

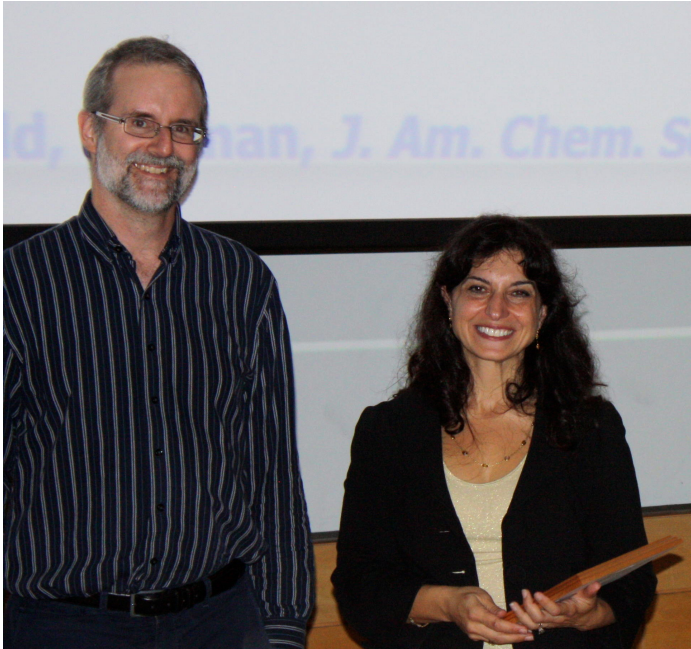


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## ***DNA is more than just Nature's Building Block and Dr. Hanadi Sleiman Shows Us How.***

*C&B Press* – The Department of Chemistry and Biology hosted Dr. Hanadi Sleiman as the CIC Toronto Section's 2012 E. Gordon Young Lecturer. Dr. Hanadi Sleiman is a Professor of Chemistry and Dawson Scholar at McGill University, and her talk was entitled Molecular Lego with DNA: Building Structures for Medicine and Materials Science.

Dr. Sleiman received her Ph.D. from Stanford University, and she carried out her postdoctoral studies in the laboratory of Prof. Jean-Marie Lehn (Nobel Laureate, 1987) at the Université Louis Pasteur in France. She joined the faculty at McGill University in 1999, where she heads a research group focused on the construction of biologically enabled materials. Prof. Sleiman was named Cottrell Scholar of the Research Corporation (USA) for



Dr. Stephen Wylie presents Dr. Hanadi Sleiman with the E. Gordon Young Lecture Series Award at Ryerson University after her fantastic talk on using DNA as molecular Lego

excellence in research and teaching in 2002. She received the Principal's Prize for excellence in teaching at McGill in 2002, and the Leo Yaffe Award in the Faculty of Science at McGill in 2004. She was named William Dawson Scholar (McGill's Canada Research Chair Tier II), received the NSERC Discovery Accelerator Award in 2008, and the 2009 Strem Award of the Canadian Society for Chemistry, and her list of publications is nothing short of outstanding in the last 12 years. The E. Gordon Young Lecture series is sponsored by the Chemical Education Fund and the Chemical Institute of Canada Toronto Section, and Dr. Sleiman's lecture at Ryerson represented one of three that she gave in the city as part of her speaking engagement.

"I always enjoy coming to Toronto. It is a beautiful city." And with that Dr. Sleiman, gave an enthusiastic general lecture about how "DNA is such a reliable molecule for information storage and it is one of the most remarkable building materials. DNA can organize electronic components into complex circuits and can act as a fuel for molecular machines. It can be used to build three-dimensional cages that load cargo and deliver on demand, in response to specific triggers. Over the past few years, our research group has taken DNA out of its biological context, and has used this molecule to build 2D- and 3D-structures that are environmentally responsive."

It was a convincing argument, and we look forward to hosting Dr. Sleiman again in the not too distant future.