Fetal treatments featured in upcoming lecture

The next presentation in the fall Topics in Regenerative Medicine lecture series at Sacramento State will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 25, in University Union Ballroom I.

“Beyond the Scalpel – Engineering Biomaterials and Stem Cells for In Utero Repair of Birth Defects” will be presented by Aijun Wang, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Surgery at the UC Davis School of Medicine.

Wang received his doctorate in biology from Tsinghua University in Beijing and did his postdoctoral training in bioengineering at UC Berkeley. He will address his current research on innovative, cross-disciplinary approaches that combine bioengineering techniques with surgical procedures to improve the outcome of fetal treatments and overcome the limitations of current treatment.

His team has utilized various biomaterials and stem cells to augment in utero repair of spina bifida, a devastating and common birth defect that often leaves afflicted children with lower-limb paralysis. Early results highlight fetal tissue engineering’s potential for functionally curing otherwise debilitating birth defects.

Presented by the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and the Center for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Excellence, the Topics in Regenerative Medicine lectures are funded through a California Institute for Regenerative Medicine grant in collaboration with the UC Davis Stem Cell Program.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the Center for STEM Excellence website at www.csus.edu/stem. Questions may be directed to the center at (916) 278-2789 or by emailing stem@csus.edu. For more information on the lecture series, contact Professor Rosalee Sprowls at carterrc@csus.edu.

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156. – Alan Miller