

Science in the Cinema-Los Angeles

Friday 2 PM, October 17, 2003

Feature Film: Erin Brockovich

Post-film Discussion Leader: John R. Froines

Chair: Susana Maria Halpine

While working at attorney Ed Masry's law firm, **Erin Brockovich** stumbles upon some medical records placed in real estate files. Confused, she begins to question the connection. She convinces Ed to allow her to investigate, where she discovers a cover-up involving contaminated water in a local community which is causing devastating illnesses among its residents. Although the local citizens are initially leery of becoming involved, Erin's persistence and the personal interest she takes in their lives makes them listen. Going door to door, she signs up over 600 plaintiffs, and Erin and Ed, with the help of a major law firm, go on to receive the largest settlement ever paid in a direct-action lawsuit in U.S. history....\$333 million. By triumphing over insurmountable odds, she is able to prove herself, and reinvent her life. From: <http://www.erinbrockovich.com/story.html>



John R. Froines, UCLA Professor (Environmental Health Sciences), joined the faculty of the School of Public Health in 1981. He received a B.S. in chemistry from UC Berkeley (1963), a M.S. in chemistry (1964) and Ph.D. in physical-organic chemistry (1967) from Yale University. Before coming to the UCLA School of Public Health, Dr. Froines served as Director of Toxic Substances at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Deputy Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Dr. Froines is currently the Director of the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health and he co-directs the UCLA Pollution Prevention Education and Research Center. Dr. Froines' area of expertise is Toxicology and Industrial Hygiene. His research interests are in the qualitative and quantitative characterization of risk factors in occupational disease, with special emphasis on exposure assessment and hazard surveillance research; the use of genetic toxicology, biomarkers and toxicokinetics in the study of chemical

carcinogenesis; and studies on the carcinogenicity of arsenic and chromium and the toxicity of lead.

What Is Science in the Cinema?

Science in the Cinema is a free film festival held each summer at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland. One evening a week for six weeks, a film with a medical science theme is screened. Following each film, a guest speaker with expertise in the film's subject area leads a discussion with the audience about the science depicted in the film. The film series is sponsored by the NIH Office of Science Education. For more information visit: <http://science.education.nih.gov/cinema>