



LENScience Senior Biology Seminar Series

Teacher Update Number 10 – August 3rd 2009

In this issue:

- Seminar 4 Challenges
- Research shows value of the LENS TV learning experience
- Seminar 5 Information
- Student lists – a further reminder
- Tell us about what you are doing.....

Seminar 4 – Student Challenges

This week's student update has a summary of the slides that were presented in the seminar for the student challenges. We hope that this will support students as they work towards putting forward their ideas about the challenges.

The value of the challenges comes from the discussion around the student's ideas with the scientists. While I am well aware of the research that tells us that many students prefer to sit silently in these types of activities and wait for someone else to suggest an answer – this is not the best way for the students to learn. Please encourage your students to contribute their ideas – the more they contribute the more they will gain from the discussion.

- If you are struggling with how to submit to the wiki – you can email your school's contribution to ligginsinfo@auckland.ac.nz and we will submit it to the wiki on your behalf.
- You are also welcome to email Anna and she can phone you to walk you through editing. Email your request for assistance to ligginsinfo@auckland.ac.nz

Research shows value of LENS TV Learning Experience

The LENS TV 2008 trial was carried out over three weeks in early term 4 2008. It was an opportunity to find out whether satellite television could work for schools that do not have high speed internet – which is most schools at present! The results of these trials have shown that the concept of bringing students from a wide range of schools together for advanced seminars linking NZ science directly to the NZ curriculum and NZ national assessments is well received by both students and teachers; that communication of concepts to the student is most effective when pre-seminar readings are written by teachers in consultation with scientists, and seminar presentation is shared by teacher and scientist; that scientists appreciate the opportunity to communicate in this way with secondary students; that satellite television technology with interactivity via wiki and on-line chat provided effective communication for participant schools from a wide range of geographic locations both rural and urban,

independent of the level of broadband capability in the school. Finally the trials have shown that students in the remote audience had an equivalent learning experience to students in the live audience. [Read the full report here.....](#)

Seminar 5 Information

Seminar 5 is based on the work of Dr Karine David of the University of Auckland's School of Biological Science. Karine leads a research group that is trying to find out the molecular mechanisms that control auxin action. This seminar will provide an opportunity for teachers to review auxin action with classes, explore the history of understanding of Auxins (starting with Charles Darwin's 1880 publication), explain to students the links between understanding of how plants grow and the food needs of the world, and again show how biotechnological techniques are used in research.

All information and resources will be available on the web at the end of this week. We will email you as soon as the web site for this seminar is live.

Student Lists

A reminder that if you would like your students to be sent the student updates directly via email, please send an excel spreadsheet list of students to ligginsinfo@auckland.ac.nz using the following format: surname | Name |email

Tell us about what you are doing.....

We would love to hear about how the seminars are going in your school. We will be posting photos and stories about the seminar events in schools around the country on the wiki. Please remember all photos must be of students who you have permission to use photos from.

LENScience

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