



## A Brief Handout for the "Creation" and/or "Evolution" Discussion

NOTE: THE INFORMATION IN THIS PACKET BUILDS; THEREFORE, IT NEEDS TO BE READ FRONT TO BACK. THERE IS ALSO IMPORTANT INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE FOOTNOTES.

The purpose of this educational packet is to:

- Give you a brief introduction to the "Creation" and/or "Evolution" discussion by clarifying significant terms, concepts, and the main issue
- Raise some crucial questions that need to be answered
- Provide some initial explanation of evidence to consider
- Bring awareness to resources for further study on this subject
- Dispel the myth that there are no respected scientists who reject "Neo-Darwinian Evolution"

"If high-schoolers need a good high-school education in how to think about evolution, professors and senior scientists seem to need it just as badly." -Dr. Phillip Johnson (Professor of Law at Berkeley)

### A. CLARIFYING THE DISCUSSION

Some Important Concepts to Clarify before discussing the "Creation" and/or "Evolution" Issue:

1. What one will allow as a "scientific theory," meaning what type of explanation one will allow as scientific, is often affected by how one views reality as a whole. It is important, therefore, to include in this discussion at least two different views of reality<sup>1</sup>:

Two Philosophical Systems:

System 1:

Naturalism as defined according to *The American Heritage Dictionary*:

"The system of thought holding that all phenomena can be explained in terms of natural causes and laws without attributing moral, spiritual, or supernatural significance to them."<sup>2</sup>

Materialism as defined according to *The American Heritage Dictionary*:

"The philosophical theory that physical matter in its movements and modifications is the only reality and that everything in the universe, including thought, feeling, mind, and will, can be explained in terms of physical laws."<sup>3</sup>

\*For the sake of this discussion we will consider naturalism and materialism as the same.<sup>4</sup>

System 2:

Theism for this packet will simply be defined as:

"Belief in a personal God who is the creator<sup>5</sup> and designer of the universe and who is distinct from it and who can act in it."

2. When discussing "scientific issues" it is important to ask what is meant by the word "science" as there are different ways in which the word can be used.

For example:<sup>6</sup>

Empirical Science (also referred to as operation science): deals with how something works

Examples of Empirical Science would include such disciplines as Cosmology, Biology, and Anthropology.

Empirical Science uses principles<sup>7</sup> such as the principle of consistency (in order for a theory to be true it must be consistent), the principle of comprehensiveness (in order for a theory to be true it must cover all the known facts), the principle of observation (observation is needed to establish a theory) and the principle of repetition (repetition is needed to establish a theory).

Historical Science (also referred to as origin science): where something came from or how it came to be

Examples of Historical Science would include disciplines such as Forensics, Cryptography ("the enciphering and deciphering of messages in secret code"<sup>8</sup>), Cosmogony (the study of the origin of the Universe), Biogeny/Biogenesis (the study of the origin of life from pre-existing life), and Anthropogeny/Anthropogenesis (the study of the origin of humans).

Historical Science uses principles<sup>9</sup> such as the principle of consistency, the principle of comprehensiveness, the principle of causality (every event has an adequate cause) and the principle of uniformity/analogy (the cause of a past event is similar to the cause of a similar present

<sup>1</sup> There are many more ultimate views of reality than these two. However, due to time restraints for this discussion we will only be focusing on "Philosophical Naturalism" and "Philosophical Theism."

<sup>2</sup> Margery S. Berube director of eds., *The American Heritage Dictionary: Second College Edition* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1985), 832.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 772.

<sup>4</sup> It is true that one can explain naturalism in such a way that it is not identical to materialism; however, a discussion on this would go beyond the time limit for this presentation. Therefore, for those who would like to study this out more in-depth I recommend, for starters, the article on "naturalism" in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, gen. ed. Robert Audi (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), 517-518; and the book *Naturalism: A Critical Appraisal*, edited by J.P. Moreland and William Lane Craig (UK: Routledge, 2000).

<sup>5</sup> The term "creation" is often abused when the discussion of "creation" and/or "evolution" comes up in public discourse. It is often assumed that if one says they believe in "creation" then they must believe that the universe is only thousands of years old. This, however, fails to take into account that the term "creation" can also be used without any reference to the age of the universe. For there are many "creationists" who hold that the universe is billions of years old. Therefore, when dealing with the "creation" and/or "evolution" discussion it is essential that one define what they mean by "creation". For this discussion and this packet, the term creation will simply mean that the universe was brought into existence and that a creationist is one who believes this. Notice, two things about this definition: first, there is no reference to the age of the universe and second that there is no reference to the term "evolution". Given the latter, it is important then that we clarify what we mean by the term "evolution" (see point 3).

<sup>6</sup> For further information on this see Norman L. Geisler and J. Kerby, *Origin Science: A Proposal for the Creation-Evolution Controversy* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987); and J.P. Moreland, *The Creation Hypothesis* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994).

<sup>7</sup> This is not intended to be an exhaustive list.

<sup>8</sup> Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Electronic Edition, Version 1.00, 1994.

<sup>9</sup> This is not intended to be an exhaustive list.

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event). Therefore, when dealing with the origins of life one is, for the most part, using Historical Science in that we are dealing with events that happened in the past and that are not presently observable and repeatable.

### 3. There are different ways of using the term "Evolution".

Given that there are many ways in which the term "evolution" can be used, for the sake of this discussion the term evolution will be used to simply describe *change over time*. Given this definition, however, some clarification needs to be made on two critical concepts:

**Micro-evolution:** "comparatively minor evolutionary change involving the accumulation of variations in populations usually below the species level"<sup>10</sup> (small jumps)

Examples: Insects changing colors, finch beaks changing in size, the wings of fruit flies changing, etc.

\*This is *not* controversial between Theists and Naturalists/Materialists and is almost universally accepted and therefore is not an issue that we will discuss.

**Macro-evolution:** "evolution that results in relatively large and complex changes (as in species formation)"<sup>11</sup> (big jumps)

Examples: The first cell eventually developing into a human, the formation of the first bacterial flagella, etc.

\*This is controversial between Theists and Naturalists/Materialists for it often involves an individual's "theory of evolution" and therefore some further clarification will be made in the following sections.

### 4. The "Theory of Evolution"

A Side Note: According to the famed Neo-Darwinian Evolutionist Steve Jones (Professor of Genetics at University College London) in his book *Darwin's Ghost: The Origin of the Species Updated*, "*The Origin* [Darwin's] makes no mention of [the word] 'evolution'."<sup>12</sup> However, because the term is often associated with Darwin's *Origin of the Species* we need to define what we mean by "Darwinian Evolution".

A Definition of "Darwinian Evolution":

The American National Association of Biology Teachers (ANABT) Position Statement states the "evolutionary theory" (often identified as Darwinian Evolution or in its various modern forms as Neo-Darwinian Evolution) is as follows:

"The diversity of life on earth is the outcome of evolution: an unsupervised, impersonal, unpredictable and natural process of temporal descent with genetic modification that is affected by natural selection, chance, historical contingencies and changing environments."<sup>13</sup>

A few terms that deal with Darwinian Evolution:

**Artificial Selection:** an *intelligent* process where choices are made by humans in order to breed plants or animals within a species to produce specified characteristics (example: breeding dogs for a particular trait, etc.)

**Natural Selection:** an *un-intelligent* "natural process that results in the survival and reproductive success of individuals or groups best adjusted to their environment and that leads to the perpetuation of genetic qualities best suited to that particular environment"<sup>14</sup>

**Survival of the Fittest:** used synonymously with natural selection

### What is the Main Issue?

The debate between Theists and Naturalists/Materialists is *not* over whether artificial selection and natural selection occur, for both would agree that they do occur. *The debate is over limits of natural selection.* For as the Theist Phillip Johnson (Professor of Law at Berkley) points out:

The question is *not* whether natural selection occurs. Of course it does, and it has an effect in maintaining the genetic fitness of a population. Infants with severe birth defects do not survive to maturity without expensive medical care, and creatures which do not survive to reproduce do not leave descendants. These effects are unquestioned, but Darwinism asserts a great deal more than merely that species avoid genetic deterioration due to natural attrition among the genetically unfit. Darwinists claim that this same force of attrition has a building effect so powerful that it can begin with a bacterial cell and gradually craft its descendants over billions of years to produce such wonders as trees, flowers, ants, birds, and humans . . . Given enough time, and sufficient mutations of the right sort, enormously complex organs and patterns of adaptive behavior can eventually be produced . . . without the assistance of any pre-existing intelligence.<sup>15</sup> (emphasis in original)

National Academy of Sciences member and Neo-Darwinian Evolutionist John C. Avise makes the following statement:

Only natural selection comes close to omnipotence, but even here **no intelligence, foresight, ultimate purpose, or morality is involved.** Natural selection is merely an amoral force, as inevitable and uncaring as gravity.<sup>16</sup> (emphasis added for clarification)

For as Neo-Darwinian Evolutionist Ernst Mayr (Professor of Zoology at Harvard University) states:

Darwinism rejects **all** supernatural phenomena and causations. The theory of evolution by natural selection explains the adaptedness and diversity of the world **solely** materialistically. It no longer requires a God as creator or designer . . . **Every aspect** of the "wonderful design" so admired by the natural theologians **could be explained by natural selection.**<sup>17</sup> (emphasis added for clarification)

<sup>10</sup> Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Electronic Edition, Version 1.00, 1994.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Steve Jones, *Darwin's Ghost: The Origin of the Species Updated* (New York: Random House), 298.

