

# Taste of Sigma Lecture

Sunday, November 10, 7 PM  
Simons Center for Geometry and Physics  
at Stony Brook University

## *The Story of Two Poisons: polonium-210 and Novichok by Tatiana Pyatina*

The lecture will discuss recent poisoning events of former KGB officers in the UK from a scientific point of view. What do we know about Soviet and Western chemical weapon programs, and how did these programs evolve over time? Which scientific evidences link both poisoning events with the Russian secret service? How was the radioactive polonium poisoning identified in a hospital? Why “Novichok”, which is one of the most lethal nerve agents, hadn’t killed intended victims? How it was possible to save the victims’ lives?

*About the lecturer: Tatiana Pyatina holds PhD in environmental engineering and chemistry from Caltech. After obtaining her PhD she worked with Schlumberger Service Company developing materials for subterranean well constructions. Presently she is a materials scientist at Brookhaven National Laboratory and develops new materials for geothermal energy production.*



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