



February 18, 2008

*Contact:*

*Walt Ulbricht*

*Executive Director, Marketing and Communications*

*Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science*

*847-578-8848 (o) 330-651-1476 (c)*

*walter.ulbricht@rosalindfranklin.edu*

*Life in Discovery*

For Immediate Release:



Dr. Marc Abel, RFUMS associate professor of Cell Biology and Anatomy

## **Rosalind's Theme New Musical Signature Identifies University**

Rosalind Franklin is singing a new tune, one written by Dr. Marc Abel, associate professor of Cell Biology and Anatomy.

The 15-second excerpt from the RFUMS Theme will be heard on sponsorship messages on public TV stations WTTW Channel 11 and WYCC Channel 20, beginning on February 25 for the next month. The theme is described by Abel as "melodic with good underlying harmonic structure, flowing and reflective."

Abel began studying piano at age 5 and put himself through undergraduate school by playing in bands and clubs before attending the University of Texas, where he earned his PhD in Neurobiology.

"Music has taken me to a lot of places I wouldn't have gone otherwise - but then so has science," said Abel.

He has played in the ballroom of the Plaza Hotel in New York City, at West Point military academy, in off-Broadway productions, and for oldies acts including the Platters, the Drifters and the Coasters.

His CD of original music relating to the life of a scientist, "Approved, But Not Funded" received critical acclaim from reviewers.

The neurobiologist and gross anatomy instructor sees a deep link between humans and their music. "There are people assigning notes to the base patterns of DNA and playing it," he said. "There are fundamental rhythmic patterns inside us as well. I think that is why rhythm-based music such as blues and rock and roll resonates with so many people."

Abel's compositions often begin as "two or three bars" in his head. He enjoys the interaction of jazz, and what other musicians bring to his music.

"A lot of the music I write has room for improvisation," he said. "I establish a framework, with melody, rhythm and chords, then open it up for interpretation. An emergent property occurs. What results is something greater than the parts."

The new RFUMS theme will also be heard later this year on radio, on the university's Web site and in certain video productions.

"Institutions can be identified in different ways, usually visually by a logo," said Walt Ulbricht, executive director of the Office of Marketing and Communications, who worked with Abel to select the theme. "A musical signature piece is an excellent way to remind viewers who we are and what we represent."

### **About Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science**

Formed in 1912 as the Chicago Hospital-College of Medicine, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science is a national leader in interprofessional medical and healthcare education, offering a doctor of medicine program through the Chicago Medical School and doctor of podiatric medicine program through the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine.

RFUMS also offers a range of degrees through its College of Health Professions, including nurse anesthesia, nutrition, physical therapy and physician assistant, and advanced biomedical degrees through the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

There are more than 15,000 RFUMS graduates in the United States and worldwide.