<sup>13</sup> 1995 Position Statement as quoted in Phillip E. Johnson, *Defeating Darwinism* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997), 15.

<sup>14</sup> Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Electronic Edition, Version 1.00, 1994.

<sup>15</sup> Phillip E. Johnson, *Darwin on Trial*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 16.

<sup>16</sup> John C. Avise commenting for an article by E. J. Larson, L. Witham entitled "Scientists and Religion in America" in *Scientific American*, September, 1999, 78-83.

<sup>17</sup> Ernst Mayr, "Darwin's Influence on Modern Thought," *Scientific America*, July 2000, 81.

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**Some Key Questions:** Can natural selection produce *all* of the complex biological systems in nature? Or to put it another way: can natural selection or other processes like it produce all the “wonderful design” in nature?

Can natural selection produce *all* of the complex biological systems? This will be addressed later. Nevertheless, it is important at this time to stress the distinction between the *intelligent* aspect of artificial selection and the *non-intelligent* aspect of natural selection, for they are often confused. For example, the Neo-Darwinian Evolutionist Steve Jones (Professor of Genetics at University College London) attempts to express the adequacy of natural selection for the development of highly complicated biological systems in the following statement:

Natural selection is a machine that *makes* almost impossible things. Consider a typical protein such as whale myoglobin. That molecule is but one of a hundred thousand or so proteins in the animal’s body and contains a hundred and fifty-three units called amino acids. These come in about twenty forms. The number of possible combinations of amino acids in a structure the size of myoglobin is hence twenty raised to the power of a hundred and fifty-three. The figure, ten with about two hundred zeros after it, is beyond imagination and is far more than all the proteins in all the whales, all the animals and all the plants that have ever lived. *Such a molecule could never arise by accident.* Instead, a rather ordinary device, natural selection, has *carved out* not just myoglobin but millions of other proteins and the organisms they build.<sup>18</sup> (emphasis added for clarification)

Notice that Jones’s explanation **confuses the unintelligent aspect of natural selection with the intelligent aspect one would find in a process such as artificial selection.** In other words, he uses the term natural selection in such a way that he makes it sound like natural selection has the ability to *think, plan, and put* together complicated biological systems. For example, Jones’ use of such phrases as “natural selection is a *machine that makes*” and “natural selection has *carved out* . . . millions of other proteins and the organisms they build.”

Furthermore, Neo-Darwinian Evolutionist Richard Dawkins states the following: “A true watchmaker has foresight: he designs his cogs and springs, and plans their interconnections, with a future purpose in his mind’s eye. Natural selection, the blind, unconscious, automatic process which Darwin discovered . . . has no purpose in mind. It has no mind and no mind’s eye. It does not plan for the future. It has no vision, no foresight, no sight at all.”<sup>19</sup>

Due to the way in which Darwinian Evolutionists describe their theory we will refer to the theory of Darwinian Evolution as the “**completely blind and completely unintelligent watchmaker theory.**”<sup>20</sup> It is completely blind and completely unintelligent because it is “unsupervised, impersonal, [and] unpredictable” (as defined according to the ANABT<sup>21</sup>), has “no intelligence,”<sup>22</sup> and “has no purpose in mind” because it “has no mind . . . does not plan for the future. It has no vision, no foresight, no sight at all.”<sup>23</sup> In addition, chemical reactions, natural selection, chance, historical contingencies, changing environments, and mutations are all by their definition **completely unintelligent processes** (especially if they are “unsupervised, impersonal, and unpredictable” and have “no mind”). Further, when one assumes naturalism one is left to naturalistic explanations (such as natural selection, which is completely unintelligent) to explain how *all* complex biological systems came to be. Including the ability to **make** highly complex natural systems that are similar to a watch in that both are highly-complex.

Because there is no intelligent aspect to “the completely blind and completely unintelligent watchmaker theory/Darwinian Evolution” and because there is no planning aspect/seeing aspect it can be reduced to the following:

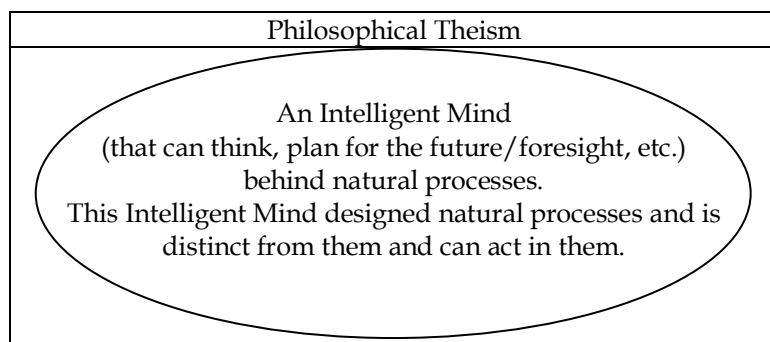
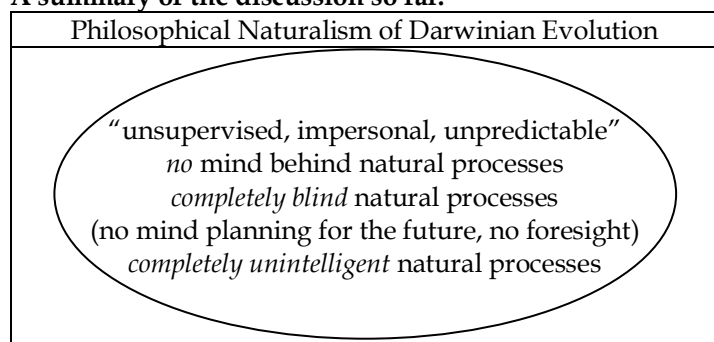
A process that is *completely* blind does *not* see at all.

A process that is *completely* unintelligent is *not* intelligent at all (there is no mind behind it, etc.).

A process that is *completely blind* and *completely unintelligent* does *not* plan at all (no foresight).

A process that has *completely no mind* behind it is completely *non-mental* (there is no mind behind it, etc.).

## A summary of the discussion so far:



<sup>18</sup> Jones, 70.

<sup>19</sup> Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker* (London: W.W. Norton & Company, 1996), 5.

<sup>20</sup> Famed Neo-Darwinian Evolutionist Richard Dawkins uses the phrase “blind-watchmaker” in his book *The Blind Watchmaker* (London: W.W. Norton & Company, 1996) to describe his theory of “Darwinian Evolution”; however, I believe this description of the “Darwinian theory” fails to capture the *unintelligent* aspect of the theory and therefore I have changed the phrase to the “completely blind and completely unintelligent watchmaker theory.” Also, I am using this phrase in a much broader sense than Dawkins, for he would not accept other famed Neo-Darwinian Evolutionists Steven Jay Gould’s, Niles Eldridge’s, and Ernst Mayr’s views of the “Darwinian theory.”

<sup>21</sup> The ANABT has since removed these words from their Position Statement. The removal of these words, however, does not change the fact that the concept is still present in the “Darwinian evolution theory”.

<sup>22</sup> John C. Avise commenting for an article by E. J. Larson, L. Witham entitled “Scientists and Religion in America” in *Scientific American*, September, 1999, 78-83.

<sup>23</sup> Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker* (London: W.W. Norton & Company, 1996), 5.

