

COLORADO

# CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

TUESDAY 18 MAY 2010

at the Wynkoop Brewing Company

<http://www.wynkoop.com/>

Corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Wynkoop in LoDo, Denver

About a block from Light Rail. Thirteen minutes by foot from Auraria.

## *Cooking Meth With Kids in the House: The Dark Side of Chemistry*

JOHN MARTYNY, PHD, CIH  
NATIONAL JEWISH HEALTH, DENVER

In Colorado, 31 illegal methamphetamine laboratories were discovered in 1998; this rose to 687 by 2002. Very high levels of toxic chemicals are produced during methamphetamine “cooks;” and hazardous chemical exposures persist in rooms and buildings for an extended period of time. Setting out to determine the potential chemical exposures to first responders during clandestine meth laboratory seizures, Dr. Martyny became increasingly concerned about exposures to third party individuals. Chief among these concerns were the health and well-being of children associated with these laboratories. Approximately one-third of the methamphetamine laboratories investigated by law enforcement involve children. In addition, there have been instances of families unknowingly moving into a building that had previously been a methamphetamine laboratory. The occurrence of a clandestine “cook” was only evident after significant lung problems were diagnosed in the children. Dr. Martyny has worked with law enforcement to understand and mitigate the risks to all concerned, going so far as to conduct his own “cooks.”

***EVERYONE IS WELCOME.*** The discussion starts at 6:30 in the Mercantile Room (no food service there). Come before 6 PM to leave yourself time to get something to eat, or stay and eat afterwards. We end around 8 PM.

There's no charge. The Wynkoop is generously providing the facility; we buy our own drinks. It is first come, first seated, and **seating is limited** so that everyone can take part in the discussion.

The Colorado Café Scientifique is organized by an informal group of faculty from CU and institutions up and down the Front Range, as well as science fans from industry, government and elsewhere. We welcome your input, including ideas for speakers and topics. Bring them with you to the next Café, or e-mail them and any questions to [John.Cohen@UCDenver.edu](mailto:John.Cohen@UCDenver.edu)

Essential information on our Web site at: <http://CafeSciColorado.org>