Queen Mary
University of London

Invitation from
Professor Adrian
Smith FRS, Principal

To the Inaugural Lecture

'Exceptional simplicity'

Robert Wilson
Professor of Pure Mathematics

Wednesday 2 April 2008 at 5.30pm
Mathematical Lecture Theatre
Mathematical Sciences
Queen Mary, University of London
Mile End Road
London
E1 4NS

A reception will follow the lecture
RSVP on attached card

Image courtesy of Patrick Gruban

'Exceptional simplicity'
Wednesday 2 April 2008 at 5.30pm

Please complete, detach and return the form below. Alternatively, contact the Events Office via email at events@qmul.ac.uk

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Professor Robert Wilson
'Exceptional simplicity'

Symmetry is all around us, in nature and in man-made objects, from crystals to tiling patterns. But it is not just aesthetically pleasing, it has serious work to do in simplifying problems of all kinds in physics and elsewhere. Group theory is the deep study of symmetry in its fundamental aspects, and the Classification Theorem for Finite Simple Groups describes the basic building blocks of all possible symmetries of everything. Some of these symmetry groups are familiar and well-understood, while others are exotic and strangely beautiful.

We explore the world of these exceptional simple groups, both for their own sake and for their wide-ranging applications.

Robert Wilson is Professor of Pure Mathematics at Queen Mary. He studied in Cambridge and obtained his PhD in group theory in 1983. After holding Fellowships at Jesus College and Girton College, Cambridge, he moved to a Lectureship in Birmingham in 1987, and was promoted to a personal chair in 1999. He is well-known for his 'Atlas of Group Representations' on the world-wide-web, which he brought with him to Queen Mary in 2004, and nearly 100 other publications, including five books.

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