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## B. CRUCIAL QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ANSWERED

Two significant questions that should be raised in response to the completely blind-completely unintelligent watchmaker theory/Darwinian Evolution (which is based in Philosophical Naturalism<sup>24</sup>) are:

- 1) What if the evidence<sup>25</sup> goes against the “completely blind and completely unintelligent watchmaker theory” and the Philosophical Naturalism in which it is based?  
and

- 2) What if we could recognize something that is intelligently designed (as opposed to unintelligently designed) in the natural order?

## C. EVIDENCE TO CONSIDER

**Evidence #1: Your Cognitive Faculties and Your Ability Communicate in a Highly Complex Intelligent Propositional Way, Your Ability to Discover Truth, Your Ability to Design Objects, and Your Ability to Think Abstractly**

a. There are certain propositions that we know are obviously false by a way of knowing described as actually unaffirmable/self-refuting. To clarify further:

**Actual<sup>26</sup> Unaffirmability<sup>27</sup> as a Test for Falsity** (Self-Refuting)

What does actual unaffirmability mean?

It comes from:

un – not

affirm – to declare to be true<sup>28</sup>

able – capable, having sufficient ability or resources

Actual Unaffirmability, therefore means that a particular proposition is not actually capable of being declared as true. It “does not mean that a view is unsayable or unstateable. Even complete nonsense can be said or stated. For example, one can state that there are square triangles even though the . . . [proposition] has no [philosophical] meaning. One can state: “the sound of the music is the color red” but this too is nonsense.”<sup>29</sup> Therefore:

1. Not everything sayable is philosophically meaningful (i.e., gibberish and nonsense are sayable/stateable but they are not philosophically meaningful).
2. Some sayable things are actually unaffirmable. Some are directly actually unaffirmable and some are indirectly actually unaffirmable.

**Direct Actual Unaffirmability:** (Direct Self-Refutation)

-“Direct actual unaffirmability occurs when the . . . [proposition] itself provides the information to defeat itself.”<sup>30</sup> Meaning the very act of its affirmation provides the data for its own self-destruction.

Example:

“I cannot express anything in words.”

**Indirect Actual Unaffirmability:** (Indirect Self-Refutation)

-There are at least two types of indirect actual unaffirmability:

1. Any proposition where the very process by which the proposition was derived self-refutes the thought expressed in the statement.

Example:

“I came to the conclusion that I know everything intuitively”

“I came to the conclusion I know everything using a process that doesn’t come to conclusions.”]

<sup>24</sup> Even the famous Darwinian Defender Michael Ruse (Professor of Philosophy at the University of Guelph in Ontario) admitted this at the 1993 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at a symposium entitled “The New Antievolutionism”. A transcript of Michael Ruse’s talk can be found at [www.aarn.org](http://www.aarn.org).

<sup>25</sup> I am using the term “evidence” in a broad enough sense to include transcendental arguments and self-referential arguments.

<sup>26</sup> Actual as opposed to hypothetical.

<sup>27</sup> For the sake of this packet, we will be using the term actual unaffirmability as merely a description of the “process” by which one “knows” or “realizes” or “demonstrates” certain propositions to be false or philosophically meaningless. However, actual unaffirmability can also be termed self-defeating, self-refuting, self-destructing, self-referentially inconsistent, and self-referentially incoherent. For more information on this see: Joseph M. Boyle Jr., “Self-Referential Inconsistency, Inevitable Falsity, and Metaphysical Argumentation,” *Metaphilosophy* 3 (January 1972): 25-42; George Mavrodes, “Self-Referential Incoherence,” *American Philosophical Quarterly* 22 (January 1985): 65-72; William Hasker, “self-referential incoherence,” *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*, gen. ed. Robert Audi (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), 752; J. P. Moreland, *Scaling the Secular City* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1987), 91-92; and especially see Joseph M. Boyle, Jr., Germain Grisez and Olaf Tollefsen, *Free Choice: A Self Referential Argument* (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1976), Ch. 5.

<sup>28</sup> Boyle, Grisez and Tollefsen, 124, make the following statements about what it means to affirm: “To affirm is not primarily to perform an act of communication, but to perform a propositional act, an act which one seeking truth prefers one proposition to its contradictory.”

<sup>29</sup> Norman L. Geisler, *Christian Apologetics* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1976), 141.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid., 142.

## Indirect Actual Unaffirmability: (Indirect Self-Refutation)

2. Any proposition which negates the only basis on which it can make its affirmation (or denial) is indirectly actually unaffirmable.<sup>31</sup>

Example:

"I know that I cannot know anything about reality."

["I *know something* (this very proposition) about reality and that is I *cannot know anything* about reality including this very proposition about reality."]

"I know that I cannot know truth."

["I know the truth that I cannot know truth"]

Because there is no intelligent aspect to "the completely blind and completely unintelligent watchmaker theory/Darwinian Evolution" and because there is no planning aspect/seeing aspect it can be reduced to the following:

A process that is *completely* blind does *not* see at all.

A process that is *completely* unintelligent is *not* intelligent at all (there is no mind behind it, etc.).

A process that is *completely* blind and *completely* unintelligent does *not* plan at all (no foresight).

A process that has *completely* no mind behind it is *completely* non-mental (there is no mind behind it, etc.).

Therefore, "Neo/Darwinian Evolution is a **completely blind** and **completely unintelligent (NOT intelligent)** process **that is intelligent enough to intelligently design a highly-complex intelligent proposition** (this very proposition)." *This proposition, however, is actually unaffirmable/self-refuting and is therefore false.* No amount of time (trillions of years, etc.) would make this proposition true.

Alternate Expression: "A **completely** unintelligent process resulted in other **completely** unintelligent processes that resulted in other **completely** unintelligent processes that are intelligent enough to intelligently design a highly complex intelligent proposition (this very proposition)." *This proposition also is actually unaffirmable/self-refuting and is therefore false.* No amount of time (trillions of years, etc.) would make this proposition true.

Simply stated: "Neo/Darwinian Evolution is a process that has *completely* no mind but has a mind." *This proposition also is actually unaffirmable/self-refuting. And is therefore false.* No amount of time (trillions of years, etc.) would make this proposition true.

Stated another way: "A process with *no* mind has a mind and designed a highly complex intelligent proposition (this very proposition)." *This proposition also is actually unaffirmable/self-refuting and is therefore false.* No amount of time (trillions of years, etc.) would make this proposition true.

Simply stated: "A process with *completely* no intelligence is intelligent." *This proposition also is actually unaffirmable/self-refuting and is therefore false.* No amount of time (trillions of years, etc.) would make this proposition true.

For an alternative development of this point see Chapter 12 of (distinguished and world-renowned philosopher at Notre Dame) Dr. Alvin Plantinga's *Warrant and Proper Function* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993). Also, see (professor of Philosophy at the University of Texas) Dr. Robert C. Koons's article "The Incompatibility of Naturalism and Scientific Realism" in *Naturalism: A Critical Appraisal*, edited by J. P. Moreland and William Lane Craig, (UK: Routledge, 2000).

- b. Dean L. Overman gives the following explanation:

Even assuming that one can minimize his or her metaphysical [philosophical] presuppositions in reviewing evidence, another assumption must be made before we can examine the theory of the emergence of life from unguided, chance process. The proposition that a universe compossible with life and the first form of life developed by accident rather than by design raises the following conundrum: if logical thinking is an accident, is it trustworthy? Or, to modify the enigma, is it probable that accidents will accurately describe our previous accidents? The concept that the universe and our existence were the products of accidents means that all your thoughts and my thoughts are only accidents (are not results of accidents themselves?), then why should you or I consider our thinking true or logical? Isn't it only accidental? How can we trust thought if it is an accident?<sup>32</sup>

- c. Dr. William A. Dembski gives the following explanation:

Consider the following evolutionary account of neuroanatomy by Melvin Kooner, an anthropologist and neurologist at Emory University: "Neuroanatomy in many species – but especially in a brain-ridden one like ours – is the product of sloppy, opportunistic half-billion year [Darwinian Evolution] that has pasted together, and only partly integrated, disparate organs, that evolved in different animals, in different eras, and for very different purposes." Since human consciousness and intelligence are said to derive from human neuroanatomy, it follows that these themselves are the product of a sloppy evolutionary process.

