

Dialogues in Science and Faith

Talk 6

Title: Reflections on Science and Faith: connecting the origin of life and the origin of the universe

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Stephen Kwok-Wing Tsui is currently a Professor in the School of Biomedical Sciences, the Head of Division of Genomics and Bioinformatics and the Director of Hong Kong Bioinformatics Centre of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Having taught in a high school for six years, he quit his job in 1992 to study for an MPhil at CUHK. After receiving his PhD in biochemistry at CUHK, he was appointed as an Assistant Professor and then Full Professor in Biochemistry in 2004. He is a former member of the International HapMap Consortium and worked on the single nucleotide polymorphisms of human chromosome 3p. During the SARS outbreak in 2003, his team was one of the first teams to crack the complete genome of the SARS-coronavirus and reported the genome evolution during the viral spread. He is now studying the genome evolution of amphioxus, which is a well-known living

fossil. After finishing his Master of Christian Studies at the China Graduate School of Theology, he is now a part-time Master of Science student in Philosophy, Science and Religion at the University of Edinburgh.

Abstract:

The origin of life and the origin of the universe seem to be two unrelated disciplines in biology and physics, respectively. Although the universe is too big to be fully explored, and the molecular world is too complicated to be precisely comprehended, their origins may have some common characteristics because they originated from the same creator. Is there any crosstalk between the big bang theory and biological evolution? Or between speciation and galaxy formation? As a molecular biologist and a genome evolution scientist, I will present a preliminary trial to connect these two origins.