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Peer Led Team Learning (PLTL)

## Peer Led Team Learning (PLTL): A student-faculty partnership for transforming the learning environment

*Presented by*

**Professor Pratibha Varma-Nelson**

Professor of Chemistry and Executive Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI)

Date & time: **October 22, 2012 (10:10 – 11:50)**

Venue: **Lecture Theatre 4, Academic 1, City University of Hong Kong**

Enquiries: **34426726 & [edge@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:edge@cityu.edu.hk)**

Registration: **<http://go.cityu.hk/peerled>**

***All are welcome!***



### Abstract

Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) provides students with opportunities for intellectual and personal development as well as a restructuring of their content knowledge. This approach preserves the lecture and introduces a new structure, a weekly two-hour workshop where students interact to solve problems under the guidance of a trained peer leader. Each weekly PLTL workshop centers on carefully constructed problems and activities, selected by the instructor in order to address common misconceptions and develop conceptual understanding. This presentation will provide an overview of the Peer-led Team Learning (PLTL) model of teaching. It will also introduce the theoretical and practical elements of the model and describe how technology can be used to promote cyber learning through PLTL. Cyber PLTL (cPLTL) is an online, synchronous, collaborative environment for conducting PLTL workshops. Technology involved and the effectiveness of cPLTL in duplicating the proven benefits of the traditional (face-to-face) PLTL method will be described and preliminary results will be presented. Training of students and peer leaders to work effectively in PLTL workshops will be discussed as well. This work is supported by the National Science Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

### Speaker



Pratibha Varma-Nelson is Professor of Chemistry and the Executive Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). She received her B.Sc. in Chemistry with first class from the University of Pune, India, in 1970 and a Ph.D. in 1978 from the University of Illinois in Chicago in Organic Chemistry. She served as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics at the Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University, Maywood, IL from 1977-1979. Varma-Nelson joined the faculty of Saint Xavier University, Chicago in 1979 where she received tenure in 1985 and was promoted to Professor in 1992 and served as department co-chair from 1992-1995. She moved to Northeastern Illinois University in July of 2002 as Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Department of Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics. From August 2006-2008 she was a Program Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the Division of Undergraduate Education.

Since 1995 Dr. Varma-Nelson's scholarly contributions have been in chemical education. She is well known in the STEM education community for her pioneering work in development, implementation and dissemination of the Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) model of teaching. She has been a Co-PI of two NSF funded National Dissemination Grants awarded to the PLTL project and was senior partner of the Multi Initiative National Dissemination (MID) Project. In addition she was a founding Co-PI of the first NSF funded Undergraduate Research Center "Center for Authentic Science Practice in Education, (CASPIE)". Her research group is currently working on development, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of cyber-PLTL (cPLTL). For work on cPLTL she has received funding from IUPUI, NSF, and Educause (Next Generation Learning Challenges).

As the executive director of the CTL at IUPUI Varma-Nelson is developing discipline –based professional development programs for faculty and for this in 2009 she received a CCLI Type I grant from DUE/NSF to study "The Role of Centers of Teaching and Learning in undergraduate Engineering Workshop".

Dr. Varma-Nelson is co-author of several publications about PLTL, cPLTL and CASPIE and has made numerous presentations in national and international venues. She co-authored the 2011 AAAS report, "Vision and Change in Undergraduate Biology Education: A Call to Action." She was the co-recipient of the 2008 James Flack Norris award for her role in developing PLTL Workshop model for teaching chemistry courses and in June 2011 she was awarded the Stanley C. Israel Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences sponsored by the Committee on Minority Affairs of the American Chemical Society. Her team was recently selected for the 2012 Sloan-C Award for Effective Practices in Online and Blended Education.

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Contact Information	DEC-OBTL Implementation Workshop Series D & I Mini Fair	GE Laboratory For Students For Faculty GE Newsletter Gateway Education Programme Committee GE Fair GE Seminars	LASSI - Learning and Study Strategies Inventory PALSII - The Peer-Assisted Learning using Supplemental Instruction OBTL - Outcomes Based Teaching and Learning	OBTL - Outcome Based Teaching & Learning {ENGAGE \ CONNECT} Lectures 2011 [CHANGE, infectiously inspirational] Lectures	CoP - Communities of Practice OBTL - Outcomes Based Teaching & Learning Fund QEF - Quality Education Fund	

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