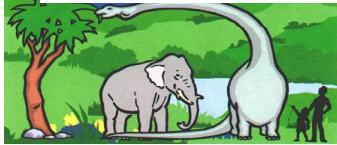


## Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship

*Educating the World  
On the Truth of Creation*

Volume 65 October / November 2010

Pres



### Origin of Life via **ist**

I was recently made aware of a publication (Doriano Brogioli, “Marginally Stable Chemical Systems as Precursors of Life”, *Physical Review Letters* (2010) DOI:10.1103/PhysRevLett.105.058102) which offers a new approach to *abiogenesis*—the generation of living entities from non-living matter. This is a fundamental doctrine of evolution, which attempts to eliminate God as the **Creator**.

According to Brogioli, physicist, University of Milan-Bicocca, the following statements were made, “...what is necessary is evolution...” “After evolution starts, it can reach whatever complex structures: form a cell, evolution creates trees, whales, birds, ants, and all the prodigious current living world.” Brogioli goes on to say, “Three features are needed for evolution: inheritance, mutation and selection.” This is his claim in spite of the abundant evidence available from creationists’ publications totally negating the viability of any evolution process contingent upon these three features.

Even though Brogioli admits the current status of difficulties and failures confronting evolutionary processes requiring these three features, he goes on to propose that thermodynamic fluctuations within inanimate molecules could allow for selective reactions to become effective, leading to an increase of molecules having an evolutionary advantage. In Brogioli’s view this would overcome the process of requiring replicating chemicals simultaneously with membrane formation, essential to all cell structures. Such was the conclusion of his theoretical study of thermodynamic fluctuations over time within hypothetical bio-molecules, which he calls “replicases”. He explains that in his mathematical model a replicase of one type present in higher concentrations will undergo more replications. After that an even more efficient (in evolution terms)

replicase can arise due to random mutations, and its concentration will increase, and so on.

Brogioli concludes with the claim that his study shows that the existence of a chemical system, that is marginally stable and which can undergo spontaneous evolution, is possible. If these claims were valid, laboratory studies could be conducted to readily test such a proposal; however, no such studies have ever been accomplished. But the major problem is that Brogioli totally disregards the established fact that cells essential to life are **irreducibly complex** so as to defy man’s understanding, and thus require an **intelligent designer** (outside of any “intelligence” attributed to evolution). The evidence supporting these two facts is most abundant and overwhelming, even though Brogioli and others like him choose to deliberately ignore what is clearly evident (Rom. 1: 20).

Brogioli’s mathematical model is nothing more than a stochastic statistical process with built in constraints for spontaneous random generation and identification of his so called “replicases” capable of interacting, so as to initiate a systematic evolution mechanism for bio-molecular organization and cell formation. But this is nothing more than a new twist on the age-old problem confronting abiogenesis, i.e., according to scientific observation, only “life begets life”. What actually causes life to be remains a mystery from a purely scientific standpoint.

Of course life is not a mystery for those who accept and believe in the revealed Word of God, for He clearly identifies Himself as **Creator** (only one of His attributes) in the very beginning of the written Word. To ignore this and continue to attempt with the advancement of atheistic explanations for the origin of life, can only lead to a dead end street. (For further details go to:

[www.physorg.com/news201171540.html](http://www.physorg.com/news201171540.html))

Blessings to all in His Holy Name,

Ed (Dr. Edward Boudreaux, President of RMCF)

## October Meeting Plans

Our speaker for the October 8 meeting will be Bill Browning, who is a frequent speaker on scientific creationism, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship, where he currently serves as Treasurer and Librarian. He served as Co-Chairman for the Case for Creation Conference presented by the Institute for Creation Research (ICR) at Calvary Temple and Colorado Community Church (held in Denver in October 2000). Bill also chaired the committee that hosted the ICR RATE Conference in September, 2007 which inaugurated the first observance of Creation Weekend at the time of the Jewish New Year. He has served as Guest Seminar Speaker for the Alpha Omega Institute in Grand Junction, Colorado, and has participated with them in Vacation Bible Schools in Colorado and Kansas.

