

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Consensus “Science”

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

“Follow the Science” is heard in widely disparate discussions from climate change, to vaccinations, to the Big Bang, and the creation/evolution debate. But **WHAT** kind of science should we follow? Most people are familiar with empirical science (experiments, verification, rigorous testing) and with historical science (dealing with the unobservable past based mostly on detective-style interpreted clues).

There is another type of “science” however, known as “Consensus Science” which has become popular lately, though it has existed for centuries. This is the idea that if enough “qualified” scientists agree on something, it needs to be understood as prevailing truth, the “accepted” view – something we all “know” to be true.

There are problems with Consensus Science. Dr. Michael Crichton, author and Harvard-trained physician, famous for his book **Jurassic Park** and the creator of the **ER** TV series says: “I regard consensus science as an extremely pernicious development that ought to be stopped cold in its tracks. Historically, the claim of consensus has been the first refuge of scoundrels; it is a way to avoid debate by claiming that the matter is already settled. Whenever you hear the consensus of scientists agrees on something or other, reach for your wallet, because you’re being had.”

<https://seekingalpha.com/article/157233-global-warming-investment-implications> (accessed 4/12/2022)

Instead of encouraging further experimentation and study, the “consensus” too often becomes the accepted dogma. Essential scientific debate is often shut down and those who disagree are often ridiculed or marginalized. As Dominic Statham says in **The Wonder of Science**, “Since ‘consensus science’ is not derived from the data, it is vulnerable to being influenced by other factors – such as political correctness, personal interest, peer pressure, fear of ridicule and worldview.”

There are many examples of beliefs that were the accepted “science” of the day which have since been disproven.


This is to be expected as new facts come to light. However, the issue comes when truly novel approaches to a problem are ruled out because of the consensus, instead of listening to the critics and doing further investigation. At times, this has impeded scientific discoveries for many years, and sometimes resulted in hindering advances in medicine or other fields of study that could help save lives and alleviate suffering. (See page 2 for an example.)

Dr. Michael Crichton also said,

“The greatest scientists in history are great precisely because they broke with the consensus.” (Think Newton, Galileo, and others.) Crichton states:

“Science has nothing whatever to do with consensus. Consensus is the business of politics. Science, on the contrary requires only one investigator who happens to be right, which means that he or she has results that are verifiable by reference to the real world...If it’s consensus, it isn’t science...[because]the claim of consensus is invoked...only in situations where the science is not solid enough...” (Crichton, M., *Aliens Cause Global Warming*, Transcript of a Caltech Lecture, 2009, as quoted in Statham, D., *The Wonder of Science*, 2021, p. 30)

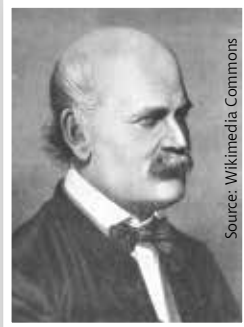
Scientists are human and should not be put on a pedestal. While honoring their hard work done to earn academic degrees, and make important discoveries, we need to also recognize that politics, worldview, grant seeking, and desire for fame or personal gain can sometimes get in the way. As creationists, we must always be careful to recognize our own bias and do

our best to be careful and honest about scientific topics. While we believe passionately that creation is foundational to the Gospel, it is important to let God’s word stand on its own. Rather than rushing to dogma, may we invite the kind of inquiry so lacking in “Consensus Science.” 





In the March/April 2000 issue of Kids Think & Believe, Too, Lanny and Marilyn Johnson wrote an article which directly relates to “Consensus Science.” Giving examples of how God’s Word was way ahead of its time and how we should pay attention to what it says, they reported that:



Source: Wikimedia Commons

Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis

In 1846 a doctor named Ignaz Phillip Semmelweis noticed that 451 mothers died due to “childbed fever” (sepsis or blood poisoning) in a hospital ward treated by doctors,

compared to only 90 deaths in the midwives’ ward. Women having babies were dying 5 times as often with doctors helping! Semmelweis noticed that many doctors were handling and dissecting bodies in the morgue and then going directly to new mothers and examining them, without washing their hands! The doctors were passing on the infectious disease from dead people to healthy people. Semmelweis instituted hand-washing protocols and greatly improved the survival rate of mothers. Yet, others did not accept his ideas and refused to change.

Eventually, he died in an insane asylum. If those doctors had read

their Bibles, they would have discovered that 3,000 years earlier we were told in Num. 19:11-19; after handling the dead, wash your hands!

The point that should not be missed is that “Consensus Science” totally ignored pertinent data based on ignorance. Warnings were also ignored because it was inconvenient to bother the doctors with hand washing as they carried out their busy duties. Semmelweis was actually dismissed from his hospital post because of his unpopular protocol. Because of “Consensus Science,” hundreds of women needlessly perished. **AOI**

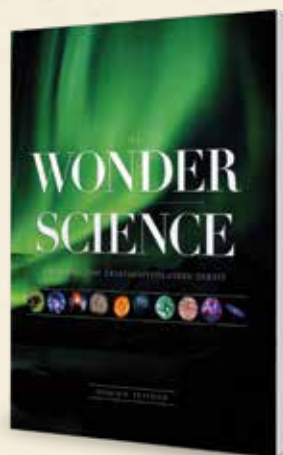
The Wonder of Science by Dominic Statham

Review by Dave Nutting

This is a great up-to-date and colorful book that covers some topics that have recently come to light in science along with other evidence of creation in fields of:

