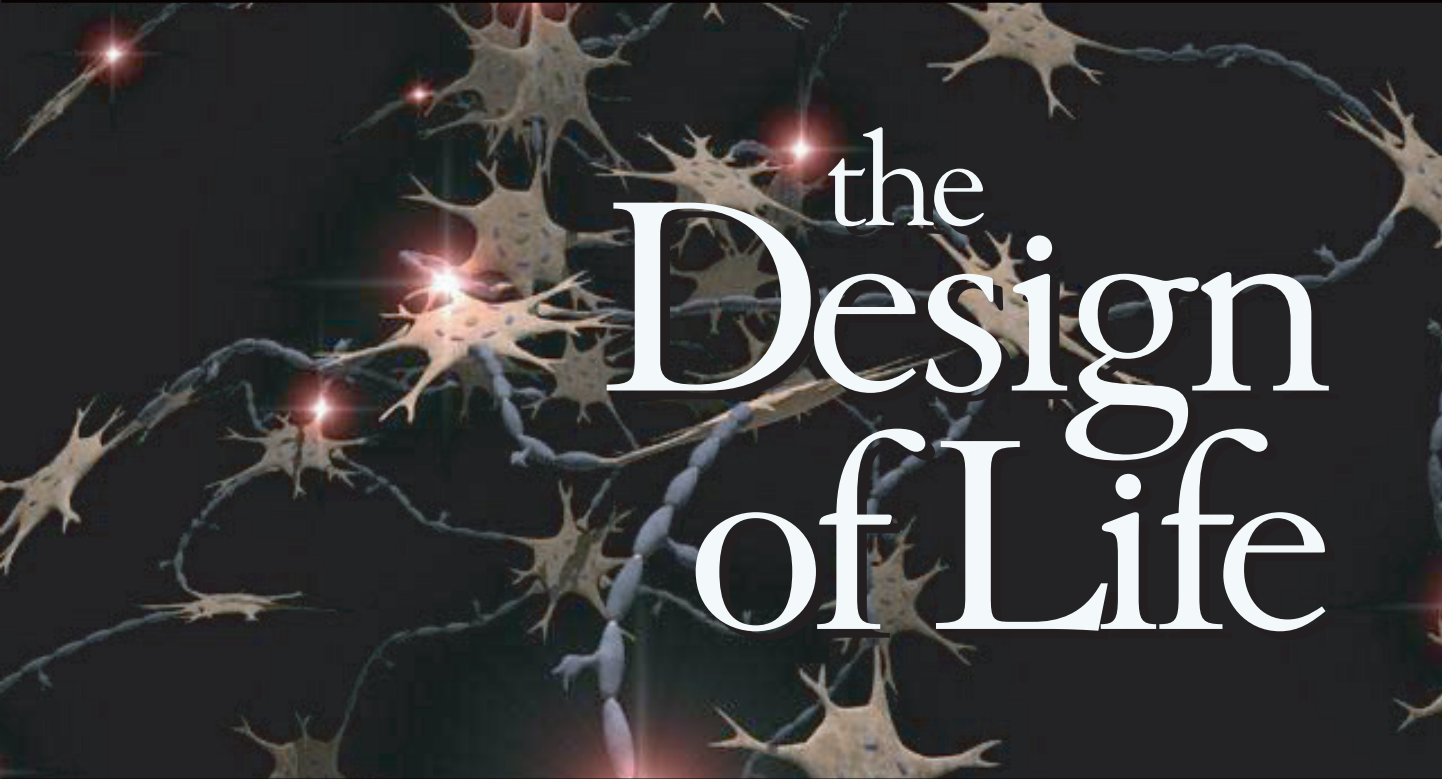


*Discovering Signs of Intelligence  
in Biological Systems*

A microscopic image of neurons, showing their complex branching structures and glowing synapses, serving as a background for the title.

# the Design of Life

*William A. Dembski | Jonathan Wells*

# the Design of Life

*Discovering Signs of Intelligence  
in Biological Systems*

“The illusion of purpose is so powerful,” writes Richard Dawkins, “that biologists themselves use the assumption of good design as a working tool.” As an ardent proponent of Darwinian evolution, Dawkins imagines that all design in biology is merely an illusion.

By contrast, this book shows that biologists use the assumption of design with success precisely because design in biology is not an illusion but real. In this book, William Dembski and Jonathan Wells present a compelling scientific case for the intelligent design of biological systems. Their laser-like analysis, clear explanations, and brilliant analogies will captivate every reader, whether trained scientist or curious layperson.

