



## *School of Biological Sciences Seminar*

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### **“The herbicide atrazine and freshwater communities: The science and the politics ”**



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**Thursday, November 11th, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.**  
**Felmley Hall of Science Annex 133**

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Atrazine is one of the most widespread, persistent, and mobile herbicides in the world and is one of the most commonly used pesticides in Illinois. The safety of atrazine is presently being re-evaluated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Congress appears to be investigating policies regarding atrazine, and Illinois American Water Co. and other Midwestern states' water utilities are plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the maker of atrazine. Given these facts, the safety of atrazine to humans and wildlife should be of interest to citizens of the United States, especially residents of Illinois.

In this talk, I will review research conducted by my laboratory on the effects of atrazine on freshwater vertebrates, with comments on what these animals might tell us about human health risk from atrazine exposure. I will progress from the effects of atrazine on amphibian individuals and populations to effects on within and between species interactions. I will highlight the impacts of atrazine on disease risk in amphibians and the links between amphibian and human physiology and diseases. I will end with a discussion on the general effects of atrazine observed across studies, the politics and conflicts of interest surrounding atrazine research, and the challenges faced by policy makers regarding atrazine use regulations.

Please contact David Rubin for appointments with this Speaker.  
Pre-seminar refreshments will be served from 3:30-3:50 outside Felmley Hall Annex 133.

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*Sponsored by the School of Biological Sciences and Phi Sigma*