Fall 2018 Science Café Topics in Biomedical Research

October 2       Why Family Planning Matters
                Jeffrey Jensen, M.D.

With a human population of 7.6 billion people, the world seems crowded. Environmental problems contribute to our anxiety over the future. This lecture will review how we got here, and what solutions exist to address our global predicament.

October 9       NO LECTURE

October 16      Female Infertility: Polycystic Ovary Disease (PCOS)
                Richard Stouffer, Ph.D.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 6.1 million women in the United States, age 15 to 44, have difficulty getting or staying pregnant. One of the common causes is polycystic ovary syndrome, an intractable disease characterized by high levels of male sex hormones, obesity and infertility. Dr. Stouffer will discuss recent research attempting to unravel the causes of PCOS symptoms that may lead to better treatment.

October 23      How does the egg get out of the ovary?
                New Strategies for Controlling Fertility
                Jon Hennebold, Ph.D.

Ovulation is the culmination of a series of events that result in the release of the oocyte (egg) from the ovary. Dr. Hennebold’s talk will describe his lab’s focus on understanding the cellular processes that are necessary for ovulation, and explain how this research is leading to the development of new contraceptives and new hope for couples experiencing infertility.

October 30      IVF Technologies to Select the Optimal Embryo
                Shawn Chavez, Ph.D.

Infertility affects ~10-15% of our population and is only expected to increase as reproductive-age couples continue to delay childbirth. Learn about the current options for infertility treatment and “next-generation” technologies for selecting the optimal embryo following in vitro fertilization (IVF).