Dr. John Sanford Lectures on Inevitable Genomic Deterioration

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Dr. John Sanford Lectures on Inevitable Genomic Deterioration

February 20, 2012

Dr. John C. Sanford, well-known scientist, Associate Professor at Cornell University, and inventor of the “gene gun”, recently gave a talk at Loma Linda University (as part of Dr. Paul Giem’s Creation lecture series) on “Genomic Entropy” or the inevitable genetic deterioration and eventual extinction of humans and pretty much all other living things within a relatively short period of time (hence the title of his talk “Down, Not Up”). In other words, random mutations build up in the gene pools of living things far far faster than natural selection can get rid of them. This generally accepted fact of modern science strongly implies, therefore, that we have devolved, not evolved, from an original ideal state. We are all heading downhill, genetically, very rapidly in fact, toward complete genetic meltdown – toward the extinction of life on this planet from the build-up of deleterious mutations alone. The only solution to this problem is the direct intervention of the Creator of life. It is for this reason that Dr. Sanford likes to call himself a “Supernaturalist”.

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For those interested, here is my own presentation on the differences between genetic and thermodynamic entropy (often confused by both creationists and mainstream scientists) and the inevitable steady genetic decline in quality described by Dr. Sanford… a concept I like to call, “Turtles All the Way Down”:

Click here to watch video
3 Responses to "Dr. John Sanford Lectures on Inevitable Genomic Deterioration"

1. Charles  Reply February 20, 2012 at 7:27 pm

   Great article!

   (Quote)

   Like or Dislike: 5  1

2. ron  Reply February 20, 2012 at 9:27 pm

   It is a little ironic that his very first text, Heb. 1:10-12 talks about God is going to change things, i.e. theistic evolution

   This guy is out of touch with reality. Information degrades? That does not correspond to reality. Lets compare the navigational data available to Christopher Columbus, to the information available to me for example. My information is infinitely better, and I am not even in a disciple that uses navigation.

   Compare our understanding of physics now compared even to the time of Einstein. Even as a non-physicist, I know things about physics that were not knowable by Einstein.

   “Sometimes your house can get better?” Well, of course it can, that is called the principle of Emergence. Have you compared modern houses to houses 200 years ago? I would take a modern one any day.

   3 genetic “errors” or changes, per cell division. How is that not at least one of many sources for the “random variations” described by Darwin?

   Why do most young people leave the church because they have been convinced of evolution? Maybe, but I but what I see, is that the young people are driven out of the church by the intolerance of conservatives.

   One generalization they taught in Medical school genetics class is that the human population is so large now, that every non-lethal mutation possible is most likely represented by someone in the population. If that is true, then the maximum possible genetic “degeneration” possible has already occurred. How is further “degeneration” possible?

   That would also imply that our genetic diversity is optimal for the current environment.

   Perhaps if new environments were to open up, e.g. we move to space, then it is possible that the new environment will make possible genetic diversity that is not viable here on earth.
Re: “Information degenerates”

That isn’t even Biblical. The whole point of the Great Controversy is that, through the Fall, and our redemption, our information about God improves. Isn’t that why Christ came to this earth, to provide us with better information about the character of God? Isn’t that why He gave us the Holy Spirit? To teach us all things?

(Quote)

@ron:

You’re confusing learned human knowledge with genetic information. They aren’t the same thing. Genetic information steadily degrades over time. It is not preserved, much less improved, by random mutations and natural selection. The genome cannot “learn” or gain new and improved information without the assistance of an outside intelligent agent of some kind coming to the rescue. Unless some intelligent agent puts the information there into the gene pool, the gene pool will steadily degrade over time until it self-destructs.

Also, while a loss of the quality of genetic information over time is a form of “change over time” and therefore “evolution”, it is really better described as devolution – a degenerating change over time that is headed for eventual genetic meltdown and extinction.

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You went to medical school and you don’t understand the detrimental nature of genetic mutations? Just because every possible mutation or combination thereof may exist in the gametes of some individual somewhere (which isn’t true), this would not mean that further detrimental mutations weren’t possible. Obviously, within a given family line additional mutations occur and build up over time – always resulting in children who are genetically inferior relative to their parents. This happens in every family line. Every single time a child is born, that child has more detrimental mutations than his/her parents had – every time.

Do you really not grasp the implications of this fact of science?
Sean Pitman
http://www.DetectingDesign.com

(Quote)

Like or Dislike: 1 0