

RISE Talks Series

- Who?** [Douglas Eveleigh](#), Biochemistry & Microbiology, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers University
- What?** The Discovery of Streptomycin - Slow but sure
- When?** 12:00-1:00 on Wednesday, November 15
- Where?** Hall of Sciences, Room 326

The discovery of streptomycin by Professor Selman Waksman and graduate students Albert Schatz and Elizabeth Bugie, has elicited much discussion. Waksman became fascinated, 1915, with the poorly known filamentous soil bacteria, the Actinomycetes. Later came studies of antagonism between soil microbes, screening protocols, the Rutgers antibiotics, actinomycin 1940 - streptothricin, chaetomin, fumigacin and streptomycin, 1943. The final success of streptomycin came about through co-operation with medical researchers (The Mayo Clinic) and industrial support (Merck and Co.)- financial and large scale fermentors. The development of streptomycin, along with penicillin, revolutionized the practice of medicine and world health programs, and drove the explosive development of the pharmaceutical industry in the mid-twentieth century.