Bill was educated at SMU where he earned a Master of Science degree in Engineering, followed by post-graduate work at UCLA at the Engineering Executive Program. He retired from the Hughes Aircraft Company after a 31-year career in space technology, and attended the ICR Graduate School in El Cajon, California, with 13 hours of graduate courses in geology, astronomy, paleontology, and advanced concepts in creationism. He is a member of the Creation Research Society, and he conducts workshops for Christian schools and home schoolers, at Christian camps, and at various speaking engagements around the Rocky Mountain area.

Bill's topic is entitled "The Light of the World", which explores how a scientific understanding of the physics of light helps us to understand the attributes of Creator, Jesus of Nazareth, the Light of the World (John 8:12). The presentation includes models and demonstrations of some interesting characteristics of light, and creatures that use light, to produce natural beauty. The presentation has been recently expanded to cover the miraculous photonic crystals used by the Creator to produce the amazing coloration of beetles and weevils. A handout of the cited scriptural passages will be provided.

## November Meeting Plans

For our November meeting, we plan a temporary change in format to an audience participation activity, which will consist of a video presentation, followed by discussion groups. Several teams from the audience will evaluate the program and reflect on its content, and rate it for its value as a resource for creation evangelism. At the conclusion of the program, a panel made up of RMCF directors will hear reports from each team, and provide additional comments on the team's evaluations.

The selected video program is entitled "Darwin's Dilemma" which was selected because it is a fairly new resource available from Illustra Media. Copies of the DVD will be offered for sale after the meeting. Please join us for this opportunity to equip the saints with a "reason for the hope that is in us".

### In the News: *More Bones of Contention*

The August 12, 2010 issue of the Denver Post carried an article about a recent fossil discovery reported in the journal *Nature*. Ancient animal bones from Ethiopia show signs of butchering by "human ancestors," moving back the earliest evidence for the use of stone tools by about 800,000 years, to 3.4 Mya, researchers say. They claim this to be the first evidence of stone tool use by australopithecines, the species known as "Lucy", an extinct ape.

Of course, there is no fossil evidence for what species used the tools, or even the tools themselves. Evolutionists divine the "butchers" to be Lucy simply by correlation with their "deep time" scale.

As creationists, we recognize that more fossil discoveries continue to converge on the Biblical history, that Adam and Eve were there in the Beginning.

The researchers also called the finding the earliest evidence of meat eating by *hominins*, an evolutionary-theoretical group of humans and their ancestors. That would place them after the time of Noah's Flood, according to Biblical history, when God authorized meat eating (Gen 9:3).

## August Meeting Highlights

For our meeting on August 13, we were be privileged to have a nationally known speaker on astronomy, Jim Burr, amateur astronomer, inventor, & founder of JMI Telescopes. Jim is recognized world-wide for his achievements in telescope design and manufacturing, including two for NASA's "Mars Science Lab" project, and his NGT line of telescopes. Jim showed pictures of his binocular telescopes which have separate refractors for each eye, and which achieve the performance one would expect from a 30" diameter telescope using two apertures of only 12" each. Be sure to visit his website at [heavensdeclare.org](http://heavensdeclare.org), where a link to every Astronomy Picture-of-the-Day is available by date for your viewing pleasure.

Jim began his display of Hubble Space Telescope (HST) images by showing a series of pictures of galaxies and nebulae shaped like animals: seagull nebula, ant nebula, (which contains all colors of the rainbow), owl nebula, butterfly nebula, cat's eye nebula and the Eskimo nebula. These magnificent objects remind us of Psalms where we are told,

Ps 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God, ...and there is no speech where their voice is not heard.

Is 40:25-26 Lift up your eyes on high and behold who has created these things...He calls them all by name."

