



## The McGill-Montreal Chapter

Sigma Xi :: The Scientific Research Society ::



### Sigma Xi - Entin Lecture

## What Causes Intervertebral Disc Degeneration and Can It Be Repaired?



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#### ENTIN LECTURE

#### When:

**Monday**

**September 27, 2010**

**6 P.M.**

#### Where:

McGill University  
Otto Maass Chemistry  
Building  
Ruttan Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

Degenerative disc disease begins in the central nucleus pulposus region and is implicated as a major component of spine pathology.

Currently, the two major clinical procedures for treating disc degeneration are disc excision and spinal fusion. Although these procedures offer relatively good short-term clinical results in relief of pain, in many instances they are disappointing because of altered spinal mechanics that leads to subsequent degeneration at adjacent disc levels.

Biological repair of the degenerate disc would be the ideal treatment and recent advances in tissue engineering offer the unique opportunity to repair, or at least retard, further degeneration of the nucleus pulposus.

Dr. Fackson Mwale is head of orthopaedics research at the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research and Assistant Professor of Surgery at McGill University in Montreal. He is an internationally recognized scientist in the field of orthopaedics and spine research who served as co-chair of the 11th Canadian Connective Tissue Conference in Montreal, Quebec. May 26-28, 2005. Dr. Mwale won the new investigator recognition award from the Orthopaedic Research Society in 1999.

**Preceded by a members-only reception  
5:30 P.M.**



**Ruttan Room**