



MIT MUSEUM PRESS RELEASE

Date: November 9, 2006

Contact:

Josie Patterson
(617) 253-4422
josiep@mit.edu

SOAP BOX

Debating Cutting Edge Issues with World-Class Scientists and Engineers

MIT Museum Presents Penny Chisholm

Lee & Geraldine Martin Professor of Environmental Studies

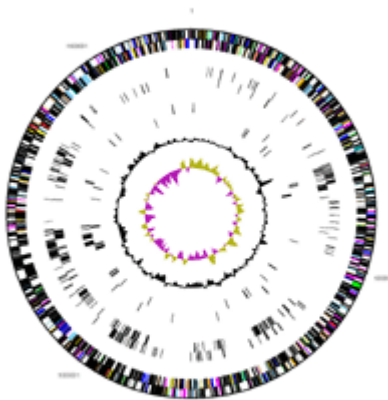
Wednesday, November 15

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Free

Special Location: Hotel@MIT in the Library, 20 Sidney St. Cambridge, MA

Informal/light food and drink served.

The Invisible Forest: Microbes in the Sea



Prochlorococcus marinus sp.
MED4 complete genome
sequence and annotation

"Microbes regulate the earth's metabolism," says Professor Chisholm, who in this salon-style event, will explain the genetic importance of microbes, and debate whether or not a fertilized ocean could produce microbes capable of absorbing excess carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere. Studying the microbe prochlorococcus "is a lesson in humility because it tells us everything we don't know," adds Chisholm who explains that "there is more genetic information in a liter of sea water than in the entire human genome."



Penny Chisholm

MIT's Lee and Geraldine Martin
Professor of Environmental Studies