The crab nebula, which was observed to explode in 1054 AD, was so bright it was observed during daylight hours. Jim suggested that these exploding stars may be a reflection of the curse of Adam placed on the Creation—(Romans 8:22 says the whole creation "groans." Heb 1:11 and Ps 102:26 shed light on this as follows: "They (heavens) shall perish...and they shall wax old as a garment...and they shall be changed." When stars explode, they do seem to shed their outer layers as a "garment."

Could these beautiful heavenly objects be the "invisible things" referred to in Rom 1:20,

"For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, so that they are without excuse."?

Likewise, the incredible design and complexity of micro-organisms that we see in the microscope are hidden from our naked eyes, but also tell us of his creative power.

Jim showed us the image that NASA has selected for the twentieth anniversary celebration of HST, April 24, 2010, taken from the Carina Nebula, an amazing pillar of gas and dust, being eaten away by the brilliant light from nearby stars. Nearby is the Eta Carinae stellar object, the brightest star in our galaxy, with five million times the luminosity of our sun.

Jim believes, based on a scripture from Revelation 14, that in heaven we will follow the Lamb wherever He goes, and that God "can't wait" to take us on a tour of his galaxies. He told a story about how C.S. Lewis, when he was a new believer, wondered why the Psalms are so full of praise to God, until he realized that souls have a tendency to praise what we take joy in. When one has great joy, we are impelled to tell someone!

Ps 9:1 I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee.

Next, Jim showed a star cluster from the Milky Way galaxy with a million densely packed stars. It looked like a Christmas tree, with all colors of the rainbow ranging from very red to blue. A discussion of the immensity of the universe was emphasized by the fact that it would take Voyager 25 thousand years to reach the nearest star, traveling at 30,000 mph.

Attempts by man to simulate the fusion reaction that is taking place within the sun show how futile are man's efforts compared to the enormous power of the galaxies. Temperatures approaching the sun have been attempted at Livermore Labs using 192 lasers amplified and focused on a capsule of Deuterium the size of a match head, but which can only muster enough power to run for one twenty-billionth of a second. Yet our galaxy does it continuously in over 100B stars! Is 42:8 "My glory I will not give to another."—Only He can sustain such enormous power.

Jim shared the story of how the Hale-Bopp comet was discovered (by amateurs), and that astronomer Bopp had purchased a 30" telescope from JMI.

Mr. Burr discussed weaknesses in the Big Bang theory, explaining that the four light elements produced by the BB (H, He, Li, De) are not consistent with the constituents of the sun, which contains all the elements found on earth. The theory fails to account for the lack of angular momentum in the sun's rotation, and relies on multiple super novae to "kick start" the formation of the sun. So, where did the super novae come from? Regarding the recent discovery of the accelerating expansion of the universe (*so-called "dark energy"*), the July 2002 issue of *Sky and Telescope* was quoted as saying, "An accelerating universe violates all physics." Astronomy, August 1996: "If this discovery is true, we know less than nothing." A noted astrophysicist has stated that we don't even know how a single star formed, and star formation has never been observed. However, by dividing the number of stars (about  $7 \times (10)^{22}$ ) by the estimated age of the universe (13 By), it was shown that there should be over 500M new stars formed every hour. But we observe none, as predicted by Genesis 2:1 which states that the creation of the starry host was finished! Other problems with BB were highlighted.

Jim discussed what is perhaps Hubble's most noted accomplishment: the Hubble Ultra Deep Field (HUDF), which was an attempt to photograph the most distant galaxies through a minute patch of sky beyond our own galaxy, approximately the size of looking through a straw. They initially found about 3000 galaxies in this small region, using a ten-day exposure in 1995. A repeat collection for 11 days in 2003 produced 10,000 galaxies, called the HUDF. After the recent refurbishing mission in 2009, which improved the sensitivity of the HST instrument by a factor of 100, an eighty four-hour exposure in the near infra-red spectrum showed the most distant galaxies ever seen. Jim showed the image, called the "Deepest Image Ever Made", which produced too many galaxies to count, all in this tiny patch of sky (*one thirteen-millionth of the total area of the celestial sphere*). Jim has

## September Meeting Highlights

enlarged the photo, overlaid a grid on it, and estimated at least 25,000 galaxies are there! How big is God! The picture contains the farthest galaxy seen, thought to be 12 Bly away. This gives us a feel for the magnitude of God's mercy in Ps 103:11 "As high as the heaven is from the earth, so great is His mercy towards them that fear Him."

