

# Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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## Well, He's the Expert!

By Dave Nutting

How many times have you heard statements like, "Well, he or she is the expert!" or, "Are you saying that all those expert scientists are wrong about evolution?" or maybe, "That scientist has a PhD in that field, so he must be right."

We tend to put "experts" (however we define that) up on a pedestal don't we? The plain truth is that even the experts are merely human. They don't know everything – even in their own field of expertise. Experts make mistakes and often operate within a worldview which determines how they interpret the facts. Consider the following:

1. Mary Schweitzer's discovery of soft tissue in dinosaur fossils has left evolutionists scrambling. Why? Because her findings seriously question the standard evolutionary assumption that dinosaurs died out millions of years ago. After trying to publish her research, Schweitzer reported, "I had one reviewer

tell me that he didn't care what the data said, he knew what I was finding wasn't possible. I wrote back and said, 'Well, what data would convince you?' And he said, 'None.' " [Barry Yeoman, "Schweitzer's Dangerous Discovery," Discover Magazine: April 2006, p. 37]

2. After speaking with a university instructor for almost five hours one evening, Mary Jo and I realized that nothing we said was phasing this professor – even though we gave multiple evidences for creation. I finally asked him, "What would you accept as evidence for creation?" He replied, "Absolutely nothing!" I should have asked him that question five hours earlier! Clearly, his problem with creation wasn't the scientific evidence – it was an issue of worldviews.

3. In the following statement in Time Magazine, do you recognize the writer's belief that evolution can explain all things? "Sharks and dolphins for example, have comparable body shapes, though one is a fish and the other a mammal. Such disparate creations as

bats, birds and butterflies all have wings in common...[But]they had to evolve from somewhere." [Time, July 6, 1998 p.83]

4. Dr. Scott Todd said, "Even if all the data point to an intelligent designer, such an hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic." [Dr. Scott Todd, correspondence to Nature 410(6752):423 (September 30, 1999)]

In each of the above cases, a worldview which excludes the supernatural is either purposely promoted or assumed. Now remember, those are the "experts." With such a strong bias, is it possible that not only the conclusions drawn from the evidence, but the very questions being researched in the first place, will be dictated by their worldview?

Keep in mind, both evolutionists and creationists study the same rocks, the same biological systems, etc. It is usually not the evidence or data itself that is in question, but the *interpretation* of that data. That interpretation is influenced by a person's worldview. If we have a purely naturalistic, no-God, worldview, then we must force the data to fit it. If we hold to a supernatural worldview, can accept an interpretation that includes the Creator. It is important to separate fact from assumption and data from interpretation. We all have a worldview. Therefore, we must strive to deal with the evidence with as much integrity as possible, recognizing our worldview and being aware of the biases it might introduce. **AOI**

Wow! Look at this!  
It's from an aviasaurus  
– a missing link  
between dinosaurs  
and birds!



It looks strangely  
familiar. Are you  
sure it's an  
aviasaurus?



Of course!  
Reptile bones  
are more  
dense. This  
is mostly  
hollow!



Well, whatever  
you say. You're the  
scientist.



Hey! Would  
this alter  
your theory?



Why should it? I found what  
I wanted.



## God Orchestrates – Even with Woodpeckers by Dave Nutting

**D**on't you love how our God orchestrates things? One of the highlights of design that usually causes people to stop and think, "how could evolution produce that?" is the amazing woodpecker. In fact, Lanny Johnson, who now heads up our children's ministry, credits Mary Jo's presentation on the woodpecker as the key that caused him to begin questioning atheism.

After three days of teaching Costa Rican tour guides in the classroom, we did the field portion of their training. During this time, God gave



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us a remarkable opportunity to reinforce some of the concepts. Two pale-billed woodpeckers with bright red heads posed in front of our cameras for at least twenty minutes. Usually when you see a bird, you only have a moment to capture a good photo. These two woodpeckers, however, gave

us all a great show of bug catching. You could see them cock their heads (**Design:** amazing ability to hear); peck with strong beaks (**Design:** they didn't fold up like an accordion and the eyeballs didn't pop out thanks to strong eyelids). We could also

see them flick their extremely long tongues into the holes to catch the bugs (**Design:** amazing storage compartment for the long tongue that wraps around the skull). Even the guides were thrilled to have this opportunity to see them in action. To see video of those two woodpeckers, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/oscar.ariaspadilla/videos/10216818032695509/> **AOI**



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*Topics include:*

- 1. Creation or Evolution?**  
– *A Battle of Beliefs!*
- 2. Fossils and Cavemen**  
– *Great Artwork: What's the Evidence?*
- 3. So-Called Proofs of Evolution**  
– *Can you trust the textbooks?*
- 4. Grand Design or Blind Chance?**  
– *Amazing Evidence from Nature*
- 5. A Flood of Evidence**  
– *Lots of Water or Lots of Time?*
- 6. It's About Time!**  
– *Dating Methods and the Age of the Earth*
- 7. Evolution and John 3:16**  
– *How Darwinism Affects the Gospel of Christ*
- 8. The Amazing Human Body**  
– *Astounding Evidence for a Loving Creator*
- 9. Dinosaurs, Dragons, and Man**  
– *Solving the Great Dinosaur Mystery*
- 10. Archaeology, Science & Scripture**  
– *Affirming the Reliability of the Word of God*
- 11. The Bible, Science, and Earth History**  
– *God's Word and God's World Agree!*
- 12. Stand Firm!**  
– *No Need to Compromise!*

