

Science Days: Biotechnology at the Ars Electronica Center

Saturday, January 14 & Saturday, January 15, 2012 / 10 AM-6 PM

(Linz, January 12, 2012) Science Days will debut this weekend at the Ars Electronica Center Linz. From 10 AM to 6 PM, young and old will get to experiment to their heart's content and learn quite a bit in the process. The hub of activity this time will be the AEC's own BioLab, where visitors will be able to isolate their own DNA from their oral mucosa, see a scanning electron microscope in action, and clone plants. Science Days will now be held once a month; each session will feature a different exhibition space at the Ars Electronica Center.

Here's an overview of the first Science Days:

Quickie Experiments

You're invited to have hands-on fun with some brief but fascinating experiments on Saturday and Sunday between 10 AM and 6 PM.

DNA Take-Away / Lobby

In this experiment, you'll learn to use common everyday materials to view DNA samples taken from the mucus membrane in your mouth.

DAPI Fluorescent Stain / BioLab

Cells like you've never seen them before! Cell nuclei taken from your own oral mucosa and treated with special DAPI fluorescent stain glow brilliantly under ultraviolet light.

Scanning Electron Microscope / BioLab

A scanning electron microscope provides magnification far beyond the capabilities of a conventional optical microscope while also delivering images with greater depth of field. There will be live demonstrations of how a scanning electron microscope works throughout both days.

Workshops

Visitors age 15 and up are invited to take part in workshops. Mandatory preregistration can be done by calling 0732.7272.51, via e-mail to center@aec.at or in person at the Ars Electronica Center's Infodesk.

DNA Mix / Saturday, January 14. & Sunday, January 15, 2012 / 11 AM-1 PM both days

This workshop gets across interesting insights into the structure and function of a DNA molecule, and shows which analytical methods have been developed and what they're used for. Participants can isolate their own DNA from their oral mucosa and take it home with them afterwards.

With queries, please contact

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DNA Proof / Saturday, January 14, 2012 / 2:30-5 PM

The human being's individual genetic fingerprint takes the spotlight at DNA Proof. Visitors can isolate their own DNA and duplicate a portion of it. They'll also learn interesting details about methods and techniques used in DNA analysis and their areas of application, whereby the discussion will not fail to include a critical view of these procedures.

Copy Plant / Sunday, January 15, 2012 / 2:30-5 PM

Participants in the Copy Plant workshop will get hands-on experience in all the steps involved in copying plants under laboratory conditions—sterilizing the plant material, cutting out and applying the leaf rings, and finally dissecting the plant seedlings.

Ars Electronica Center: www.aec.at/center/en

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