The size of the earth was compared to our sun (which could hold 1M earths) and some much larger stars, such as Arcturus, which is a runaway star, probably a visitor to our galaxy from some other place, mentioned in Job 38:32 ["Can you guide Arcturus?"], and measured to be moving at 400K mph. The scripture also reveals that Arcturus is not traveling alone, ["Arcturus with his sons."] Astronomers have observed a group of about 52 stars that are traveling with Arcturus. The beautiful 3-star cluster called Pleiades is also mentioned in scripture: "Can you bind the Pleiades or loose the bands of Orion? (Job 38:31) Astronomers have actually observed three stars that have departed from the constellation Orion and are moving away.

Jim showed a few of his favorite galaxies: NGC 4565 (an edge-on galaxy), the sombrero galaxy, with its central bulge, and a pair of interacting galaxies. Then he told a story about Carl Sagan, late astronomer, noted atheist, and popularizer of cosmological theories in the TV series *Cosmos*. Jim was told by staff members of Reasons to Believe (H. Ross) that Sagan was being ministered to by RTB as his life was coming to an end. Here is an amazing quote from Sagan, in his book "Pale Blue Dot."

"A religion that stressed the magnificence of the universe revealed by modern science might be able to draw forth reserves of reverence and awe hardly tapped by conventional faiths. Sooner or later, such a religion will emerge."

The star HD 97048 is surrounded by a cloud of diamond dust that contains enough carbon to make a pile 200-400K miles in diameter, although the concentration is only one part per billion of the hydrogen present in the cloud. White dwarf star BPM 37093 is itself composed of carbon, and is believed to be 90% crystallized, giving a total diamond mass of ten BTrTr carats. The diamond star brings to mind the sacrifice of our Savior, who

"Though He was rich, yet for your sakes, He became poor, that you through His poverty might; be rich." (2 Cor 8:9)

An impressive Cassini spacecraft image of Saturn and its rings was shown which was backlit from the sun in eerie light. NASA/ESA successfully deployed the Huygens probe to Saturn's moon Titan in 2005. The earth was barely visible from 1B miles away as a pale blue dot.

The presentation was closed with singing of the chorus from Rev 4:11 "He is worthy." Thanks to Jim Burr for a most memorable presentation, and especially for the insights from scripture, which provide the proper frame of reference for the amazing observational data presented.

At the September meeting, we were blessed to have Dr. Ray Bohlin, President of Probe Ministries, author and speaker on Christian apologetics, with a PhD in molecular biology. Probe is making radical changes in their approach to regaining the attention of our youth, who Dr. Bohlin calls "Cultural Captives", (Col 2:8) and who have grown to value *tolerance* and embrace *relativism*. At the root of this capitulation is Evolution, which is pervasive in all aspects of our culture, and which drives cultural change. Polls show a strong culture shift, with only 2% of professed "born-again" Christians in the 18-23 age group able to correctly answer six foundational questions about their faith, such as "Can you earn salvation?"

Dr. Bohlin discussed in detail many observations in biological science from his book "Natural limits to Biological Change," including artificial selection and convergence of form (placental mammals vs. marsupials, etc). The most obvious of these is stasis of the various phyla. Darwin's finches and peppered moths are merely minor fluctuations in gene frequencies, based on genetic variations already present in the population, which don't experience any net evolutionary change.