Think what this means. How do you make sense of "sloppy," "pasted together," and "partly integrated," except with reference to "careful," "finely adapted," and "well integrated." To speak of hodge-podge structures presupposes that they have some concept of carefully designed structures; and, of course, we do. Humans have designed all sorts of engineering marvels, everything from Cray supercomputers to Gothic cathedrals. That means, if we are to believe Melvin Kooner, that a blind evolutionary process (what Richard Dawkins calls the "blind-watchmaker") [and for this discussion termed the "completely blind and completely unintelligent watchmaker theory"] cobbled together human neuroanatomy, which in turn gave rise to human consciousness, which in turn produces artifacts like supercomputers, which in turn are not cobbled together at all but instead are carefully designed. Out pop purpose, intelligence, and design from a process that started with no purpose, intelligence, or design. This is magic.<sup>33</sup> [Not science.]

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., 143.

<sup>32</sup> Dean L. Overman, *A Case Against Accident and Self-Organization*. (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 1997), 4.

<sup>33</sup> William A. Dembski, "Mechanism, Magic, and Design," *The Christian Research Journal* 23 (2000): 44-45.

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d. Evidence from Neurosurgery from Michael R. Egnor, MD. Dr. Egnor is a Neurosurgeon and is a Professor of Neurosurgery and Pediatrics along with being the Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery in the department of Neurological Surgery in the School of Medicine at Stony Brook University (part of The State University of New York). Dr. Egnor is “an award-winning brain surgeon. He was named one of New York’s best doctors by the *New York Magazine* in 2005. He received his medical education at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and completed his residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital. His research on hydrocephalus has been published in journals including *Journal of Neurosurgery*, *Pediatrics*, and *Cerebrospinal Fluid Research*. He is on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Hydrocephalus Association in the United States and has lectured extensively throughout the United States and Europe.”<sup>34</sup> Dr. Egnor was a Darwinist but gave it up due to the evidence against it.<sup>35</sup> Furthermore, Dr. Egnor describes another famous neurosurgeon who gave up believing that the mind came from the brain as a result of doing numerous brain surgeries on patients. Dr. Egnor states the following:<sup>36</sup>

Wilder Penfield was a pivotal figure in modern neurosurgery. He was an American-born neurosurgeon at the Montreal Neurological Institute who pioneered surgery for epilepsy. He was an accomplished scientist as well as a clinical surgeon, and made seminal contributions to our knowledge of cortical physiology, brain mapping, and intraoperative study of seizures and brain function under local anesthesia with patients awake who could report experiences during brain stimulation.

His surgical specialty was the mapping of seizure foci in the brain of awake (locally anesthetized) patients, using the patient’s experience and response to precise brain stimulation to locate and safely excise discrete regions of the cortex that were causing seizures. Penfield revolutionized neurosurgery (every day in the operating room I use instruments he designed) and he revolutionized our understanding of brain function and its relation to the mind

**Penfield began his career as a materialist, convinced that the mind was wholly a product of the brain. He finished his career as an emphatic dualist [meaning that the brain is physical but the mind is not physical].** [Emphasis and clarification added.]

During surgery, Penfield observed that patients had a variable but limited response to brain stimulation. Sometimes the stimulation would cause a seizure or evoke a sensation, a perception, movement of muscles, a memory, or even a vivid emotion. Yet Penfield noticed that brain stimulation *never evoked abstract thought*. He wrote:

*There is no area of gray matter, as far as my experience goes, in which local epileptic discharge brings to pass what could be called “mindaction”... there is no valid evidence that either epileptic discharge or electrical stimulation can activate the mind... If one stops to consider it, this is an arresting fact. The record of consciousness can be set in motion, complicated though it is, by the electrode or by epileptic discharge. An illusion of interpretation can be produced in the same way. But none of the actions we attribute to the mind has been initiated by electrode stimulation or epileptic discharge. If there were a mechanism in the brain that could do what the mind does, one might expect that the mechanism would betray its presence in a convincing manner by some better evidence of epileptic or electrode activations.*<sup>1</sup> [Emphasis added.]

Penfield noted that intellectual function — abstract thought — could only be switched off by brain stimulation or a seizure, but it could never be switched on in like manner. The brain was necessary for abstract thought, normally, but it was not sufficient for it. **Abstract thought was something other than merely a process of the brain.**

Penfield’s observations bring to light a perplexing aspect of epilepsy — or at least an aspect of epilepsy that should be perplexing to materialists. Seizures always involve either complete unconsciousness or specific activation of a non-abstract neurological function — flashes of light, smells, jerking of muscles, specific memories, strong emotions — but seizures never evoke discrete *abstract* thought. This is odd, given that the bulk of brain tissue from which seizures arise is classified as association areas that are thought to sub-serve abstract thought. Why don’t epilepsy patients have “calculus seizures” or “moral ethics” seizures, in which they involuntarily take second derivatives or contemplate mercy? **The answer is obvious — the brain does not generate abstract thought. The brain is normally necessary for abstract thought, but not sufficient for it.**

Furthermore, Penfield noted that patients were always aware that the sensation, memory, etc., evoked by brain stimulation was done *to* them, but not *by* them. Penfield found that patients retained a “third person” perspective on mental events evoked by brain stimulation. There was always a “mind” that was independent of cortical stimulation:

*The patient’s mind, which is considering the situation in such an aloof and critical manner, can only be something quite apart from neuronal reflex action. It is noteworthy that two streams of consciousness are flowing, the one driven by input from the environment, the other by an electrode delivering sixty pulses per second to the cortex. The fact that there should be no confusion in the conscious state suggests that, although the content of consciousness depends in large measure on neuronal activity, awareness itself does not.*<sup>2</sup>

**Penfield finished his career as a passionate dualist. His materialist naiveté did not survive his actual scientific work and his experiences as a clinical neurosurgeon. My own experience as a neurosurgeon has led me to the same conclusion.**

Dr. Egnor gives substantially more information and evidence on how both the intellect/mind and the will are not physical and how neuroscience and neurosurgery have demonstrated this. This information can be found in the article in the footnote below<sup>37</sup>

<sup>34</sup> Description is from Discovery.org

<sup>35</sup> Michael Egnor, “A Neurosurgeon, Not A Darwinist”, Forbes.com, February 6th, 2009.

<sup>36</sup> Michael Egnor, *Pioneering Neuroscientist Wilder Penfield: Why Don’t We Have Intellectual Seizures?*, EvolutionNews.org, April 21, 2016. The footnotes in this article correspond to the following: (1) Penfield, *The Mystery of the Mind*, pp. 77-8 and (2) Ibid., p. 55.

<sup>37</sup> For more information watch the two videos in the article by David Klinghoffer, “Egnor: Why Neuroscience Points to a Soul,” EvolutionNews.org, June 12, 2019.

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## REASONABLE

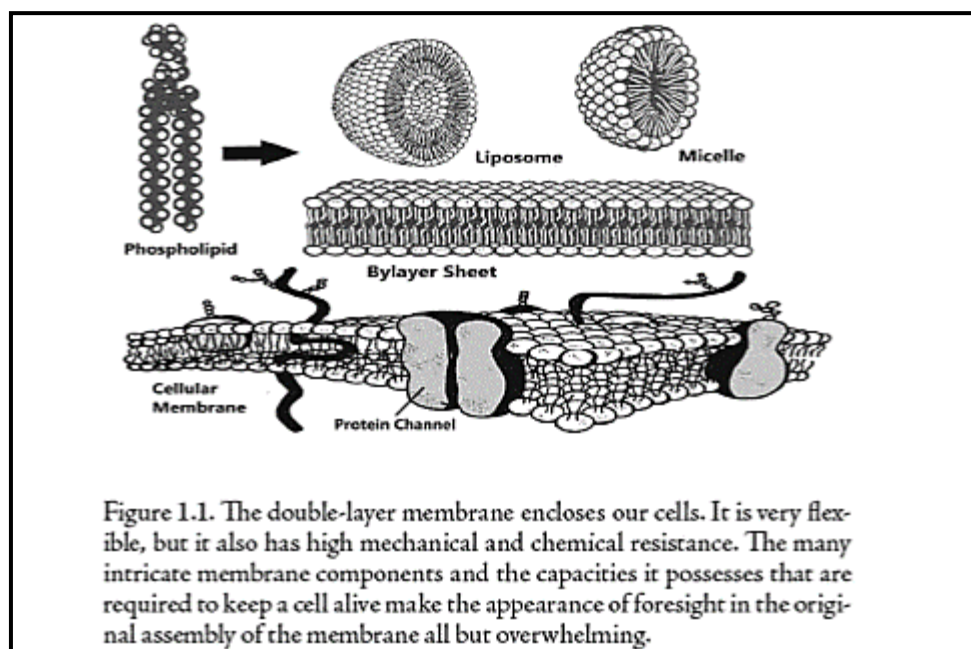
### Evidence #2: The Evidence for Foresight in Biology

