

Memorandum

To: Colleagues

Re: September 29 Sun Dome event on "Intelligent Design"

One of the most controversial movements to arise on university campuses recently, led by scientists in a variety of disciplines, is Intelligent Design (ID). ID argues that intelligent causes are empirically detectable, and that some features of the universe, such as intricate systems and genetic databases in living cells, can more plausibly be explained by an intelligence than by nature-driven mechanisms.

Despite its origin among professors, ID has spread in popularity among the general public, often leading to serious distortions. Recently, the movement has come under heavy rhetorical fire. Dismissed by some as "stealth creationism;" others call ID "dangerous" to science. Yet, a number of researchers have admitted that complex protein systems, such as the blood-clotting cascade, do pose a formidable challenge to the classic mutation-selection mechanism of neo-Darwinism.

The University has an interesting opportunity, on Friday, September 29 at 7pm, when the Sun Dome will be the venue for "**Darwin or Design? Resolving the Conflict**," sponsored by Physicians and Surgeons for Scientific Integrity. Two of ID's eminent scientists will speak: biochemist Dr. Michael Behe, author of *Darwin's Black Box*, and embryologist Dr. Jonathan Wells, author of *Icons of Evolution*. Also, biologist Dr. Ralph Seelke of the University of Wisconsin—Superior will explain his research on Behe's ideas using mutant bacteria.

Students and faculty will be admitted for free (as will high school students and teachers) with proper ID. Students will receive a free DVD, *Unlocking the Mystery of Life*, which has aired on PBS and traces the development of ID. During Q&A, faculty will be given first opportunity. Please share this information as you see fit, especially to graduate students-- thanks! Do not hesitate to email or call any of us for more information, or visit pssiinternational.com.

Sincerely yours,