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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 17, 2007

Media Advisory

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Marcus du Sautoy explains why prime numbers conceal the greatest problem yet to be solved in mathematics

A million dollars goes to the person who unravels the mystery of the music hidden in the cacophony of primes

WHAT – "THE MUSIC OF THE PRIMES." In this talk, as in his book of the same title, **Marcus du Sautoy** will describe the extraordinary quest to unlock the secrets of prime numbers, which have intrigued and confounded the greatest minds. Prime numbers—numbers that cannot be written as smaller numbers multiplied together—are as fundamental in mathematics as the elements are in chemistry, and finding an underlying order among primes is analogous to charting the periodic table. Discoveries about primes have implications for chaos theory, quantum mechanics, number theory and e-commerce, where prime numbers provide the security of encryption. Primes also play a role in the natural world, as seen in the evolutionary survival of rare cicada species. Why there is a $1,000,000 award for anybody who can settle the 150 year-old "Riemann Hypothesis" will be explained in Dr. du Sautoy's entertaining and illuminating presentation of "THE MUSIC OF THE PRIMES." [See www.musicoftheprimes.com.] This free public program is presented by the **Mathematical Sciences Research Institute** (**MSRI**, **www.msri.org**) in Berkeley. ***This special event is recommended for science aficionados, students and teachers of all ages.***

WHEN – FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2007 at 5:15 pm.

WHERE – In UC Berkeley's **Valley Life Sciences Building (VLSB), Room 2050 (Chan Shun Auditorium).** See VLSB on a map of UCB campus: http://ib.berkeley.edu/admin/facilities/vlsb/map.php. The VLSB is located near UCB's West Entrance, a few blocks from the downtown Berkeley BART station. Public metered parking is available at the corner of Addison and Oxford Streets.

WHO – Dr. Marcus du Sautoy (see www.maths.ox.ac.uk/~dusautoy), is a Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford. He has been a visiting Professor at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, the Max Planck Institute in Bonn, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and the Australian National University in Canberra. He was named by the *Independent on Sunday* magazine as one of the UK's leading scientists, and he has won the prestigious Berwick Prize of the London Mathematical Society. In 2004, *Esquire* magazine chose him as one of the 100 most influential people under 40 in Britain. Du Sautoy is a frequent commentator for BBC radio and television. He is the author of numerous academic articles and books on mathematics; in addition, his presentations, such as "Why Beckham chose the 23 shirt," has been presented before diverse audiences. Marcus du Sautoy plays the trumpet and soccer. Like Beckham, he also plays in a prime number shirt, number 17.

HOW – FREE ADMISSION!

DETAILS – Reporters are welcome to attend a pre-event Reception from **4:15-5:00 pm** and encouraged to meet Marcus du Sautoy. **Please RSVP** to Anne Pfister at annepf@msri.org.

PHOTOS – Portraits of Marcus du Sautoy are available, by request.

The **Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI - www.msri.org)** is one of the world's premiere centers for research in the mathematical sciences, and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding as an independent institute in 1982. More than 1,700 mathematical scientists visit MSRI each year in Berkeley, CA, many for stays of up to one academic year. The Institute has been funded primarily by the National Science Foundation with additional support from other government agencies, private foundations, academic and corporate sponsors, and individual donors.