

SCIENCE CHOREOGRAPHY



**WORKSHOP
JULY 6 2011
At Wesleyan University**



The Wesleyan Hughes Program in the Life Science, in collaboration with PIMMS, is holding a workshop symposium on Wednesday 6 July 2011 from 9 am to 1 pm at Wesleyan University. The workshop is free and is appropriate for continuing education units. Please contact PIMMS if you are interested in attending using the form below.

As part of a collaboration with choreographer Liz Lerman of the Dance Exchange (<http://www.danceexchange.org>), we are exploring the use of dance and embodied learning as a effective way to encourage interest in science by students from middle school through college. Over several years, Liz Lerman has worked with scientists to develop a piece called Ferocious Beauty: Genome that premiered at Wesleyan in 2006 (<http://www.danceexchange.org/performance/ferociousbeautygenome.html>).

Working with area teachers, we are developing classroom modules that include short film clips from the piece for use in middle and high school settings, and have found in pilot sessions that children show a lot of enthusiasm and interest, including those who rarely showed curiosity about science. Our experiences point to the usefulness of choreography as a mechanism for creative thinking, learning about complexity, problem solving, and promoting understanding about the kinds of questions scientists ask. Our approach is presented in our new Science Choreography web site <http://sciencechoreography.wesleyan.edu/>.

We are planning the workshop, in conjunction with our 2011 Wesleyan Hughes summer program, to explore using dance and Ferocious Beauty: Genome as a bridge for science outreach and public understanding of science. The workshop will bring divergent thinking groups together – university researchers, professional dancers/choreographers, school educators, advanced undergraduate students – as a means of developing new ideas and as a way of charging each other to return to our own classrooms and laboratories with fresh thinking.

We hope you will be able to join us.

Michael Weir and Laura Grabel, The Wesleyan Hughes Program

Contact Information

Name _____ School _____
_____ School address _____
Home address _____
_____ School Phone (_____) _____
Home Phone (_____) _____ School email _____
Home email _____

Grade(s) you will teach in 2011/2012 _____

Subject(s) _____

Are you interested in receiving Continuing Education Units for attending the workshop? _____

Would you be interested in receiving one or two classroom visits by a Wesleyan faculty member and student during the school year? _____



**Please return to
PIMMS/Wesleyan University
178 Cross St.
Middletown, CT 06459**

