

Announcing the first Colorado  
**CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE II**

Thursday 28 October 2010

at Brooklyn's at the Pepsi Center

<http://www.brooklynsrestaurants.com/index.html>

901 Auraria Parkway in LoDo, Denver

About a block from the Auraria Campus.

**MICROORGANISMS RULE THE WORLD: *DEAL WITH IT***

**BUGS THAT EAT NASTY STUFF☹**

**Timberley Roane, PhD, Department of Integrative Biology,  
University of Colorado Boulder**

Microorganisms, including bacteria, fungi, algae, protozoa and viruses, are found everywhere and are feared everywhere. Yet, our very existence depends entirely on microorganisms, from those living in and on our bodies to those living in our food, soil and water. We can live without them no sooner than we could live without oxygen. For many, the goal is to kill as many as possible, to exclude them from our daily lives in order to prevent and control disease. The catch is this, as we strive to control microorganisms, we create stronger, more aggressive microorganisms that are harder to control.

Much microbiology research focuses on disease-causing organisms, but what about the other 99% of microorganisms that we know nothing about? For example, as our soils and waters become increasingly polluted, we're killing bacteria responsible for fixing atmospheric nitrogen into a form supportive of plant and animal growth. Sufficient loss of these nitrogen-fixing bacteria is predicted to result in irreversible environmental damage and ecosystem collapse forever changing our quality of life. Given that the majority of known microorganisms are beneficial to us (think about the ones that ate most of the Gulf oil plume), what are we losing in our efforts to kill as many microorganisms as possible and can we afford the risk?

***EVERYONE IS WELCOME. The discussion starts at 6:30 in the upstairs lounge. Come in time to get something to eat, or stay and eat afterwards. We end around 8 PM.***

There's no charge. Brooklyn's is generously providing the facility; we buy our own drinks.

The Colorado Café Scientifique I and II are organized by an informal group of faculty and science fans from industry, government and elsewhere. We welcome your input, including ideas for speakers and topics. Bring them with you to the next Café, or e-mail them and any questions to Eric Meer: [ericm@iqwired.net](mailto:ericm@iqwired.net)

**Essential information about the topic and the event on our Web site at:  
<http://CafeSciColorado.org>**