



March 2024 Newsletter

The Source of Adaptive Variation: Accumulating Evidence for the Engineered Optimization of Life



Phil Gaskill

March 16th at 9:00 AM

The source of adaptive variation in living organisms was not known when Darwin published the Origin of Species in 1859. In the 1930s, random mutation was identified and adopted as the source of variation upon which natural selection acts to adapt life to its environment. Until recently, the combination of random mutation and natural selection has been seen as the key mechanism in the theory of evolution. Creationists have long maintained that random mutation cannot drive evolution and have countered that natural selection simply acts on existing variation to generate adaptive traits. However, over the last four decades, surprising discoveries in molecular biology, epigenetics, embryonic development, and related fields have resulted in a growing realization that the source of adaptive variation has been misidentified. This has led to a crisis in evolutionary theory and to ongoing development of a new creation model. In this talk, Phil Gaskill* will re-visit the failure to identify a mechanism for evolution and the insufficiency of previous creation models to explain observed adaptation. He will then apply the T[T]A/M framework (which he introduced in his **2016 presentation to DSA**) to help understand recent experimental results and make a case that evidence for the engineered optimization of living things continues to rapidly accumulate. This evidence supports a strong argument for the Master Designer.

Phil's **2021 presentation to DSA** on the **Mechanism of Adaptation** is also on our YouTube channel.

.
***Phil Gaskill** is an independent researcher. He earned a B.A. in history from Lawrence University, worked as a systems engineer for several IT firms, has been a science writer for Cramer Fish Sciences, a Scientific & Technical Information Specialist for Idaho National Laboratory, and is currently a technical writer for a global transportation and defense company. Phil began pursuing his interest in the history of science in college and has been a student of the history, philosophy, and methodology of science for nearly thirty-five years. He gave his first creation science presentation at the Second International Conference on Creationism in 1990, has published articles in both creation and secular peer-reviewed science journals, and speaks periodically on the subject of origins and earth history..

Our meeting starts at **9:00 AM Saturday, March 16** at Greater Portland Bible Church, 2374 SW Vermont St.

For those who cannot attend in person, the meeting will also be livestreamed from a link on our website at <https://designsciencenw.org/livestream>

"Have you heard that Darwin recanted on his deathbed?"



There is a rumor that Charles Darwin recanted on his deathbed. That is, recanted of his "theory" of evolution by natural selection and with no God involved. This is spoken of as really good news ... almost comforting to hear ... by some Christians.

Question: if that rumor were true, how comforting should it really be? Should it strengthen our belief in the Biblical account of God creating everything complete and mature in six days time? Does our faith stand in the credibility of particular scientists or in the Holy Bible being what it says it is: the **Word of God**?

Should we need scientific evidence before believing the Bible? Ideally not, but is the evidence useful? Definitely so - for helping those who, indoctrinated in evolution, believe the Bible cannot be trusted. The evidence - bountifully presented by speakers at DSA - is good for shaking the foundation of skeptics or cracking open a window to let the truth shine in. At least, we hope & pray so.

P.S. We understand that rumor (about Darwin) is not true.

Coming up at our April 20 DSA Meeting

Milt Marcy will speak on his book: **The Emperors Who Had No Clothes**.

Check out DSA's website <https://DesignScienceNW.org> for additional events.

Our mailing address is:

PMB 218

465 NE 181st Ave.

Portland, OR 97230

Would you like to change how you receive these emails?

Please [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this mailing list](#).