

COLORADO

# CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2009  
MERCANTILE ROOM AT WYNKOOP BREWING COMPANY

<http://www.wynkoop.com/>

Corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Wynkoop in LoDo, Denver  
About a block from Light Rail. Thirteen minutes by foot from Auraria.

## **MOLECULES, MUTANTS, AND DARWIN: HUMAN EVOLUTION IN THE AGE OF GENOMES**

**David D. Pollock, PhD**  
Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, UC Denver

**Got sequence?** Due to the genome project, we're getting a whole lot more these days than we used to. This sequence is providing fundamental information about how functional molecules (RNA and proteins) evolve. Our view on this evolution has swung from pure adaptation to pure neutrality to a currently more nuanced view, with Darwinian concepts such as adaptation, coevolution, and convergence mixed with "nearly neutral" evolution. At the same time, genomic information has been dramatically disappointing as a means of identifying the root causes of complex human disease. Does evolution provide the means for understanding these elusive "quixotic trait loci"? Are we all just mutants anyway? Is the human species evolving or eroding?

**Happy 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Mr. D!**

***EVERYONE IS WELCOME.*** The discussion starts at 6:30 in the Mercantile Room (no food service there). Come before 6 PM to leave yourself time to get something to eat in the restaurant area, or stay and eat afterwards. We end around 8 PM.

There's no charge. The Wynkoop are generously providing the facility; we buy our own drinks. It is first come, first seated, and **seating is limited** by the fire laws!.

The Colorado Café Scientifique in Denver is organized by an informal committee of faculty from CU and institutions up and down the Front Range, as well as writers, students, and science fans from industry, government and all over. 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 [John.Cohen@UCDenver.edu](mailto:John.Cohen@UCDenver.edu)

Essential information on our Web site at <http://CafeSciColorado.org>