ISBR Creation Science Forum Notes – May 3, 2016

Video Presentation: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made By Answers in Genesis Dr. David Menton, PhD in Cell Biology, Brown University

- 1. We can ask when does life begin, but the <u>real</u> question is When does a <u>person</u> begin?
- When does an embryo become a fetus?
 7-8 weeks.
- What happens during the fetal stage? Maturation of the fundamental architecture that is in place resulting from embryo stage.
- What process does Psalm 139:13-16 describe? Knitting and weaving in a "secret place"; personhood known to God before the worlds formed.
- 5. How much <u>can</u> we ever hope to understand? See Eccles. 11:5.
- 6. When a baby girl is born, how many eggs does she have? Does she ever get any more? 400,000. No.
- How often and in what order are the eggs released? Every 28 days by alternating ovaries except if only one ovary is present, it takes over every 28 days.
- What miracle (i.e., of irreducible complexity) occurs so that scar tissues do not build up over time from egg ejection, which would ordinarily stop the process? A single scar tissue is "dissolved," allowing the process to continue month after month.
- 9. What miracle (i.e., of irreducible complexity) occurs to allow sperm and egg to move together in the oviduct and to not get stuck along the way? While muscles cause the sperm to move, trillions of "cilia" (hair-like filaments) move together in a coordinated way as a "wave" (recall baseball game) to move the egg.
- 10. What miracle (i.e., of irreducible complexity) occurs so that only one sperm fertilizes an egg? A sperm cell generates special enzymes to digest cumulus cells that protect the egg. It then touches the membrane surrounding the egg, at which point a check is performed that the sperm is of the right species. If so, the sperm goes through. When this happens, granules inside the membrane explode to form a hard shell to prevent any other sperm cells from entering. Truly a miracle.

11. How do identical twins form?

At 30 hours, the first divided cell occurs. It is held together by a thin shell but if the cells separate, get identical twins. If not, only one person develops. Note that non-identical twins occur if two eggs are fertilized rather than one.

12. What miracle (i.e., of irreducible complexity) occurs to allow the blastocyst to be implanted in the uterus?

After 4 ½ days, the blastocyst forms (hollow ball of cells). Blastocyst is "foreign" tissue to the mother but implants (after 6 days) without being rejected, where rejection of foreign cells would be expected. The fact that it is accepted demonstrates irreducible complexity. Many cells called "trophoblast" cells fuse into one cell with many nuclei and this cell implants into uterus, forming the placenta. It secretes chemical HCG (used for pregnancy tests) for implantation.

- 13. What is the "super organ?" The placenta, which does everything for the baby. At birth, all organs need to work to replace the placenta.
- 14. How many cells are in the placenta? Only <u>one</u>! It has a surface area the size of half of a basketball court, because of many folds, but only about the size of a grapefruit.
- 15. What does Wharton's jelly do? Provides the lubrication so that the umbilical cord does not kink. Not found anywhere else in the body.
- How does the baby actually get out?
 Three seams hold pelvis together, expand and special enzymes partially digest the seams to allow more room.
- 17. Why doesn't the mother die from bleeding after childbirth? Special muscle pinches off the blood on the uterus side to keep blood loss to a minimum.
- 18. What is "recapitulation" and do we undergo it? An imaginary process in which the embryo develops by goin

An imaginary process in which the embryo develops by going through stages interpreted by evolutionists as a "reminiscing" of our evolutionary history. "Gill slits" are deemed by proponents to prove that our evolutionary history included a "fish" stage but, in reality, these are neither gills nor slits, but rather a folded structure that develops into organs unrelated to respiration. The imaginary story is fueled even today by the use of fraudulent diagrams produced by the evolutionist Ernst Haeckel, presumably showing similarities between humans and other mammals at the embryo stage, but in reality were faked to make the evolutionary point.

19. What two creations are even <u>greater</u> than the creation of the universe?
 Psalm 51:5-6 – Creation of <u>new heart</u> within a sinner at birth
 John 14:2-3 – Creation of <u>new place</u> for us