Dr. Marcos N. Eberlin “holds a PhD in chemistry from the University of Campinas in Brazil. After postdoctoral work at Purdue University (USA), he founded the ThoMSon Mass Spectrometry Laboratory, growing it into a highly distinguished lab and supervising some 200 graduate and post-doctoral students, scientists who today work as researchers and professionals all around the globe ... winner of the prestigious Thomson medal (2016), Eberlin is recognized worldwide as one of the most productive mass spectrometrists ... having published close to 1,000 scientific articles.”<sup>38</sup>

In his book, *Foresight: How the Chemistry of Life Reveals Planning and Purpose* (which was endorsed by three different Nobel Prize Winners in Chemistry, Physics, and Physiology/Medicine)<sup>39</sup> Dr. Eberlin makes the following statements: “Biology is in the midst of a gold rush of discovery ... This rush of discovery seems to point beyond any purely blind [Darwinian] evolutionary process to the workings of an attribute unique to minds – foresight.”<sup>40</sup> For example:

Cell membranes ... can initiate a series of cellular responses that react to a change in environmental temperature. If you were to bid this demanding, multifaceted job out to the most technologically advanced engineering firms in the world, their top engineers might either laugh in your face or run screaming into the night. The requisite technology is far beyond our most advanced human knowledge. And remember, getting two or three things about this membrane job right – or even 99% of the job – wouldn’t be enough. It is all or death! A vulnerable cell waiting for improvements from the gradual Darwinian process would promptly be attacked by a myriad of enemies and die, never to reproduce, giving [Darwinian] evolution no time at all to finish the job down the road. It seems, then, from all of the biochemical knowledge we now have, that the cell membrane’s many crucial requirements had to be foreseen, and delivered on time, for the earliest cells to survive and reproduce in an aqueous environment.<sup>41</sup>

Dr. Eberlin provides the following figure and description:<sup>42</sup>



In response to Dr. Eberlin’s book Dr. Michael T. Bowers (Ph.D. University of Illinois), Distinguished Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of California Santa Barbara makes the following statement: “*Foresight* provides refreshing new evidence, primarily from biology, that science needs to open its perspective on the origin of living things to account for the possibility that purely natural, materialistic [Darwinian] evolution cannot account for these facts.”<sup>43</sup>

<sup>38</sup> Marcos N. Eberlin, *Foresight: How the Chemistry of Life Reveals Planning and Purpose* (Seattle: Discovery Institute Press, 2019), backcover.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., 5-6.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., 15-16.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., 16-17.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., 16.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., 8.



## Evidence #3: Highly Complex Intelligent Design Demonstrated by Specified Complexity

Dr. William A. Dembski (Ph. D. in Mathematics from the University of Chicago, Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Illinois at Chicago) makes the following statement about specified complexity:

Intelligent design is detectable. In fact, we have reliable methods for detecting it, and its detection involves no recourse to the supernatural. Design is common, rational, and objectifiable.

Indeed, there exists a rigorous criterion for discriminating intelligently from unintelligently caused objects. Many special sciences already use this criterion, though an intuitive form of it (e.g., forensic science, artificial intelligence, cryptography, archeology, and the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence [SETI, a program sponsored by the United States Government]). What intelligent design does is make precise this criterion and apply it in sciences such as biology. I refer to this criterion as the *complexity-specification criterion*. When intelligent agents act, they leave behind a characteristic trademark or signature known as *specified complexity*. The complexity-specification criterion detects design by identifying this key trademark of designed objects.<sup>44</sup>

For further information and a detailed description of the complexity-specification criterion see *The Design Inference: Eliminating Chance Through Small Probabilities* by William A Dembski (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998). Also, see the resources at the end of this section.

[An example of specified complexity in biology would be DNA. DNA is a code. It is a code that can communicate enormous amounts of intelligent information and *codes have code-givers* or designers (i.e.: intelligent agents that designed them).<sup>45</sup> As the software developer Bill Gates, states: “DNA is like a computer program but far, far more advanced than any software ever created.”<sup>46</sup> For additional information see *Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design* by Stephen Meyer (Ph.D. in the History and Philosophy of Science from Cambridge University, England)].

## Evidence #4: Intelligent Design Demonstrated by Irreducible Complexity

Dr. Michael Behe (Professor of Biochemistry at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania) in his book *Darwin's Black Box* states the following: Darwin knew that his theory of gradual evolution by natural selection carried a heavy burden:

“If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.” [Darwin, C. (1872) *Origin of Species*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (1988), New York University Press, New York, p. 154]

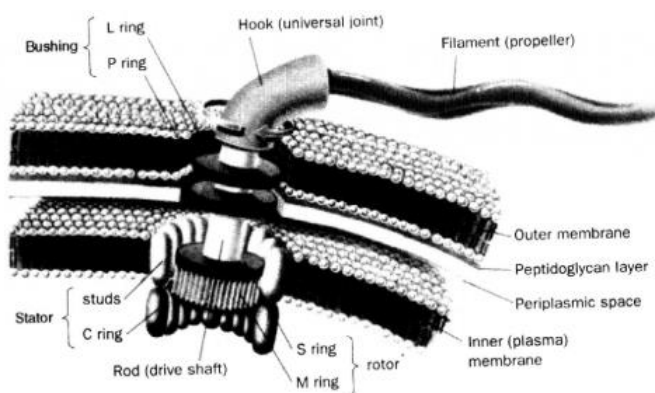
It is safe to say that most of the scientific skepticism about Darwinism in the past century has centered on this requirement . . . critics of Darwin have suspected that his criterion had been met. But how can we be confident? What type of biological system could not be formed by “numerous, successive, slight, modifications”?

Well, for starters a system that is irreducibly complex. By *irreducibly complex* I mean a single system composed of several well-matched, interacting parts that contribute to the basic function, wherein the removal of any one of the parts causes the system to effectively cease functioning. An irreducibly complex system cannot produce directly (that is, by continuously improving the initial function, which continues to work by the same mechanism) by slight, successive modifications of a precursor system, because any precursor to an irreducibly complex system that is missing a part is by definition nonfunctional. An irreducibly complex biological system, if there is such a thing, would be a powerful challenge to Darwinian evolution. Since natural selection can only choose systems that are already working, then if a biological system cannot be produced gradually it would have to arise as an integrated unit, in one full swoop, for natural selection to have anything to act on.<sup>47</sup>

### Examples of Irreducible Complexity:

For a manmade example of irreducible complexity see the picture of the Rube Goldberg Machine in the book *Darwin's Black Box*.<sup>49</sup> For an example of irreducible complexity in nature see the description of the bacterial flagellum in the book *Darwin's Black Box*.<sup>50</sup> Both of these are irreducibly complex because if one of the parts is missing the whole system becomes nonfunctional. Please, see Behe's book for a further description.

“THE BIOCHEMICAL COMPLEXITY OF A BACTERIAL FLAGELLUM”:<sup>48</sup>



<sup>44</sup> William A. Dembski, “Mechanism, Magic, and Design,” *The Christian Research Journal* 23 (2000): 25. Also, see William Dembski, ed., *Mere Creation: Science, Faith & Intelligent Design* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press).

<sup>45</sup> As Dr. Stephen Meyer states: “DNA functions like a software program and contains specified information just as software does. We know from experience that software comes from programmers. We know generally that specified information — whether inscribed in hieroglyphics, written in a book, or encoded in a radio signal — always arises from an intelligent source. So the discovery of such information in the DNA molecule provides strong grounds for inferring (or detecting) that intelligence played a role in the origin of DNA” (Stephen C. Meyer, “Yes, Intelligent Design Is Detectable by Science”, *EvolutionNews.org*, April 24, 2018).

<sup>46</sup> As quoted by Stephen Meyer, *Signature in the Cell: DNA and the Evidence for Intelligent Design* (New York, NY: Harper Collins, 2009), 12.

<sup>47</sup> Michael Behe, *Darwin's Black Box* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996), 39.

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*, iv.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*, 75.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*, iv. Also, to answer some common misunderstandings of Behe's argument see: Michael Behe, “A Response to My Lehigh Colleagues, Part 3”, *EvolutionNews.org*, March 26, 2019; and Michael J. Behe, “Reply to My Critics: A Response to Reviews of Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution”, *Biology and Philosophy* 16 (2001), 683–707.