Intelligent design (ID), as the study of patterns in nature best explained by intelligence, is already accepted in many special sciences. Archeology, forensics, and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) all belong to ID in this broad sense. These sciences, however, are uncontroversial because any intelligence there could be an “evolved” intelligence.

In biology, by contrast, intelligent design is highly controversial because any intelligence there would be an “unevolved” intelligence—it would not be the product of purely material evolutionary processes. Thus, to convinced materialists like Richard Dawkins, who dogmatically accept Darwinian orthodoxy, this book comes as a shot across the bow.

Scientists who support the intelligent design of biological systems are routinely held up to ridicule, stripped of their status, denied tenure, and driven from their posts. Why? They do not agree that the universe, life, and the human mind are the accidental outworking of purely material forces.

*Continued on back flap*

*Continued from Inside front flap*

And why don't they agree? Because the evidence of science shows otherwise. This book presents that evidence clearly and cogently. Written for the general reader, it will quickly enter the national conversation. In *The Design of Life*, Dembski and Wells make the most powerful and comprehensive case to date for the intelligent design of life.

*This is the book that promoters of unintelligent evolution do NOT want you to read.*

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



*Photo courtesy of Lisabo Benaze*

William A. Dembski is a Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute's Center for Science and Culture. He has authored and edited numerous books, including the first book on intelligent design to be published by a major university press, *The Design Inference: Eliminating Chance Through Small Probabilities* (Cambridge University Press, 1998).

He has seven earned degrees, including a Ph.D. in philosophy (University of Illinois at Chicago) and a Ph.D. in mathematics (University of Chicago), and currently lectures around the globe on the topic of intelligent design. Bill and his wife, Jana, live in Central Texas with their daughter and twin boys.



Jonathan Wells is a Senior Fellow at the Discovery Institute's Center for Science and Culture. He holds two doctorates, one in molecular and cell biology from the University of California at Berkeley, the other in religious studies from Yale University. As the author of *Icons of Evolution: Why Much of What We Teach about Evolution Is Wrong* (Regnery, 2000), Wells has emerged

as one of the key figures for reforming the teaching of evolution by correcting textbook errors and by insisting that the evidence that both confirms and disconfirms Darwinism be taught. He is a widely acclaimed lecturer and debater on the topic of intelligent design. Jonathan and his wife, Lucy, live in the Seattle area.

*Jacket design by Buell Design*

*"When future intellectual historians list the books that toppled Darwin's theory, The Design of Life will be at the top."*

– Michael J. Behe, Ph.D., Prof. of Biochemistry, Lehigh University, and author of *Darwin's Black Box* and *The Edge of Evolution*

*"The Design of Life gives all interested parties in the debate over biological origins the hard scientific evidence they need to assess the true state of Darwin's theory and of the theory of intelligent design. But it does much more: it carefully fosters the attitude of open inquiry that science needs not only to thrive but also to avoid becoming the plaything of special interests."* (from the Foreword)

– William S. Harris, Ph.D., Director of Nutrition and Metabolic Diseases Research, Sanford Research, University of South Dakota

#### ACCLAIM FOR THE AUTHORS' PREVIOUS BOOKS

*"Dembski's analysis of randomness is the most sophisticated to be found in the literature, and his discussions are an important contribution to the theory of explanation, and a timely discussion of a neglected and unanticipatedly important topic."*

– William Wimsatt, University of Chicago – Re: *The Design Inference*

*"I disagree strongly with the position taken by William Dembski. But I do think that he argues strongly and that those of us who do not accept his conclusions should read his book and form our own opinions and counter-arguments. He should not be ignored."*

– Michael Ruse, editor of *Biology and Philosophy*, author of *Monad to Man* and many other books on Darwinism – Re: *No Free Lunch*

*"Wells is one of the leading lights of the emerging movement which is attempting scientifically to study evidence of intelligent design in the physical and biological realms."*

– Arthur Jones (Curriculum Consultant, UK), in *The Third Way* 24 (February 2001): 28-29

*"Wells is a leading figure in the intelligent design (ID) movement."*

– Douglas Groothuis (Philosophy Professor, USA), in *The Denver Journal* 9 (2006)

*"Dembski lays the foundations for a research project aimed at answering one of the most fundamental scientific questions of our time: what is the maximal specified complexity that can be reasonably expected to emerge (in a given time frame) with and without various design assumptions."*

– Moshe Koppel, Bar-Ilan University, Israel – Re: *No Free Lunch*

Biology / Science  
\$35.00 U.S.  
ISBN-13 978-0-9800213-0-1

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