MEDIA ALERT
For Immediate Release
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CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE TO EXPLORE BEHAVIOR OF ZOMBIES
CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY EXPERT TO DISCUSS SCIENCE FICTION TURNED FACT
THROUGH MODERN NEUROSCIENCE


“Modern neuroscience has brought to life realities that had only existed in the minds of creative science fiction authors,” said Verstynen. “Today, scientists have created robotic arms that can be controlled by brain signals, and giant magnets that can visualize our thoughts in action. Now, neuroscience has gone on to explain how zombie behavior might exist in reality.”

At Café Sci, Verstynen will explore how certain neurological impairments could lead to the characteristics associated with horror movie zombies, such as their shuffling walk and inability to speak or experience pain. This unique opportunity to learn about the science behind zombies not only brings together science fiction and reality, but popular culture and education.

“Visitors will have the chance to take their love for the undead beyond the TV or movie screen and into the world of science,” he said.

Verstynen received his doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley. He specializes in cognition, brain, and behavior, and is the head of a lab at CMU that focuses on the psychology of selecting or stopping actions, the dynamics of skill learning, and structure-function associations.

This is a free event. Doors open at 6 pm. A question-and-answer session will follow the Café Sci presentation, which starts at 7 pm. Dinner is available for $8, including a vegetarian option. A cash bar is also offered. Register at http://members.carnegiemuseums.org/cafe_scientifique, or click through from the Café Sci box on the homepage at CarnegieScienceCenter.org.
About Carnegie Science Center
Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center’s goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh’s premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh
Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums dedicated to exploration through art and science: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and the Andy Warhol Museum. Annually, the museums reach more than 1.2 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities and special events.

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