SEMINAR

Friday, March 6, 2009
11:00a.m.
Lopata Hall, room 101

Dr. David Kriebel
Professor, School of Health & Environment,
Lowell Center for Sustainable Production
University of Massachusetts at Lowell

“Cancer Prevention through a Precautionary Approach to Environmental Chemicals”

Abstract: Progress on the prevention of cancers caused by chemical hazards in the workplace and general environment has fallen far short of what is feasible. I will discuss three main reasons for this:

1) public funds dedicated to primary cancer prevention are inadequate;

2) the process of identifying carcinogens in the environment and regulating them is guided by a failed mind-set of one chemical-at-a-time risk assessment which is hopelessly slow and easily subverted by economic interests; and

3) once a hazard is identified, the usual strategy is to reduce exposures through costly and only partially effective engineering controls instead of eliminating the hazard entirely through redesign of the product or process.

I will finish with recommendations for how to improve cancer prevention.

For more information contact Kim Coleman at kcole@wustl.edu. Refreshments will be served.