

Life Saving Chemistry

Synopsis:

In the last 100 years, the human lifespan has almost doubled. This lively talk, which contains chemical demonstrations and audience participation, outlines the crucial role played by chemists in drug discovery, who have developed many effective medicines. We will explore where medicines come from, and discover how scientists respond to new disease threats, such as swine flu. We will go on to consider the role which nanotechnology may, in the future, play in developing new medicines. Nanotechnology has been at the centre of considerable media controversy – and this talk will demonstrate how nanotechnology may offer a unique new approach to improving human health.

Bio:

David Smith has been a lecturer at the University of York since January 1999. In July 2006, he was promoted to a professorship. His research focuses on controlling the interactions between molecules in order to generate new nanomedicines with applications in gene therapy, active against diseases such as cystic fibrosis. In 2004, he won a Royal Society of Chemistry Higher Education Teaching Award. David is directly involved in teaching innovation and has recently developed a YouTube channel explaining the chemistry of everyday life (<http://www.youtube.com/professordaveatyork>). Outside the laboratory, he enjoys travel, skiing, walking and cooking