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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CLIMATE SCIENTIST BEN SANTER TO DISCUSS EVIDENCE OF HUMAN INFLUENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AT BANKHEAD THEATER**

Livermore, Calif. — Renowned climatologist Ben Santer will discuss why and how the scientific community identified human-caused warming signals in the climate system in a Rae Dorough Speaker Series presentation, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 29 in Livermore’s Bankhead Theater.

Under the title “Fingerprinting the Climate System,” Santer will talk about his recent research to identify the fingerprints left by human activity in a number of climate variables, including: tropopause height; atmospheric water vapor; the temperature of the stratosphere and troposphere; ocean heat content; and ocean surface temperature in hurricane formation regions. Santer is an atmospheric scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Santer’s early research on the climatic effects of greenhouse gases in combination with sulfate aerosols contributed to the historic “discernible human influence” conclusions in the 1995 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The data in the report provided further evidence that climate change was due to more than natural causes.

“Natural causes cannot provide a convincing explanation for the particular patterns of climate change we see,” Santer said in an article posted by the Union of Concerned Scientists. For this reason, “scientists have come to have such confidence in our understanding of what is happening—not because of the claims of any one individual, but because of the breadth of scientific work and reproducibility of the results.”

Santer holds a Ph.D. in climatology from the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom. After completing his doctorate in 1987, he worked on the development and application of climate fingerprint methods for five years at the Max-Planck Institute for Meteorology in Germany. Santer joined LLNL in 1992. Awards and honors he has received include: a MacArthur Fellowship (1998); the U.S. Department of Energy’s E.O. Lawrence Award, (2002); the Norbert Gerbler MUMM International Award (1998); and membership in the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (2011) among the accolades.

Tickets are available for the remaining speakers in the series as well as for individual presentations. Individual presentation tickets are \$16 for students and range from \$32 to \$40 for adults. Tickets are now available online <http://raedoroughspeakerseries.org/tickets/> or may be purchased at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First Street, Livermore, Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m., or by calling (925)-373-6800.

The speaker series honors the late Rae Dorough, a respected Livermore resident and strong supporter of cultural events. Members of her family were the initiating sponsors in 2008. The series is sponsored in part by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, The Hertz Foundation, Sandia National Laboratory, Tri-Valley Conservancy and ImageSetters.

The speaker programs begin at 7:30pm, followed by a lively audience Question and Answer (Q&A) from the stage, and culminate in a reception for the speaker that is held in the lobby of the Bankhead.

[www.RaeDoroughSpeakerSeries.org](http://www.RaeDoroughSpeakerSeries.org) | <http://www.facebook.com/RaeDoroughSpeakers>

Tickets – 925.373.6800 or [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) | PO Box 592 | Livermore | CA 94551