

LENScience Senior Biology Seminar Series Teacher Update Number 12 – 22nd September 2010

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What's going on this week?

This week there is an overlap between the final two seminars. As well as working on the post seminar challenge questions from Seminar 7, you and your students need to be looking ahead to Seminar 8 which will take place on **Thursday 14th October** (Week 1, Term 4).

Seminar 8 is looking at Human Evolution. It will explore factors such as bipedalism and the development of intelligence that have led to the evolutionary success of the human species. This seminar is going to cover many of the key concepts from Human Evolution that your students will have studied in class. For this reason we suggest that you encourage all of your students to watch the seminar, as it will provide good revision for their end of year exams. It will also provide the normal extension work for your top students.

The presenters for this seminar are Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, Dr Alan Beedle, Dr Tatjana Buklijas and Michal Denny. More information about the seminar, including the seminar paper and pre-seminar discussion questions can be found on our website: [Walking Upright: The Cost of Human Evolution](#).

LENScience Senior Biology Seminar Series Awards

At the beginning of the year we told you about the prizes and awards on offer during the 2010 Seminar Series. Throughout the series there have been prizes each seminar for best question and best contribution to the wiki. In addition to these prizes we also have four major awards:

- 1. Best overall participation by a school.** This is based on ongoing participation by students from that school in the seminar programme, such as asking questions and contributing to the wiki.
- 2. Best participation by a student or students.** For sustained quality contribution to the seminar programme by individual students. Up to two awards may be made here.
- 3. Seminar Chat award.** For the student who made a consistent and constructive contribution to the seminar chat; through asking questions, supporting other students and overall contribution to the discussion.



The winners for these awards will be decided by the LENSscience team and announced during Seminar 8. These decisions will be made on the day of the seminar so there is still time to for your students to improve their chances, or your school's chances of gaining one of these awards. Please encourage them to have a go at posting an answer to the [Challenge Questions for Seminar 7](#) or contribute a question for [Seminar 8 through the website](#) as these all count.

The final award is the Best Supporting Teacher Award. This is based on student nominations, which can be done online at: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s/371493/n921z>.



Update on Chemicals in our Food teacher professional development event

We have rescheduled this for Thursday 18th November from 4-5:15pm. This is the same day that we are running workshops for middle school students on the same topic (See below). There will be two workshops for the different year levels. The teacher professional development will look in depth at the concepts underpinning this teaching and learning context and ways you can use it in your classroom. Further details including how to book will follow later this week. For more information see the website: [Chemicals in our Food Teacher Professional Development](#).

Upcoming LENSscience Events for teachers and students in Term 4.

We will be running workshops for Year 7&8 and Year 9&10 students in Term 4 on the topic Chemicals in our Food. The date for the workshops is Thursday November 18th. More information will follow shortly.

Also in Term 4 there will be a teacher professional development event and a student workshop on Diabetes and Obesity. This can be used to support a Year 11 teaching context called Science and Society: Diabetes - An Issue for My Community, which can be linked to AS90162 (Bio 1.2) Process information to describe a use of biology knowledge with direction. We are also working on resources to link it to the new Bio 1.2 Report on a biological issue.

The student workshop is aimed at Year 10 students to prepare them for using this context in Year 11. The teacher professional development will look in depth at the concepts underpinning this teaching and learning context and ways you can use it in your classroom.

All of these workshops will be broadcast to schools around New Zealand. More information will follow early in Term 4.



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