

Technology and Biomedical Ethics

On February 14, at 3:00 pm, at the Baltimore-Washington Conference Center, WesleyNexus, Inc. sponsored a dialogue on Technology and Biomedical Ethics as part of the 2016 nation-wide Evolution Weekend for churches and temples.



The program was moderated by Dr. Sondra Wheeler, professor of Christian Ethics at Wesley Theological Seminary; the panelists included two United Methodist scientists, a Muslim scholar and a Hindu pediatrician. Full information on the panelists can be found below.

NOTE: Clergy who attended the event at BWCUMC beginning at 3:00 pm can be approved for 3 contact hours and .3 CEUs.

Those who attended in person benefited by a door prize drawing that included numerous books, videos, and the opportunity to join a private tour of the new Howard University Interdisciplinary Science Center in Washington DC, which includes a roof-top launch deck for weather balloons.

Persons who could not attend in person were able to email their questions to the panelists and have their questions answered in real time. The video of the entire event is available on our website to enable church groups to access the presentations and organize their own local discussions in the weeks ahead.

Comments and feedback to the organizers are always welcome: send comments to **wesleynexus@aol.com**.

Biographical Summaries

Jaydee Hanson

Policy Director, International Center for Technology Assessment (ICTA)



Jaydee Hanson is the policy director for the International Center for Technology Assessment (ICTA). At ICTA, he is responsible for the assessment of new technologies like synthetic biology, new genetic engineering techniques and human genetic research. He also works for the Center for Food Safety on the food related aspects of the same technologies. He is one of three principal authors of the "Principles for the Oversight of Synthetic Biology" adopted by more than 120 civil society and religious groups. Jaydee worked for the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church prior to coming to work for ICTA. At the GBCS, he was responsible for the board's work on environmental justice issues and genetic science issues. He also chaired the National Council of Churches committee on genetics and served on the World Council of Churches bioethics committee. He has attended every United Methodist General Conference since 1984. In 2008, his resolution calling on the United Methodist Church to repent of its past support of eugenics was adopted by the General Conference. He is a member of Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church in Arlington and chairs the Virginia Annual Conference Board of Church and Society.

Dr. Fatimah Jackson, Ph. D.

Professor of Biology and Director, W. Montague Cobb Research Laboratory,
Howard University



Fatimah L. C. Jackson, Ph.D. is currently Professor of Biology at Howard University and Director of the W. Montague Cobb Research Laboratory where she oversees research on the Cobb Collection and the New York African Burial Ground Collection. Prior to that, Dr. Jackson was a Professor at the University North Carolina - Chapel Hill in North Carolina, and Professor Emerita, University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Jackson

received her BA, MA, and PhD from Cornell. She is an expert on the bio-history of African peoples and their descendants in the transatlantic diaspora. She is widely recognized for her emphasis on interdisciplinary and integrative approaches to scientific research. In 2002, she co-founded the first human DNA bank in Africa (based at the University of Yaounde in Cameroon) with the aim of changing the way that anthropological genetic research is done on the African continent (moving away from the colonial approach), enhancing local infrastructure and expertise, and dramatically improving the potential for scientific understanding of the interactions of genotypes and environmental factors in producing specific phenotypes (by providing a local context for data analysis and interpretation). Dr. Jackson's research currently focuses on gene-environment interactions and the potential for changes in the epigenome.

Robert Morell, Ph. D.

Director, Genomics and Computational Biology Core
NIHCD



Robert J. Morell, PhD, is the Director of the Genomics and Computational Biology Core at the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, which is one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Morell has co-authored numerous papers on the genetic causes of hereditary hearing loss, auditory processing deficits and language disorders. His current research is focused on genes that mediate susceptibility to noise-induced hearing loss. Dr. Morell frequently lectures on the ethical issues arising from studying genes that cause deafness, and has taught courses in genetics at Michigan State University and the University of Maryland. He and his family are members of Salem United Methodist Church in Brookeville, Maryland.

K. N. Siva Subramanian, M.D.

Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of Neonatology
Georgetown University Medical Center



Dr. Siva Subramanian is board certified in Pediatrics and Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine.

He is currently Professor of Pediatrics & Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Chief of Neonatology in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Georgetown University Hospital. An award winning teacher, he teaches at Georgetown University Medical Center about Pediatrics, Neonatology, Bioethics, Religious Traditions in Health Care, and Complimentary & Alternative Medicine. He is the Founding Chairman of Sri Siva Vishnu Temple (1976), Founding Co-Chair of the Association of Hindu Jain Temples of Metropolitan Washington DC (1990), and Founding Member of the Council of Hindu Temples of USA (1984). He helped to unite the temples in Metropolitan Washington D.C. and guided the group to join the Interfaith Conference (IFC). In 2006 he received the IFC "Inter Faith Bridge Builder Award" given by the Vatican Ambassador and Dr. Deepak Chopra and is one of the first Board of Directors of Upakar, an organization that helps Indian-American students realize their educational goals by providing annual scholarships.

Sandra Ely Wheeler, Ph. D.

Bioethicist and Martha Ashby Carr Professor of Christian Ethics
Wesley Theological Seminary



Sandra Wheeler is the Carr Professor of Christian Ethics, at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. She works in bioethics, the history of theological ethics, and the virtue tradition as well as in biblical ethics. Her publications include Wealth as Peril and Obligation: The New Testament on Possessions (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1995), Stewards of Life: Bioethics and Pastoral Care (Abingdon, 1996), The Love We Were Made For (Jossey Bass 2007) and a number of other articles and book chapters. Current projects include a pair of books in the arena of ethics and pastoral practice, forthcoming 2016, and an interdisciplinary work at the intersection of bioethics, law and public policy regarding parental power over children.