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## Evidence #5: The Origin of the First Life Problem for The Completely Blind and Completely Unintelligent Watchmaker Theory

Dr. Douglas Axe's "research uses both experiments and computer simulations to examine the functional and structural constraints on the evolution of proteins and protein systems. After a Caltech PhD, he held postdoctoral and research scientist positions at the University of Cambridge ... his work and ideas have been featured in many scientific journals, including the *Journal of Molecular Biology*, the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and *Nature*."<sup>51</sup> Dr. Axe simply summarizes the Darwinian story of the origin life in the following way: "Rain comes from clouds, whereas life, according to Darwin's speculation, originally came from the 'warm little pond' Darwin described in a letter to his friend Joseph Hooker in 1871" that is "a pool of mineral water set a process in motion that ultimately produced not just the genetic instructions carried by every form of earthly life but also innumerable marvels that go well *beyond* mere instructions – actual working wonders, like brains and compound eyes and adaptive immune systems and submicroscopic molecular machines, to name a few."<sup>52</sup>

Dr. James M. Tour "is one of the world's top synthetic organic chemists. He has authored 680 scientific publications and holds more than 120 patents ... In 2014, Thomson Reuters named him one of 'The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds,' and in 2018 Clarivate Analytics recognized him as one of the world's most highly cited researchers."<sup>53</sup> Dr. Tour states:

As a chemist, and one that builds functional molecular nano-systems, I can give some informed input. For several decades I have been building molecular cars ["50,000 times thinner than a human hair"<sup>54</sup>] with functional motors, wheels, axles and chassis, and molecular nanosubmarines with light-activated motors and fluorescent pontoons, where many parts have to work in unison, and be planned to work in unison during redesign of major features. Even small changes in desired function can send the synthesis all the way back to step 1 ... Any massive functional change of a body part would require multiple concerted lines of variations. Sure, one can suggest multiple small changes ad infinitum, but the concerted requirement of multiple changes all in the same place and at the same time, is impossible to chemically fathom.<sup>55</sup>

In Origin of Life (OOL) research:

Fundamental questions remain unaddressed. Claims that these structures could be prepared under prebiotic conditions in high enantiomeric purity using inorganic templates, or any presumed templates, have never been realized ... If this were possible under prebiotic conditions, it is odd that it cannot be replicated by synthetic chemists. They have, after all, had 67 years to try ... In a 2018 article for *Progress in Biophysics and Molecular Biology*, Edward Steele et al. concede the following.

The transformation of an ensemble of appropriately chosen biological monomers (e.g. amino acids, nucleotides) into a primitive living cell capable of further evolution appears to require overcoming an *information hurdle* [emphasis added] of superastronomical proportions, an event that could not have happened within the time frame of the Earth except, we believe, as a miracle. All laboratory experiments attempting to simulate such an event have so far led to dismal failure.<sup>56</sup>

## Evidence #6: The Appearance of Fully-Formed Fossils with No Precursors and the Information Essential to Make New Body Plans

Dr. Stephen Meyer (Ph.D. in the History and Philosophy of Science from Cambridge University, England), in his book *Darwin's Doubt*, deals with an important question regarding the fossil record: Where did the influx of information essential to make new body plans come from?

In *On the Origin of Species*, Darwin openly acknowledged important weaknesses in his theory and professed his own doubts about key aspects of it. Yet today's public defenders of a Darwin-only science curriculum apparently do not want these, or any other scientific doubts about contemporary Darwinian theory, reported to students.

This book addresses Darwin's most significant doubt and what has become of it. It examines an event during a remote period of geological history in which numerous animal forms appear to have arisen suddenly and without evolutionary precursors in the fossil record, a mysterious event commonly referred as the "Cambrian explosion." As he acknowledged in the *Origin*, Darwin viewed this event as a troubling anomaly – one that he hoped future fossil discoveries would eventually eliminate ... Biologists now know that the Cambrian explosion not only represents an explosion of new animal form and structure but also an explosion of information – that it was, indeed, one of the most significant "information revolutions" in the history of life.<sup>57</sup>

Furthermore, Dr. Meyer "examines the problem of explaining how the unguided mechanism of natural selection and random mutations could have produced the biological information necessary to build the Cambrian animal forms"<sup>58</sup> and Dr. Meyer, explains why so many leading biologists now doubt the creative power of the neo-Darwinian mechanism."<sup>59</sup> In response to the evidence presented in *Darwin's Doubt*, the biologist Dr. Wolf-Ekkehard Lonngist states: "*Darwin's Doubt* is by far the most up-to-date, accurate, and comprehensive review of the evidence from all relevant scientific fields that I have encountered in more than forty years of studying the Cambrian explosion."<sup>60</sup> In addition, the paleontologist Dr. Mark McMenamin states: "It's hard for us paleontologists to admit that neo-Darwinian explanations for the Cambrian explosion have failed miserably ... Meyer describes the dimensions of the problem with clarity and precision. His book is a game changer."<sup>61</sup>

<sup>51</sup> Quoted from BiologicInstitute.org

<sup>52</sup> Douglas Axe, *Undeniable: How Biology Confirms Our Intuition That Life Is Designed* (New York: HarperOne, 2017), 15.

<sup>53</sup> Quoted from James M. Tour, "The Mystery of the Origin of Life", *Discovery.org*, August 20th, 2019.

<sup>54</sup> Bracketed quote added from: Adam Hadhazy, "World's Smallest Hot Rod Made Using Nanotechnology," *LiveScience.com*, January 19, 2010.

<sup>55</sup> James M. Tour, "Origin of Life, Intelligent Design, Evolution, Creation and Faith," *JMTour.com*, Updated August 2019.

<sup>56</sup> James Tour, "Time Out," *Inference* 4.4 (July 2019). Dr. Tour quotes from: Edward Steele et al., "Cause of Cambrian Explosion – Terrestrial or Cosmic?" *Progress in Biophysics and Molecular Biology* 136 (2018): 7. Also, see James Tour, "Animadversions of a Synthetic Chemist," *Inference* 2.2 (May 2016) available at: *Inference-Review.com*

<sup>57</sup> Stephen Meyer, *Darwin's Doubt: The Explosive Origin of Animal Life and the Case for Intelligent Design* (New York: HarperOne; rev. ed. 2014), xi-xii. Also, see the following book: edited by David Klinghoffer, *Debating Darwin's Doubt: A Scientific Controversy that Can No Longer Be Denied* (Seattle: Discovery Institute Press, 2019).

<sup>58</sup> Stephen Meyer, *Darwin's Doubt*, xii.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, xii.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, i.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, i.

## Evidence #7: Intelligent Design Demonstrated by the Fine Tuning of the Universe and Our Galaxy

The article "Big Bang Model Refined by Fire" lists "twenty-nine characteristics of the universe that must be fine-tuned for any kind of physical life to be possible" and "describes the fine tuning necessary in forty-five characteristics of the solar system."<sup>62</sup> If any of these characteristics were not present in just the right ratios we would not be here. For example:

22. ratio of neutron mass to proton mass

if higher: neutron decay would yield too few neutrons for the formation of many life-essential elements

if lower: neutron decay would produce so many neutrons as to collapse all stars into neutron stars or black holes<sup>63</sup>

At the end of his book, *A Case Against Accident and Self-Organization*, Dean Overman makes the following points to sum up what he demonstrated in his book:

*The probability of chance causing the formation of a universe compossible with life and the formation of the first form of living matter from inert matter is less than mathematical impossibility at the accepted standard one in  $10^{50}$ .*<sup>64</sup>

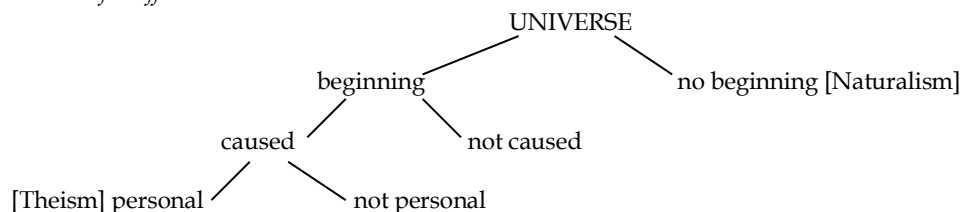
*Many different scientists' calculations demonstrate that the formation of life by accidental process was mathematically impossible.*<sup>65</sup>

Proponents of the formation of life through accidental processes rarely perform the mathematical calculations of the probabilities which lie at the foundation of their hypothesis. Time is the enemy of the occurrence of the unlikely event. Quantitative probabilities demonstrate mathematical impossibility even in a time frame of 15 billion years. The probability of the random formation of bacterium by chance, as computed by Sir Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe, is one in  $10^{40,000}$ . Hurbert Yockey improved upon the methods of Hoyle and Wickramasinghe's calculations and computed the probability of random, unguided processes generating only a single molecule of the protein iso-1-cytochrome c. The probability calculated was one in  $2 \times 10^{-44}$ , which is also mathematical impossibility. We reviewed similar calculations from other scientists, including Howard Morowitz, who computed the probability of unguided, random development of a single celled bacterium with odds of  $10^{100,000,000,000}$  to one. We also discussed the expectation probability for the nucleotide sequence of a bacterium and Bernd-Olaf Kupper's conclusion that even if all the matter in space consisted of DNA molecules of the structural complexity of the bacterial genome, with random sequences, the chances of finding among them a bacterial genome would still be completely negligible.<sup>66</sup>

Unfortunately, there is not enough time in this presentation to cover this subject in-depth. For more information on the scientific and basis for #7 see the resources quoted in this section and those in the resources for further study.