The most important limitations to change are those brought about by mutations. Mutational changes to *structural genes* (those that code for proteins) can affect micro-evolutionary changes, but do not accumulate to large changes in body plans. Only mutations which affect the early stages of embryonic development can influence the body plan, and perhaps all such mutations are extremely disadvantageous. So, Darwin's expectation, that natural selection could accumulate small, successive favorable variations to achieve new body plans, is not supported by scientific research.

Darwin's theory, that there cannot be "large and sudden modifications," is totally inconsistent with the fossil record. The glaring proof is the Cambrian Explosion, the sudden appearance of all known phyla, including vertebrates, essentially overnight (less than 10 My). This "Big Bang" event was a quantum leap in the biological information, without ancestors, and no significant changes thereafter.

Early, simple models of genetics ("one gene codes for one protein") have given way to a modern understanding of the vast complexity in the genome, to the extent that it is now difficult to define a "Gene." Multiple exons can combine with each other to code for a given protein. Functionally related genes tend to cluster, with overlapping genes (which is impossible to have arisen by chance). Many RNA transcripts of different lengths are produced from a gene cluster, using both DNA strands. This can give rise to as many as 38,000 proteins as separate RNA sequences. Awesome!

Why We're Not Chimps: Humans and chimps are said to have 98% common structural genes, but the genes responsible for embryonic development differ by orders of magnitude, especially with respect to brain development pathways.

What we now know about the limits to biological change is very encouraging. Everything points in the Creation direction.

Thanks to Dr. Bohlin for flying to Denver to give us this exciting information refuting Darwinism.

## Book Review by Fred Williams

### *God and Evolution: A Faith-based Understanding*

By David L. Wilcox Judson Press, 2004

Dr. David Wilcox is a biology professor and Christian who asks the reader to consider a “perspective of faith that does not ignore facts or compromise scientific integrity”. His opening sentence is a quote from a nine-year-old girl: “I can’t believe in both God and Dinosaurs, so I picked God”. He then laments how Christians from all walks of life face the same disorienting choice – either choose facts, or choose faith. Unfortunately this caricature of creationists warring against facts is a common theme throughout his book.

Dr. Wilcox never revisits the opening sentence about dinosaurs, which reveals he is not current with the solid answers creationists have for this. Not only do we find good descriptions of dinosaurs in the Bible (Job 40:15-19, Isaiah 27:1, 30:6), we also have powerful evidence that they were contemporary with man in the not-so-distant past, such as the recent discovery by Dr. Mary Schweitzer of T-Rex blood vessels and soft tissue that prompted Discover Magazine to surprisingly print that her “dangerous discovery... erased a line between past and present” (April 2006).

The 1<sup>st</sup> chapter begins with something we can all agree on: “No matter what the topic, the starting point for Christians is the Bible”. He quotes Colossians 1:15-17 and Psalms 148:5-6 and rightly states that God set the creation in order and established its laws. He then lays some groundwork for theistic evolution by claiming God “continued to be in an active relationship with nature”, a theme he will emphasize in later chapters to promote his belief that God guided evolution.

In Chapters 2 & 3 he does a decent job covering the limitations of science and the historical battle between materialism and theism. He takes issue with the “church of naturalism” as promoted by atheists such as Richard Dawkins, pointing out that “the conflict is not between Christianity & Science, but between Christianity and the philosophical system of naturalism”. He then claims that certain things in science and theology should not always be taken literally, which is true, but what we really have is subterfuge for theistic evolution and a broad

brush to dismiss verses that were clearly intended to be literal. He closes the chapter with the revisionist version of the “church” vs. Galileo, then lampoons that “young earth flood geology can be traced to the revelations of Mary Ellen White, founder of Seventh-Day Adventism”. The last I checked, young earth flood geology can be traced to Genesis chapter 7.

