

**SPECIAL SEMINAR**  
SUPERFUND BASIC RESEARCH PROGRAM

**THE SECRET HISTORY  
OF THE WAR ON  
CANCER**

*Presented by*

DEVRA LEE DAVIS, PHD, MPH  
DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007  
4:00 PM**

**SMITH-BUONANNO 106  
MEETING STREET, PEMBROKE CAMPUS  
PROVIDENCE, RI**



Devra Lee Davis heads up the country's first center for environmental oncology at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, one of the nation's top cancer research and treatment institutions. Honored for her research and public policy work by various national and international groups, Dr. Davis is professor of epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, visiting professor at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz School, honorary professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and expert advisor to the World Health Organization. She is the author of more than 170 scientific publications and the editor of 11 books, including *When Smoke Ran Like Water*, a finalist for the 2002 National Book Award for nonfiction.

IN THIS SPECIAL SEMINAR DR. DEVRA DAVIS, AN AWARD-WINNING SCIENTIST AND AUTHOR, WILL DISCUSS HER LATEST WORK, **THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE WAR ON CANCER (BASIC BOOKS; OCTOBER 1, 2007; HARDCOVER)**. FROM THE ABANDONED POISONED TOWNS OF THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA, TO THE BOARDROOMS OF THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, TO THE LABORATORIES OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, DR. DAVIS TELLS A COMPELLING STORY OF WHAT WAS KNOWN ABOUT THE CAUSES OF CANCER, WHEN, AND BY WHOM.

“SINCE ITS FORMAL LAUNCH MORE THAN THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, THE WAR ON CANCER HAS BEEN FIGHTING MANY OF THE WRONG BATTLES WITH THE WRONG WEAPONS AND THE WRONG LEADERS,” DAVIS WRITES. “OFFICIALLY DECLARED BY PRESIDENT NIXON IN 1971, THE AMERICAN EFFORT AGGRESSIVELY TARGETED THE ILLNESS BUT LEFT ITS MYRIAD CAUSES UNTOUCHED. LESS THAN A DECADE AFTER THE FAMED U.S. SURGEON GENERAL’S REPORT OF 1964 INDICTED TOBACCO AS A CAUSE OF LUNG CANCER, THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED A NATIONAL ATTACK ON CANCER. LEFT OFF THE TABLE COMPLETELY WERE TOBACCO, RADIATION, ASBESTOS, AND BENZENE— MATERIALS THAT FOR DECADES HAD BEEN WELL UNDERSTOOD TO BE HAZARDOUS.”

DR. DAVIS USES MATERIALS FROM SECRET ARCHIVES TO SHOW HOW LEADERS FROM INDUSTRIES THAT GENERATED A HOST OF CANCER-CAUSING MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS HAVE DOWNPLAYED RESEARCH ON CANCER PREVENTION, AND ALSO KEPT FINDINGS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES OF CANCER FROM GAINING WIDESPREAD ATTENTION OR BENEFITING THE GENERAL PUBLIC. DR. DAVIS BRINGS TO LIGHT A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH EFFORT DIVERTED AND DISTORTED FOR PRIVATE GAIN — A LEGACY THAT PERSISTS TO THIS DAY.

*Followed by light refreshments*