

**Truth Sheet #03-2****Alan Gishlick and National Center for Science Education (NCSE)  
Misrepresent Jonathan Wells's Science Credentials**

*In 2002, NCSE Officials Kevin Padian and Alan Gishlick misrepresented Jonathan Wells's science credentials, and they still refuse to correct the record.*

**Overview:** In *The Quarterly Review of Biology* (March, 2002), National Center for Science Education (NCSE) officials Kevin Padian and Alan Gishlick published false and defamatory information about Jonathan Wells's science credentials. Although Padian and Gishlick have been presented with documentation about their false claims, they still refuse to correct the record.

- In March, 2002 *The Quarterly Review of Biology* published a review of Jonathan Wells's book *Icons of Evolution* by Kevin Padian and Alan Gishlick, both of whom are officials with the National Center for Science Education.
- In their review ("The Talented Mr. Wells"), Padian and Gishlick repeatedly compare Wells to the main character in the film "The Talented Mr. Ripley"—a habitual liar who stops at nothing to get what he wants, including murder. (Is this their idea of reasoned scientific debate?)
- In their review, Padian and Gishlick also impugn Wells's science credentials by claiming that after he obtained his Ph.D. in biology, he "followed this with a 5-year postdoctoral position... during which time he seems to have performed no experiments" and "no peer-reviewed publications resulted."
- Both claims are false. Wells did perform experiments in his post-doctoral position, and those experiments did generate peer-reviewed publications.
- Prof. Carolyn Larabell, one of Wells's colleagues at Berkeley, subsequently wrote a letter documenting that she and Wells had in fact performed experiments together and that these experiments had resulted in peer reviewed publications. This letter was forwarded to both Padian and Gishlick. [A copy of Prof. Larabell's letter is attached.]
- However, Padian and Gishlick thus far have refused to correct their false and defamatory statements about Dr. Wells.
- Why won't Padian and Gishlick correct the record? And how credible are their other attacks on Dr. Wells given their lack of regard for the truth in this case?
- Unfortunately, some Darwinists appear willing to say anything in order to destroy those with whom they disagree. This isn't good scholarship, and it's certainly not good science.



**LAWRENCE BERKELEY LABORATORY**

Department of Anatomy  
513 Parnassus, Box 0452  
San Francisco, CA 94143-0452  
Phone: (415) 514-0423  
FAX: (415) 476-4845  
e-mail: [larabel@itsa.ucsf.edu](mailto:larabel@itsa.ucsf.edu)

Life Sciences Division  
MS 6-2100  
Berkeley, CA 94720  
Phone: (510) 486-5890  
FAX: (510) 486-5664  
e-mail: [larabell@lbl.gov](mailto:larabell@lbl.gov)

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The Editors  
The Quarterly Review of Biology  
110 Life Sciences Library  
State University of New York  
Stony Brook, NY 11794-5275

Dear Editors:

A book review published in your March 2002 issue contains some factual errors that should be corrected.

In "The Talented Mr. Wells," Kevin Padian and Alan Gishlick compared Dr. Jonathan Wells to a movie character that impersonates a Princeton graduate, implying that Dr. Wells misrepresents his academic qualifications. Padian and Gishlick go on to claim that while Dr. Wells was a post-doctoral researcher at the University of California at Berkeley "he seems to have performed no experiments" and that "no peer-reviewed publications resulted from Wells' 5-year stint."

Both of these claims are false. Dr. Wells and I performed numerous experiments together in my laboratory at Berkeley while he was a post-doc. That research resulted in two peer-reviewed papers to which we contributed as co-authors [1]. Some of our work has even appeared in a textbook on developmental biology [2].

I am surprised that *The Quarterly Review of Biology* would publish something with so little regard for truthfulness and professional decorum. The false claims of Padian and Gishlick unjustly damage not only the reputation of Dr. Wells, but also - indirectly - the reputations of those who worked with him. It seems to me that a retraction is in order.

Sincerely,

Carolyn A. Larabell, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor

cc: Professor Kevin Padian  
Mr. Alan D. Gishlick

- [1] (a) "Confocal Microscopy Analysis of Living *Xenopus* Eggs and the Mechanism of Cortical Rotation," *Development* 122 (April, 1996): 1281-1289
- (b) "Microtubule-mediated organelle transport and localization of beta-catenin to the future dorsal side of *Xenopus* eggs," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 94 (February, 1997): 1224-1229
- [2] Analysis of Biological Development, Klaus Kalthoff. 2nd ed. Boston : McGraw-Hill, c2001.