Things get interesting in Chapter 4, “The Age of the Earth”. Dr Wilcox’s favorite example is the “140,000 year old coral” at Eniwetok, a coralline atoll where the first hydrogen bomb was tested. Like any earth “clock”, various assumptions have to be made, in this case a fairly constant growth rate over time. As it turns out, the assumptions don’t even matter. We now know the coral organism is really just a thin layer on top of a carbonate platform that could easily have been formed during the flood (Oard 1999). It’s unfortunate that Dr. Wilcox spent zero time addressing the numerous clocks that argue against an old age, such as the earth’s magnetic field decay (Humphries 2002), helium in zircons (Humphries et al 2004), and radiocarbon in coal, diamonds, and natural gas (Rotta 2004, Doughty 2007).

In Chapter 6 Dr. Wilcox challenges Michael Behe’s flagella motor as evidence of intelligent design, essentially taking the position that neither design nor undirected chance can be proven. He considers the evolutionist rebuttal that “spare parts” came together over time as a reasonable possibility, then says “we do not know for sure if bacterial motors ... could have originated without guidance”. This statement is as nonsensical as saying “we do not know for sure if Mt. Rushmore was formed by wind and erosion”. God tells us His invisible attributes are “clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made” (Romans 1:20).

In Chapter 7 we find some common ground as Dr. Wilcox does a commendable job using genetics and information to show how unlikely the jump from non-life to life (abiogenesis) is. But the miracle needed to first get a coding language in place isn’t the only problem. To naturalistically obtain new, useful information to produce organs, sonar, migration capability, and numerous other information-rich systems is also impossible (Gitt 2005, Bergman 2005).

In Chapters 8-11 Dr Wilcox begins his defense of biological evolution by appealing to an example of *microevolution*. He presents the polar bear as a relatively new species that is the result of a bottleneck on the Kodiak islands due to their genetic similarity to Kodiak bears. He asks why God would create a species of bear to look just like the isolated Kodiak species, and concludes “If God writes fictional narratives into the creation to throw us off, how can we trust either nature or the Word?” This is a strawman argument since creationists do not assume God created polar bears separate from brown bears, especially since these bears interbreed and produce fertile offspring! Creationists recognize that God programmed a great deal of genetic diversity in the various kinds of animals, and thus we would have no problem with the proposed bottleneck scenario that could easily produce the polar bear variety from the original bear ‘*kind*’ some generations after the flood.

Dr. Wilcox presents shared pseudogenes and endogenous retroviruses (ERVs) as evidence that all life evolved from a single source. Such evidence for common descent is built almost entirely on the assumption that these genetic elements are functionless “junk”. We have long been told of so-called “junk” DNA, but such is now going the way of the dodo bird. In 2007 the National Human Genome Research Institute issued the press release *New Findings Challenge Established Views on Human Genome*, reporting that “The new data indicate the genome contains very little unused sequences”. With junk DNA on its way to extinction, how far behind is the theory that has long depended on it?

In Chapter 13 Dr. Wilcox promotes human evolution by appealing to the standard-fare arguments such as 98% DNA similarity between chimps and humans, and Chromosome 2 fusion. Even if we accepted his exaggerated DNA estimate (recent studies put the differences between 87 to 96%), this still represents a 60 million base pair difference, a mathematically insurmountable number given our low reproductive capacity and the cost of selection as described by *Haldane’s Dilemma* (Remine 1991). He is especially dogmatic on human chromosome 2, saying it “clearly was created by fusing two ape-like chromosomes”. This ad hoc “evidence” doesn’t take into account that there is unique information on this chromosome not

found on apes. For Dr. Wilcox, believing human chromosome 2 originated from an ape-ancestor has trumped believing the Eyewitness account that man was created separate and distinct from animals.

Interestingly, Dr. Wilcox spent very little time dealing with the many theological problems with theistic evolution. I think it is fair at this point to ask just how serious he takes his credo that “No matter what the topic, the starting point for Christians is the Bible”. He offers no explanation for the overwhelming textual evidence that the six-day creation and global flood are written as literal history, and no explanation of how we could have millions of years of death before sin (Romans 5:22). His few theological ventures included 1) examples of passages outside Genesis that everyone agrees are not meant to be wooden-literal, 2) a tedious attempt to show that King David would have rejected the creation/evolution dispute, and 3) the oft-misused “one day is like a thousand years” of 2 Peter 3:8.