# Do You Need Your “Leftover” Lanugo?

by Brian Mariani

In the book, *Why Evolution is True*, Dr. Jerry Coyne – professor of Evolutionary Biology at the University of Chicago – considers the similarity of human embryos compared with certain animal embryos at various stages of development, and promotes it as evidence of prior evolution. He cites one feature as being particularly convincing:

“One of my favorite cases of embryological evidence for evolution is the furry human fetus. We are famously known as “naked apes” because, unlike other primates, we don’t have a thick coat of hair. But in fact, for one brief period we do – as embryos. Around the sixth month after conception, we become completely covered with a fine, downy coat of hair called lanugo. Lanugo is usually shed about a month before birth...Now, there’s no need for a human embryo to have a transitory coat of hair. After all, it’s a cozy 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit in the womb. Lanugo can be explained only as a remnant of our primate ancestry.”\*

After reading this, I was intrigued

and had to dig deeper. It appears that Dr. Coyne has made claims that overstretch the evidence. After a brief internet search, I found that “students at the University of Michigan Medical School are taught:

“The fine hair on a newborn infant is known as lanugo. It helps to anchor vernix caseosa (“cheese-like varnish”), a waxy substance that protects the fetus from maceration [or breakdown of the skin] by the amniotic fluid.” This was among many other references, including one in a textbook on human embryology, that presented essentially the same facts.

Lanugo has a real function. It holds the vernix on the skin so that the skin is protected – both during its time within the womb and during the birth process. This is completely contrary to Dr. Coyne’s claims that



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there is “no need” for it and that it is simply a “leftover” reminding us of our evolutionary heritage. If this information was accessed so easily, it raises the question of whether Dr. Coyne has looked at all the evidence.

If lanugo is really a vestige of some past “animal” stage, it seems fair to ask how lanugo (and vernix) evolved? Which came first? After all, what good is vernix without the lanugo to stick to? Conversely, in how many generations does the useless production of lanugo take place while waiting for vernix to arrive?

What are the chance mutations that had to miraculously encode for the production of both lanugo and vernix?

It seems most reasonable, then, to conclude that vernix and lanugo are small parts of a complex, interconnected system of human development that point to benevolent design rather than slow and gradual evolution. **AOI**

\*Wile, Jay L. “Coyne and Embryonic Development...Wrong AGAIN!” May 31, 2010, <http://blog.drwile.com/coyne-and-embryonic-development-wrong-again/>, accessed May 30, 2019.

# No Room for God!

by Dave Nutting

In light of the apparent bias displayed above, consider the following quote by a prominent evolutionary biologist, Richard Lewontin. This quote shows the philosophy that has trained teachers in the past and is still adhered to in universities worldwide:

“Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because

we have a *prior* commitment, a commitment to materialism...It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our *a priori* adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.”\*

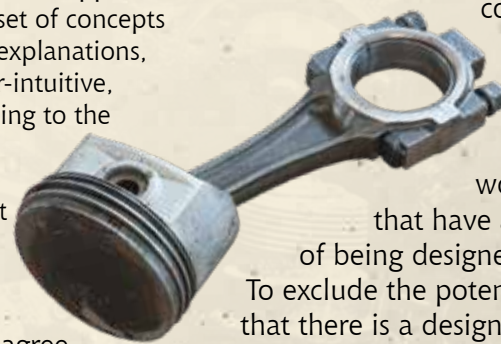
Creationists would agree that we should look for natural causes for natural phenomenon as we perform operational science. However, when we apply that to the issue of life origins, naturalism

can certainly fail us. For example, we can spend hours discussing how a gasoline engine works or the function of its specific parts, but if we prohibit people from attributing actual design features found in the engine to a designer, it leads to wrong conclusions.

As it is in the mechanical world, so it is in the living world. Features

that have all the earmarks of being designed are abundant!

To exclude the potential conclusion that there is a designer responsible for originating those features, would miss the only true explanation. **AOI**



\*Richard Lewontin, Billions and billions of demons (review of *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark* by Carl Sagan, 1997), *The New York Review*, p. 31, January 9, 1997

## Director's Column by Dave Nutting



**M**ary Jo and I recently had an excellent opportunity to train a group of enthusiastic Christian tour

guides in Costa Rica. They had a good knowledge of the flora and fauna of Costa Rica and were skilled at sharing their information with their guests. However, almost all their guide training had been from a very evolutionary perspective. This is as common in Costa Rican universities as it is in the States. We were privileged to give them a foundation in creation and brainstorm how to utilize this new knowledge in their lives and in guiding tours.

After four days with them, the guides expressed their appreciation for our coming.

One good-naturedly added, "Thanks for making my life more complicated, mixing up my mind, and causing big questions all over my brain." Another told us we had *exploded* his brain! I had to chuckle as it seems like that is exactly what Mary Jo and I felt years ago when we first encountered creation material.

So, I pass their thanks on to you, our supporters, who made it possible for us to take this

unique opportunity to train these guides. Please pray for them, as they are excited to learn more and pass on what they are learning to others! **AOI**



Check out our posts on FaceBook, Twitter, YouTube, and DiscoverCreation.org.



## Remember us through the summer...

As summer months are financially challenging for most ministries, please remember AOI throughout the summer (and remainder of this year). Together, we have a lot to do in this battle for the hearts and minds of our young people!

## Costa Rica! March 1-11, 2020



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