



## About the Skeptics Toolbox

A creation of Ray Hyman, the Skeptic's Toolbox began in 1989 with a workshop in Buffalo, New York, titled "Skeptical Inquiry: The Role of the Skeptic." In subsequent years the workshop became anchored at the University of Oregon in Eugene, where Hyman taught psychology. Each summer, people from all over the country gather in Eugene for an intense weekend of skeptical investigation.

Unlike many of the conferences held by CSI, the Skeptic's Toolbox is a much more intimate and informal affair during which participants get an opportunity to put the tools of science and skepticism directly to work on many paranormal or pseudoscientific claims and ideas. Along with fascinating case studies and experiences presented by a wonderfully engaging faculty, attendees break up into small groups and tackle a case study of their own under the guidance of a faculty member.

We hope to provide more information on Ray Hyman's vision of the Skeptic's Toolbox, as well as the fabulous experiences he has had over the years, on our website ([www.skepticstoolbox.org](http://www.skepticstoolbox.org)). We also hope to continue working on the archives area of the site to provide a sense of the great breadth and depth covered during the past two decades. Please keep an eye on these areas in the future.

## Where Is the Event?

### University of Oregon

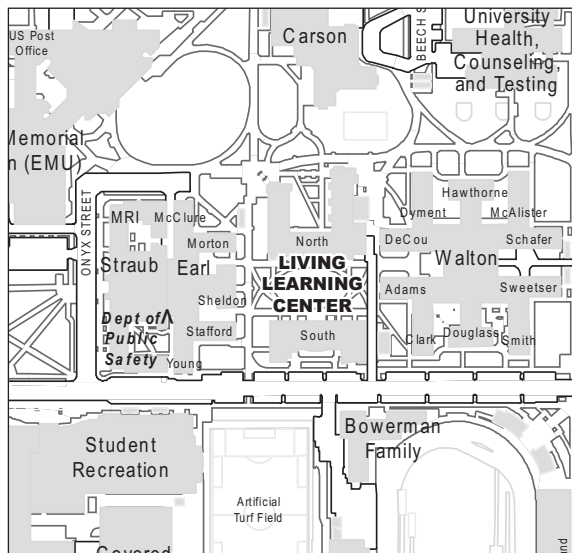
Living Learning Center, 1475 East 15th Avenue, Eugene Oregon 97403

**Registration:** Living Learning Center Performance Hall

**Workshop Sessions:** Living Learning Center Performance Hall

**Accommodations:** Living Learning Center Residence Hall

**Meals:** Carson Cafeteria (except Saturday dinner, which is at the Moore Dining Room).



## Schedule: Thursday, August 9

- 2:00—5:00 PM:** Registration at Living Learning Center Performance Hall  
Meet and Greet
- 7:00—10:00 PM:** ***Evidence & Skepticism***  
Video examples of evidence in art, science, and other areas  
Discussion of examples with Faculty and Participants  
Assignment to teams

## Friday, August 10

- 9:00—10:15 AM:** ***Three Renaissance Philosophers: Evaluating Evidence before Science***  
Loren Pankratz
- 10:45—12:00 PM:** ***Evidence: Use or Abuse?***  
Ray Hyman
- 2:00—3:15 PM:** ***Evaluating Evidence in Medicine: What Can Go Wrong?***  
Harriet Hall, MD
- 3:45—5:00 PM:** Teams work on assignments
- 7:00—10:00 PM:** ***More Examples and Discussion of Use and Misuse of Evidence***  
Faculty and Participants

## Saturday, August 11

- 9:00—10:15 AM:** ***Media Complicity in Muddling Public Understanding of Medicine***  
Lindsay Beyerstein
- 10:45—12:00 PM:** Teams work on assignments
- 2:00—3:15 PM:** ***Evaluating Psychological Research: What Was Reported, What Was Not***  
James Alcock
- 3:45—5:00 PM:** Teams continue their work
- 7:00—10:00 PM:** Dinner in Moore Dining Room  
"In the Trenches" Award  
Magic Show: Jay Frasier, Ron Friedland  
Ray Hyman

## Sunday, August 12

- 9:30—11:30 AM:** ***Wrap Up: So What Have We Learned?***  
Discussion Teams present their evaluations of evidence in assigned reports.

## Faculty



### Ray Hyman

Professor emeritus of psychology, University of Oregon, CSI fellow. Ray is the creator of the Skeptic's Toolbox and the developer of the workshop syllabus. At a 2003 conference, he received CSI's highest honor with the In Praise of Reason Award. To read more about Ray, please visit the transcript of James Alcock's presentation speech, which appeared in the March/April 2004 issue of the *Skeptical Inquirer* at [http://www.csicop.org/si/show/in\\_praise\\_of\\_ray\\_hyman](http://www.csicop.org/si/show/in_praise_of_ray_hyman).



### James Alcock

Professor of psychology, York University Toronto, Ontario; CSI fellow.



### Loren Pankratz

Forensic psychologist, Oregon Health Sciences, University of Oregon; CSI fellow.



### Harriet Hall, MD

Retired family physician and flight surgeon. Writer on the subjects of quackery, pseudoscience, critical thinking, and alternative medicine, Dr. Hall is also known as "The SkepDoc" from her regular column in *Skeptic* magazine. She is a contributing editor to both *Skeptic* and *Skeptical Inquirer* magazines, an editor of the *Science-Based Medicine* blog, and an advisor to Quackwatch. Her website is [www.skepdoc.info](http://www.skepdoc.info).



### Lindsay Beyerstein

Philosopher, photographer, blogger, and polymath Lindsay Beyerstein is a freelance writer based in New York City. Her blog, *Majikthise*, provides daily coverage of local, national, and international politics from a left-liberal perspective. *Majikthise* features original reporting, including Lindsay's photography.