[Editor's note: The relevant text of the e-mail exchange between Dan Brooks and Bruce Gordon indicative of the fact that (1) Dan Brooks was interacting with a Discovery Institute representative regarding a Discovery Institute initiative, and (2) the conference papers and transcripts of the Q & A sessions were to be published at a later date, the reasonable implication being that extensive public discussion of the symposium content before the release of the proceedings, particularly commentary of the sort offered by Brooks aimed at undermining the symposium, would be extremely bad form and a gross breach of academic etiquette.]

From: Daniel R. Brooks [mailto:personal contact information removed]
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2006 5:50 PM
To: Bruce Gordon
Subject: Re: Coordinating schedules for the Wistar retrospective symposium

Dear Prof. Brooks,

Bruce Weber informs me that you have expressed an interest in being part of a retrospective conference revisiting issues raised by the original Wistar symposium on mathematical challenges to the neo-Darwinian theory of evolution – at least if you can find a way to fit it into your schedule. This is the primary reason we've left the conference dates wide open – our intention is to schedule it around the constraints of the participants.

The focus of the retrospective will be a re-evaluation of the neo-Darwinian approach to the origin and evolution of biological complexity in light of advances over the last forty years in protein science, genetics, evolutionary developmental biology, mathematical/computational biology, computer simulations, emergent complexity/self-organizational systems theory, bioengineering, *and intelligent design (ID) theory. I know the last is especially controversial and I thank you for being willing to engage the questions it poses, even though you reject the answers it offers. Friendly interaction and constructive criticism among different points of view can be productive to the research programs represented by each approach. As with the original symposium, it is our intention to publish proceedings from the conference, inclusive of a (grammatically edited) transcript of the comments, questions and discussion that will follow each major presentation.*

At this point, the invitees who have agreed in principle to take part in the conference are […] list omitted to protect the privacy of the individuals in question…]

We're planning to hold the conference some time between April 1st and July 31st in downtown Boston. Would you please take a look at your schedule and let me know the times during this interval that you're available, along with any scheduling preferences you might have? When I've collected this data from everyone, I'll do my best to optimize the schedule and we'll settle on the dates.

I look forward to hearing from you and, hopefully, to meeting you at the conference next year.

Best regards,

Bruce Gordon

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Bruce L. Gordon, Ph.D.
Research Director
Center for Science and Culture
Discovery Institute
1511 Third Ave., Suite 808
Seattle, WA 98101
bgordon@discovery.org

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Dear Dr. Gordon,

Many thanks for the invitation to participate in what promises to be a very interesting conference. My schedule at the moment:

April is pretty well shot: March 28- April 6 I will be in Washington DC for a NSF/NIH grant panel and some work with a colleague. Then I will be in North Dakota giving some talks April 11-16, and then we have final exams to administer and mark during the last part of April.

The only other commitment I have during the time period you mention is field work in Costa Rica for a month sometime in June/July. The exact timing of that field work is pretty flexible at the moment, but I'll need to make a firm commitment by mid-January.

So, I should be able to attend any time during May-July given enough advance notice.

Many thanks for the invitation. I look forward to it.

Sincerely,

dan brooks

Daniel R. Brooks FRSC
Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
University of Toronto
25 Harbord Street
Toronto, ON M5S 3G5
CANADA
[Personal contact information removed]

Home Page: http://www.zoo.utoronto.ca/brooks/
Parasite Biodiversity Web Site: http://www.parasitesrus.com

Never offend people with style when you can offend them with substance. – Sam Brown