

Ochem Spotlight: Nicholas Hud

I am always fascinated by how different branches of science can relate to each other. In the recording of Hud's story, he mentioned that fossils can teach us about the origin of life. Previous to hearing his story, I had never made the connection between fossils and chemistry or biology. I had only thought of paleontology and geology as separate sciences that do not relate to chemistry and biology. After listening to him, I realized that all science can really be compound in one and we can learn more of any one branch by studying aspects of other branches. I was also excited to hear that NMR spectroscopy can be used to study DNA. This was interesting to me because I currently work at a bio-tech lab where I run PCR experiments and I work with DNA everyday but sometimes it's hard to see my future there because I love chemistry and I felt like most of what I do there is biology. Now I see that I can just change my perspective because in reality, there is just as much chemistry involved in what I do as biology. That also helped me think of possible ideas to continue the research that I have been helping with.

I appreciated Hud's story because I am a christian. I have noticed throughout my life that there are many people, whether secular or religious, who believe that science can have no part in religion and vice versa. This was never something that I believed because I have felt like my religious beliefs have only been reinforced by different aspects of science that I have learned. Several years ago I was able to attend a conference for 'future leaders and scientists' where one of the speakers was a christian *and* a very successful scientist. He explained to all of the young students that if they are struggling choose between religion and science, they can choose both.

I have always dreamed of being not only a successful scientist, but a well known and decorated one. Both Hud and Garg (the previous chemist I learned about) have earned an incredible amount of different awards based on research and service. I used to think that the people who received those kinds of awards chose to pursue specific awards but now I'm thinking that they just focused on their research, what they thought was most important to improve the world, and then others in the scientific community recognized their hard work and character.