

Burdick Lecture at AU to Focus on danger from 'Environmental Hormone Mimics'

3/06/00

Alfred, NY -- Ana M. Soto, MD, a national authority on the human health effects of substances that mimic the exposure to hormones, will give the ninth annual H.O. Burdick Memorial Lecture in Biology March 14 at Alfred University. The lecture at 8 p.m. in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center, is free and open to the public. An associate professor at the Tufts University School of Medicine, Soto studies cell proliferation in metazoan (two-cell or more) organisms, including human beings. In particular, her research focuses on the regulation by sex steroids in breast and prostate cells and the health effects of exposure to environmental toxins that act like hormones on human beings. She has served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Hormone Active Agents and on the panel advising the Environmental Protection Agency on screening for endocrine disrupters. In 1995 she shared the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition's Marla Frazin Award for research with Dr. Carlos Sonnenschein, with whom she co-authored *The Society of Cells: Cancer and Control of Cell Proliferation* (Springer Verlag 1999). Soto earned her undergraduate and medical degree and interned in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Along with teaching posts at Tufts, she has been a visiting professor in Spain and Norway. Her honors include a Faculty Recognition Award from Tufts in 1999 and a 1998 appointment to Sigma Xi, an international research society whose programs support and honor scientific achievement. The 80,000 Sigma Xi members in 500 chapters serve by invitation. She has been featured in numerous TV documentaries about the effect of environmental estrogens on male reproduction and breast cancer, including an influential episode of "Frontline" on PBS and shows for Canadian, British, Japanese, and Danish television. She has also lectured and published widely. Soto's appearance at AU is co-sponsored by the Division of Biology and the AU chapter of Sigma Xi.