (Presidential Teaching Scholar) awards.

Wieman advocates an evidence-based approach to science education and suggests that similar approaches will be helpful in other educational areas.

Although officially joining UBC's Department of Physics and Astronomy in January 2007, Wieman will immediately begin developing a science education project at UBC that emphasizes student experience, stimulates inquiry and encourages measurement of educational outcomes. UBC has committed \$12 million over the next five years towards this initiative.

"I am joining UBC because I am excited to be a part of this initiative and hope that my expertise can help realize it," Wieman says.

Wieman will be only the second Nobel laureate working at a Canadian university (John C. Polanyi is at the University of Toronto).



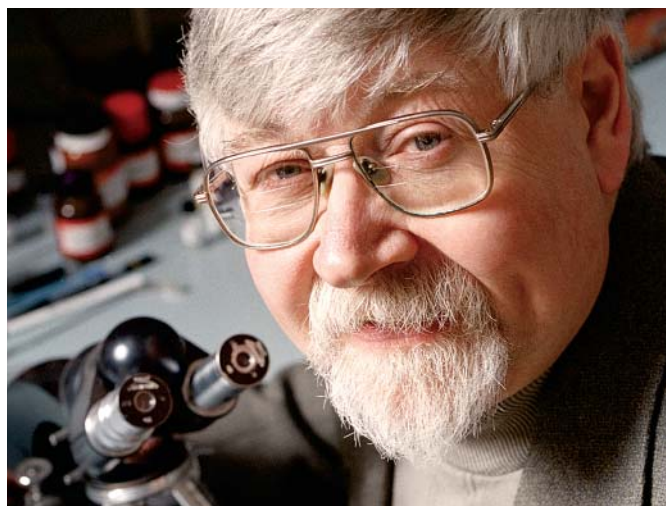
Professor Carl E. Wieman. Photo> Paul Joseph

CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR EARNS CANADA'S TOP SCIENCE AWARD

UBC's Dr. David Dolphin is the winner of the 2005 Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Metal for Science and Engineering. He is responsible for the creation of Visudyne™, the world's most widely used ophthalmic drug ever, which has saved the vision of approximately 500,000 people since 2000.

Dr. Dolphin teamed up with UBC microbiologist Dr. Julia Levy in the 1980s to create Visudyne™, a light-activated porphyrin molecule used to treat age-related macular degeneration, a leading cause of blindness. Together, they founded QLT Inc., a biopharmaceutical company specializing in treatments of eye diseases as well as dermatological and urological conditions.

Canada's most prestigious science award comes with a guarantee of \$1 million in research funding over the next five years from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC).



Dr. David Dolphin. Photo> Paul Joseph

UBC RESEARCHERS NAMED STEACIE FELLOWS

Dr. Joerg Bohlmann (Michael Smith Laboratories) and **Dr. Gail Murphy** (associate professor, Department of Computer Science) were named among the six 2006 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Steacie Fellows.

Dr. Bohlmann's work laid the foundations for Canada's first large-scale initiative dedicated to forestry genomics, Treenomix, and a new Conifer Forest Health genomics program focusing on the defence and resistance of conifers against insect pests.

Dr. Murphy's team assembled repositories of information for software developers that can be mined for practical recommendations, such as fixing bugs or adding new features when writing software.

Dr. Michael Doebeli was one of six Steacie Fellow winners in 2005. His work confronted the question, "What drives the origin of new species and diversity of life we see on earth?" and focused on sympatric speciation, whereby two species can emerge from a single ancestor.

NSERC awards fellowships annually to outstanding Canadian university scientists or engineers who have obtained their doctorate within the last 12 years, and whose research has already earned them an international reputation.