In the end Dr. Wilcox tries to skirt a fine line between God and evolution, falling much more into the materialistic evolution paradigm than I think he would care to admit. He claimed God used “gradual governance in creation” by guiding change through a pre-engineered probability matrix, and concluded that it “shows forth the glory of its Creator”. This reminded me of something a theistic evolutionist once told me at a conference some years ago: “God is like a wondrous pool player who took lots of shots over ions of time to arrive at the variety of life we see today!” My response to him was “Such a pool game would have been chalked full of millions of years of violence, disease, and death. This sounds like a bad pool player to me!”

Our Creator is not the author of millions of years of death and suffering, but instead is the Living God who considers death an enemy (1 Cor 15:26) that was brought into this world because of our sin (Romans 5:12). We can take great comfort knowing that Jesus conquered death for us and that its temporary hold on history will soon pass.

*And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. - Rev 21:4*

**Book Review References:**

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Useful information cannot arise outside the presence of intelligence. Evolutionists often tout genetic algorithms, but these are really nothing more than hyped trial & error experiments that require an intelligent source to realize any potential information.

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*Hubble Image courtesy NASA*

**For the works of the Lord are great, sought out by all who delight in them.**

**The LORD has made his wonderful works to be remembered.**

**Psalms 111**

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RMCF Upcoming Speakers

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November 12 Panel Discussion, “Darwin’s Dilemma” Video

December 10 To Be Announced

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## October/November 2010 Newsletter

*Monthly Meeting Location*  
*Second Friday of Month, 7 PM*  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
21<sup>st</sup> and Wadsworth

**“For in six days the LORD made  
the heavens and the earth,  
the sea and all that is in them...”**

Exodus 20:11



### **Creation vs. Evolution Factoid #8** **Pleiotropy Prevents Evolution** By Bill Browning

**Pleiotropy** is the effect resulting from an interconnected genetic system in which a single gene influences many different biological systems in positive or negative ways. Multiple traits of organisms usually arise from each expressed gene. In his paper examining the adverse affects of pleiotropy on the effectiveness of natural selection, Dr. Jerry Bergman concluded that pleiotropy creates a major problem for evolutionary theory, because the accumulation of mutations, even beneficial mutations, often has negative effects. (1, p. 284)

Because the theory of evolution relies on changes produced by selection of mutations as the source of genetic variety, pleiotropy creates a major genetic barrier for both micro- and macroevolution. Bergman quotes Hodgkin who admitted, “In complex eukaryotes, pleiotropy may lead to major constraints on possible mutational avenues” that might allow evolution to occur.

Genes never operate alone—they are part of a highly interrelated biological system. Even if a mutation is

positive for one trait, negative or lethal effects result as well, by disrupting part of a branching biochemical pathway. “This fact causes a critical difficulty for evolution.” (1, p. 286). Some examples: A protein that is encoded by one gene often serves several functions, and a single gene product interacts with different proteins in different cell types. A mutation in Hox [developmental] genes often produces a cascade of ultimately lethal changes. Some enzymes are used to catalyze the same reaction in many different organs. Sickle cell anemia (a single mutation on the hemoglobin gene) can cause leg ulcers, bone issues, blood clots, anoxia, spleen damage, strokes, & hemolysis.

Evidence now exists that there can be a dozen or more overlapping codes in a single gene! Changing one nucleotide can thus effect multiple, overlapping messages or proteins. Therefore, it is clear today that a majority of genes have pleiotropic effect.

Conclusion: Since mutations are the sole origin of any theoretically new genetic information that can be selected for by evolution, even positive mutations would bring more harm than benefit through pleiotropy. Therefore, the evidence of pleiotropy favors special creation.

Reference (1) Dr. Jerry Bergman, “The Pleiotropy Problem for Evolution,” *CRSQ* Vol. 46 #4, 2010.

