

Santa Fe Science Café for Young Thinkers

“Ready, Set, Attack – How Your Body Fights Infection”



**Laura Grainger
New Mexico State University**

**Wednesday, January 26
6:00-7:30 PM**

**Georgia O’Keeffe Museum
Education Annex
123 Grant Avenue, Santa Fe**

Since there are so many “germs” out there, have you ever wondered why people aren’t sick all the time? Our discussion will explore the inner workings of the body’s immune system, which protects you from all those bacteria and viruses. Through our adventure you’ll learn about hot immunology topics such as antibiotic resistance, vaccination and organ transplantation. You’ll also discover what happens when the immune system goes haywire, possibly leading to autoimmune diseases such as Type I Diabetes and arthritis. In addition, we’ll examine some of the “smart” techniques bacteria and viruses use to manipulate and trick the immune system, as HIV does, and how research in this area has led to monumental discoveries in cell biology..

Admission is Free. Youth (ages 13-19) seating a priority. Light refreshments will be served. Lora will also appear at 8:30 AM the same day on the **Santa Fe Radio Café** (KSFR 101.1 FM) with host Mary Charlotte streaming from www.ksfr.org.

Lora holds a PhD in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Arizona. While there she worked on a project seeking a better understanding of the human herpes virus. A native New Mexican, Lora grew up in Taos and went to New Mexico State University. These days she is especially interested in promoting science education in New Mexico through developing outreach initiatives that bring quality biotechnology laboratory exercises to middle and high school classrooms. Presently she is the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Outreach Scientist at New Mexico State.

Sponsors: Santa Fe Alliance for Science; Santa Fe Public Schools; Georgia O’Keeffe Museum; Santa Fe Institute; New Mexico Public Education Department.

Go to **WWW.SFAFS.ORG** or call **603-7468** if you’d like more information.