1. Science and Faith
2. Genetics and Evolution
3. Earth’s Geology and Atmosphere
4. Cell Biology and Chemical Evolution
5. Space Science

What I like about it is the fact that it gives a lot of detail of currently taught proofs of evolution but treats the evolutionists’ views fairly. Open-minded readers would likely conclude that the evidence points to a Creator. Written in an understandable fashion, creation speaker, Dr. Carl Weiland, had



this to say:

“Of the many books in the creation/evolution debate I’ve seen over the decades, this one is in a class of its own. Author Dominic Statham is uniquely skilled

at presenting the facts and fascination of science in a way that is both crystal clear and enjoyable, yet without ‘dumbing down’. Middle-school students

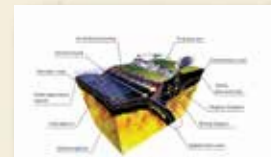
and above – and perhaps particularly their parents and teachers— will find **The Wonder of Science** super-helpful, as well as

highly informative, with ‘digging deeper’ sections for higher ages and abilities. The author’s calm, non-argumentative style encourages and equips readers to dispassionately weigh up the evidence on origins from opposing viewpoints. It makes clear why biblical Christianity and its creation corollary are foundational to modern science

itself. In short – just brilliant!”

This just may be the book you have been waiting for.

Available from AOI for **\$20** plus **\$5** shipping and handling. **AOI**



Plants on Glaciers? The Amazing Glacier Mice

by Stephen B. Austin

“All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...” – even in the Arctic! (John 1:3NKJV)

Jon Eythorsoon (1895-1968), an Icelandic meteorologist, was tracking the relationship between glacier movement and weather patterns in the early 1950's, when he came across a very strange plant form growing on the glaciers. He wrote about these groups comprised of various mosses in 1951 calling them *jokla-mys* in his Icelandic language which is translated “glacier mice.” Fifty years later, other scientists began studying them.

Glaciers are considered cold and barren. So, what are plants doing there? Although mosses are termed “primitive plants” by evolutionists, they are specially designed. Rather than propagating by seeds as most plants do, these unique plants spread by tiny, wind-carried spores. They are commonly found growing thickly on the ground and in trees within humid, tropical areas. In the middle and even alpine elevations, they form mostly flat and horizontal colonies on rocks, walls, and sidewalks.

However, “glacier mice”

grow differently. According to theory, the wind-blown spores land on a tiny speck of dust on the glacier and being to grow. Instead of spreading outward in a flattened form, however, they grow in a ball-shaped manner, eventually becoming the size of a tennis ball. This prevents the majority of the moss's surface from having prolonged, deadly contact with the ice. Furthermore, they form colonies consisting of dozens of these ball-shaped forms. These colonies move in unison, much like a herd of mice in slow motion.

Questions: Why do they form into a ball? Why do they move and how fast? Why do they move in a certain direction and then change their direction in unison? How do these perennial plants grow on the icy surface without freezing and dying? The bigger question for evolutionists is: How did they live for the supposed

millions of years before they learned these tricks to survive the extreme temperatures?

The truth is, glacier mice would die in the intense cold if they



could not move. Measurements show that “glacier mice” move an average of one inch (2.5 cm) per day. Such movement does not seem related to the wind or the position of the sun. Furthermore, the idea that they are simply

rolling downhill does not work since they have been shown to move on level surfaces. So, how/why do they move and then change their direction – as if on command? A solution has so far stumped the “experts.”

Rolling as a ball is a unique design that allows these plants to continue living. Also, detailed studies have revealed microscopic life forms inhabiting the inside of glacier mice. Surprisingly, internal temperatures there are a “balmy” 58.5 degrees – at least 16 degrees warmer than the glacial surface.

One “glacier mouse” contained 73 springtails, 1000 tiny, nematode round worms, and 200 tardigrades. Also called “water bears,” tardigrades can survive temperatures of almost absolute zero and as high as 350° degrees F). These microscopic creatures have also been known to move from one “glacial mouse” to another when they get temporarily trapped by some obstruction.

“Glacier mice” have been documented on glaciers in South America, Alaska, Iceland, and Svalbard (a Norwegian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean, halfway between Norway and the North Pole).

God populates His world! We can be continually filled with praise for our Creator-God, the Lord Jesus Christ, as He reveals His creative ingenuity with His mysterious plants and animals! What an AWESOME God! **AOI**



Round Worms

Springtail



Tardigrade

Director's Column

by Dave Nutting



As I write, Mary Jo and I are planning to be part of a special conference in Costa Rica!

We also plan to speak at churches, schools, and universities! The week-long conference is special for us as we're not the scheduled speakers! Instead, the main speakers are part of a bi-lingual group of Costa Ricans we have been training over the last several years. They will speak in Spanish, rather than us being translated! They are excited about creation and anxious to share in their country and in their own language. They wanted us to be there to see them launch and to help field questions. We are excited to encourage them!

Four of the speakers will do programs stemming from their own interest and expertise:

Fred – as an eye surgeon, elaborating on the design of the eye; Oscar – as a professional translator, speaking on the origin of language; Jafet – as a computer programmer, comparing computer language with DNA. Scott, who heads up the University of Costa Rica ministry outreach will speak on Dinosaurs and the evidence for the Flood.

Scott also leads an international Bible study in Spanish. When we spoke to his group on creation via Zoom, participants joined from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, etc. Costa Rica really is the crossroads to Central and South America! I hope to see the Spanish Creation Team do several presentations for Scott's group and spread the creation message throughout these Spanish speaking countries! 

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