

**From:** Leticia Colmenares <leticia@hawaii.edu>  
**Subject:** ACS Speaker  
**Date:** April 5, 2009 4:35:53 PM HST  
**To:** leticia@hawaii.edu  
▶ 1 Attachment, 0.1 KB

---

**When:** 5:30-6:30 pm, Friday, April 17, 2009

**Where:** Hale Kuhina 115 (Windward Community College Campus)

[http://www.wcc.hawaii.edu/About\\_WCC/Campus\\_Map.html](http://www.wcc.hawaii.edu/About_WCC/Campus_Map.html)

**Speaker: Dr. David Wiemer**

### ***Herbal Products: They're Natural but Are They Safe?***

Herbal products have become big business in the United States. Infomercials, radio and television commercials, and print ads trumpet the benefits of natural remedies for various illnesses or as aids for weight loss or in programs to stop smoking. These products are commonly described as "all-natural" and draw on the common belief that if something is natural it must be safe. But does this belief have any scientific basis? Native peoples often have used plants to treat disease or illness, and both traditional remedies and other plants have given rise to many of the drugs used in Western medicine. However, many natural materials are highly toxic, and some natural products are useful precisely because they are highly toxic. In this presentation, examples of both the beneficial and harmful compounds found in nature will be presented, along with a description of the strategies that are used to isolate biologically active compounds from natural sources.

David F. Wiemer received his Ph.D. Chemistry from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 1976. He continued his career with a postdoctoral study at Cornell University and joined the faculty in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Iowa in 1978, and now holds the rank of professor. His honors include National Institutes of Health and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation fellowships, a University of Iowa Faculty Scholar Award, and a University of Iowa Collegiate Teaching Award. His interests include chemical ecology and the isolation, characterization, and synthesis of biologically active natural products. His research projects include studies of the chemical basis of host-plant resistance to defoliation, chemical synthesis of various terpenoids with anti-viral, anti-leukemic, and anti-proliferative properties and in the development of new methodology for organic synthesis based on organophosphorus chemistry.

\*\*\*\*\*

Leticia Colmenares, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Chemistry  
Windward Community College  
Tel. No. 808-236-9120  
Fax No. 808-247-5362

\*\*\*\*\*



[leticia.vcf \(0.1 KB\)](#)