

Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SEMINAR SERIES

Dr. Paul Hebert

CRC in Molecular Biodiversity, Integrative Biology Professor,
University of Guelph, Director of the Biodiversity Institute of
Ontario and of the Canadian Barcode of Life Network



“A Census of All Life”

Wednesday, February 3, 2010
at 12:30 p.m. in ANNU 156

Despite 250 years of scientific effort, most species remain unknown. However, the last three decades have seen a radical advance in our understanding of biodiversity, reflecting the increasing ease of accessing DNA sequences. The earliest and most dramatic impacts involved the smallest organisms. Twenty years ago, DNA analysis provided the first glimpses of vast empires of tiny life—archaeal, bacterial and protistan. However, it is now clear that sequence diversity in short genomic regions, DNA barcodes, can also be a powerful tool in revealing the diversity of multi-cellular life, by easing the identification of known species and expediting the discovery of new ones. Motivated by a desire to understand biodiversity and the forces that have shaped it, a major DNA barcode program is now underway. Expect a barcode library for 500K species by 2015. Expect automated systems supporting both field identifications and massive biodiversity screens by 2020. Expect a barcoded world by 2030.

Host: Dr. Robert Mullen

Coffee, Tea & Timbits available

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!

“A great opportunity to hear leading researchers in the scientific community discuss their work”