## Evidence #8: The Beginning of the Universe

Dr. William Lane Craig (Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Birmingham, England, and another Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Munich, Germany) gives the following diagram in the article "Philosophical and Scientific Pointers to Creation ex Nihilo," in the *Journal of the American Scientific Affiliation*:<sup>67</sup>



The argument can then be simply stated as the following:

1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause.
2. The Universe began to exist.
3. Therefore, the Universe has a cause.<sup>68</sup>

For more information on the scientific and philosophical basis for this argument see the resources for further study that correspond to #8.

<sup>62</sup> William Dembski, ed., *Mere Creation: Science, Faith & Intelligent Design* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press), 372.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*, 374.

<sup>64</sup> Dean L. Overman, *A Case Against Accident and Self-Organization*. (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 1997), 182.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*, 183.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, 183-184.

<sup>67</sup> Used by J.P. Moreland, *Scaling the Secular City* (Grand Rapids: MI, 1987), 18. [Note: by universe is meant *all* matter, energy, etc.]

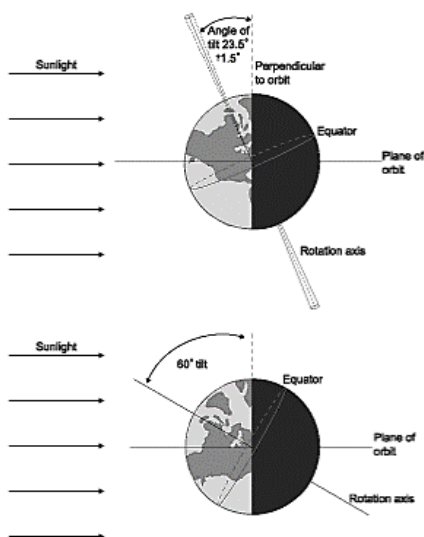
<sup>68</sup> William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1994), 92. [Note: by universe is meant *all* matter, energy, etc.]

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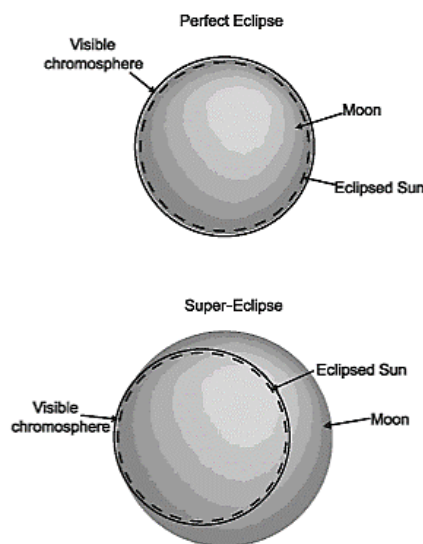
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## Evidence #9: The Earth is Uniquely Situated for Both Habitability and Scientific Discovery

Dr. Guillermo Gonzalez (Ph.D. in Astronomy from the University of Washington) "has done post-doctoral work at the University of Texas, Austin and at the University of Washington and has received fellowships, grants and awards from such institutions as NASA, the University of Washington, the Templeton Foundation, Sigma Xi (scientific research society) and the National Science Foundation ... He is a world-class expert on the astrophysical requirements for habitability and on habitable zones and a co-founder of the "Galactic Habitable Zone" concept, which captured the October 2001 cover story of *Scientific American*. Astronomers and astrobiologists around the world are pursuing research based on his work on exoplanet host stars, the Galactic Habitable Zone and red giants. Gonzalez has also published nearly 70 articles in refereed astronomy and astrophysical journals including *The Astrophysical Journal*, *The Astronomical Journal*, *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, *Icarus* and *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*. He also is the co-author of the second edition of *Observational Astronomy*, an advanced college astronomy textbook. In 2004 he co-authored *The Privileged Planet: How Our Place in the Cosmos is Designed for Discovery*"<sup>69</sup> with Dr. Jay W. Richards (who has a Ph.D., with honors, in philosophy and theology from Princeton Theological Seminary). In *The Privileged Planet* Dr. Gonzalez and Dr. Richards state: "The fact that our atmosphere is clear; that our moon is just the right size and the distance from Earth, and that its gravity stabilizes Earth's rotation; that our position in our galaxy is just so; that our sun is its precise mass and composition – all of these facts and many more not only are necessary for Earth's habitability but also have been surprisingly crucial to the discovery and measurement of the universe by scientists."<sup>70</sup> "In a very real sense the cosmos, our Solar System, and our exceptional planet are themselves a laboratory, and Earth is the best bench in the lab. Even more mysterious than that fact that our location is so congenial to diverse measurement and discovery is that these same conditions appear to correlate with habitability."<sup>71</sup> "Simply stated, the conditions allowing for intelligent life on Earth also make our planet strangely well suited for viewing and analyzing the universe."<sup>72</sup> "This is strange, because there's no obvious reason to assume that the very same rare properties that allow for our existence would also provide the best overall setting to make discoveries about the world around us. We don't think this is merely coincidental. It cries out for another explanation."<sup>73</sup> Therefore, in contrast to the completely blind and completely unintelligent watchmaker theory/Darwinian evolution theory which the goal is survival the "*The Privileged Planet* argues that there ... there is a growing body of scientific evidence from a range of disciplines showing that great care and intelligent design was taken in our cosmic placement. According to the evidence cited in the book, both the design of cosmic laws and the specific architecture of our solar system, including the sizes and relationship of Earth and moon, permit the existence of advanced life with the opportunities to make profound scientific discoveries."<sup>74</sup> One example from *The Privileged Planet* is that both the size of the moon and its location (distance from the earth, etc.) are ideal for both habitability and scientific discovery (through perfect eclipses), please see the book for further details and evidence:<sup>75</sup>



**Figure 1.2:** Earth's axis currently tilts 23.5 degrees from a line perpendicular to the plane formed by the Earth's orbit around the Sun, and varies a modest 2.5 degrees over thousands of years. Such stability is due to the action of the Moon's gravity on Earth. Without a large Moon, Earth's tilt could vary by 30 degrees or more, even 60 degrees, which would make Earth less habitable.



**Figure 1.3:** A perfect solar eclipse compared to a super-eclipse. For scientific discovery, perfect eclipses are better than super eclipses. In a perfect eclipse the Moon just covers the Sun's bright photosphere, revealing the Sun's thin chromosphere. In contrast, a super-eclipse would reveal only a small sickle of the scientifically valuable chromosphere, and then only at the beginning and end of totality. The thickness of the chromosphere has been exaggerated for clarity; in reality, its thickness is about one three-hundredth the radius of the Sun.

<sup>69</sup> Description is from Discovery.org

<sup>70</sup> Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay Richards, *The Privileged Planet: How Our Place in the Cosmos is Designed for Discovery* (Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing, 2004), x.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid., xv.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid., x.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid., xv.

<sup>74</sup> Description of *The Privileged Planet* is from Discovery.org

<sup>75</sup> Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay Richards, *The Privileged Planet*, Figure 1.2 is from page 5 and Figure 1.3 is from page 8.

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## **REASONABLE CONCLUSION**

Question: So, what evidence would go against the “completely blind and completely unintelligent watch maker theory/Darwinian evolution theory” and the philosophical naturalism it is based in?

Answer: One of the following evidences (previously summarized) or a combination of two or more of these evidences.

**Evidence #1: Your Cognitive Faculties and Your Ability Communicate in a Highly Complex Intelligent Propositional Way, Your Ability to Discover Truth, Your Ability to Design Objects, and Your Ability to Think Abstractly**

**Evidence #2: The Evidence for Foresight in Biology**

**Evidence #3: Highly Complex Intelligent Design Demonstrated by Specified Complexity**

**Evidence #4: Intelligent Design Demonstrated by Irreducible Complexity**

**Evidence #5: The Origin of the First Life Problem for The Completely Blind and Completely Unintelligent Watchmaker Theory**

**Evidence #6: The Appearance of Fully-Formed Fossils with No Precursors and the Information Essential to Make New Body Plans**

**Evidence #7: Intelligent Design Demonstrated by the Fine Tuning of the Universe and Our Galaxy**

**Evidence #8: The Beginning of the Universe**

**Evidence #9: The Earth is Uniquely Situated for Both Habitability and Scientific Discovery**

**\*So, what is the debate about?**

The debate is over philosophical presuppositions (see section A). That is, if you presuppose only philosophical naturalism and some form of the “completely blind and completely unintelligent watchmaker theory/Darwinian evolution theory” and rule out all other alternatives such as creation<sup>76</sup> and intelligent design then there is no way, no matter what the evidence points to, that creation and intelligent design in nature can occur. Good scientists will, however, follow what the evidence points to, not make the evidence fit their presuppositions.

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<sup>76</sup> Please, see the how this term is defined earlier in the footnotes in this packet.



#### D. RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY

B=Beginner

I=Intermediate

A=Advanced

The (#'s) correspond to the nine evidences given in section C

\* Books to start with

\*Axe, Douglas. *Undeniable: How Biology Confirms Our Intuition That Life Is Designed*. New York: HarperOne, 2017. (B-I) (2-6)

\*Behe, Michael J. *Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996. (B-I) (4)

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#### Websites to Check out:

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[www.Veritas.org](http://www.Veritas.org)

[www.EvolutionNews.org](http://www.EvolutionNews.org)

## REASONABLE E. DISPELLING THE MYTH

Evolutionary biologist Ernst Mayr in 1999 stated, "No educated person any longer questions the validity of the so-called theory of evolution [the completely blind and completely unintelligent watchmaker theory], which we know to be a simple fact."<sup>77</sup> Is this statement true?

A Very Brief List of Professional Scientists who *reject* the completely blind and completely unintelligent watchmaker theory/Neo-Darwinian evolution (disproving Mayr's statement):<sup>78</sup>

**Dr. Henry Schaefer III** received his Ph.D. in Chemical Physics from Stanford University in 1969. For eighteen years (1969-1987) he served as Professor of Chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley. Since 1987, Professor Schaefer has been the Graham Perdue Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Center for Computational Quantum Chemistry at the University of Georgia. Schaefer is the author of more than 1,600 scientific professional papers, the research director of over 120 successful doctoral students and has presented plenary lectures at more than 125 national or international scientific conferences. He is the editor-in-chief of *Molecular Physics* and president of the World Association of Theoretically Oriented Chemists and has been the co-chairman of the "Nobel Laureate Symposium on Applied Quantum Chemistry". His major awards include the American Chemical Society Award in Pure Chemistry (1979), the American Chemical Society Leo Hendrik Baekeland Award (1983), the Chemistry Medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry (London 1992), the American Chemical Society Award in Theoretical Chemistry (2003), Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2004), AIC Gold Medal (2019), etc. For thirty years Dr. Schaefer has been one of the most highly cited scientists in the world. In January 2014 he was named by *The Best Schools* as one of "The 50 Most Influential Scientists in the World Today." His research involves the use of state-of-the-art computational hardware and theoretical methods to solve important problems in molecular quantum mechanics.

**Dr. Walter Bradley** is a Professor and Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M University. He received his Ph.D. in Material Science from the University of Texas. He has been principal investigator on research grants and contracts totaling over \$3 million for the National Science Foundations, NASA, the US Department of Energy and private corporations. In addition to publishing over 100 technical articles in refereed journals on materials science and thermodynamics, he has co-authored several seminal works on the origin of life, including articles in the journal *The Origins of Life and Evolution of the Biosphere* and the book *The Mystery of Life's Origin*, which was re-published by Lewis and Stanley in 1992. *Mystery* remains the best-selling advanced level text on the origin of life.

**Dr. John Polkinhorne**, Fellow of the Royal Society and retired professor of mathematical physics, Cambridge University

**Dr. Allan Sandage**, Astronomer, Observatories of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Recipient of the Crafoord Prize

**Dr. Paul Chien**, Chairman and Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of San Francisco. He received his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of California at Irvine's Department of Developmental & Cell Biology. He has held such positions as Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena (CIT); Instructor of Biology at Chinese University of Hong Kong; and a consultant to both the Kerckhoff Marine Laboratory of the CIT, and the Scanning Electron Microscopy & Micro X-ray Analyst in the Biology Department of Santa Clara University, California. Dr. Chien's work has been published in over fifty technical journals and he has spoken internationally, and on numerous occasions, from Brazil to mainland China where he has also been involved in cooperative research programs. He is currently working with leading Chinese scientists on the interpretation of crucial Cambrian-era fossils unique to the Chengjiang region of China, and will be co-authoring a book on these fossils with one of these scientists. Dr. Chien recently edited and translated Phillip Johnson's book *Darwin on Trial* into Chinese.

**Dr. Sigrid Hartwig-Scherer**, Ph.D. (physical anthropology, University of Zurich with R. D. Martin), research fellow at the Institute for Anthropology and Human Genetics, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, author of *Ramapithecus – Vorfar des Menschen?* [*Ramapithecus – Progenitor of Humans?*] (Pascal Verlag). Hartwig-Scherer's doctoral work was in the field of skeletal ontogeny and hominoid phylogeny. She has published articles in such journals as the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* and the *Journal of Human Evolution*. As a member of American and German anthropological and primatological societies she lectures widely. Her research deals with comparative pre- and postnatal skeletal development in primates.

**Dr. Robert Kaita** holds a Ph.D. in nuclear physics from Rutgers University. He is currently Principal Research Physicist and Head of the Plasma Diagnostics Group on the Princeton Beta Experiment-Modification (PBX-M), and Co-Principal Investigator on the Current Drive Experimental Upgrade, an advanced thermonuclear fusion device at Princeton University's Plasma Physics laboratory. During his 19 years at Princeton he has performed experiments on the Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor, the first magnetic fusion to achieve plasma temperatures in the breaking levels of fusion power. He has over 200 publications in nuclear and plasma physics. He is also a professor in the graduate program of the Department of Astrophysical Sciences at Princeton University. He is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Physics Society.

**Dr. Dean H. Kenyon** is Professor of Biology at San Francisco State University. He is one of the contributing authors to the festschrifts of the noted origin-of-life researchers A.I. Oparin and Sidney Fox. He is the co-author of *Biochemical Predestination* (McGraw-Hill 1969), one of the two best-selling advanced level books on chemical evolution. He holds a S.B. in physics from the University of Chicago (Phi Beta Kappa) and a Ph.D. in biophysics from Stanford University. He has been a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California at Berkeley, a visiting scholar to Trinity College, Oxford University and a postdoctoral fellow at NASA-Ames Research Center. His current research compares the statistical and linguistic "texture" of the two types of DNA, coding DNA and so called "junk DNA."

**Dr. Günter Bechly** is a German paleontologist and senior research scientist at Biologic Institute. His research focuses on the fossil history of insects, discontinuities in the history of life, and the waiting time problem. He earned his Ph.D., summa cum laude, in paleontology from the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen (Germany), where he studied the evolution of dragonflies and their wings. He worked from 1999-2016 as curator for amber and fossil insects at the State Museum of Natural History in Stuttgart, as successor of Dieter Schlee and Willi Hennig. He has described more than 160 new fossil taxa including three new insect orders, and published more than 70 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals and a book with Cambridge University Press. His research has received broad international media coverage, in particular his discoveries of *Coxoplectoptera* and the predatory roach *Manipulator*.

<sup>77</sup> Mayr, 83.

<sup>78</sup> Most of the following information was taken directly from or adapted from the description of these scientists at: [www.discovery.org](http://www.discovery.org) or from the bio-descriptions on or in various books.