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WONDER & ELEGANCE

by KEVIN E. VOSS

Students of health-care professions are often intimidated when they begin studies of biochemistry, anatomy and histology, the microscopic study of tissues. The complexity of biochemical processes and biological structures is awe-inspiring. I remember when I was a veterinary student looking for the first time at a slide of the cross-section of a kidney. I could not believe the incredible beauty and intricacy of the tiny tubules and vessels.

At the time, Ps. 139:13–15 appropriately expressed my thoughts: “For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.”

When pondering the human body, it is difficult to understand that many intelligent people think all that complexity came about merely by random chance. But Rom. 1:20 reads, “For [God’s] invisible attributes, namely His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” Let’s take a look at three specific examples from the human body that clearly illustrate the wonders and elegance of God’s creation.

How does the human body clearly illustrate the wonders and elegance of God’s creation?

The human eye

Dr. David Menton, a cell biologist and a well-known speaker for Answers in Genesis, describes the complexity of the human eye. The eye is actually a very sophisticated living video camera and has a series of two lenses. The first one is the cornea, the clear “window” to the eye; it focuses most of the light entering the eye. The cornea is the part that is modified during Lasik® corrective eye surgery.

Right behind the cornea is the iris, the colorful part of the eye. The iris opens in low-light conditions, and it closes in bright light. Behind the iris is a second lens made of a rubbery substance that will stretch or contract to enable a person to see nearby or

distant objects. Unfortunately, as we get older, that lens loses its elasticity, and we need glasses to read. The interior of the eye has a black coating, like a camera, to minimize glare; it is also filled with a jelly-like substance to help transmit light faithfully to the back of the eye where the retina is located.

The retina is similar to camera film. Through complex chemical processes, it is able to transform photons of light into nerve impulses that are sent to the brain for interpretation. Externally, each eyeball has three pairs of muscles to move it in three dimensions and an automatic washer-wiper system, known as eyelids and tears. Unlike your car windshield, the eye will automatically try to repair itself when damaged. If any one of these parts breaks or is not formed properly, the eye will not work as it should.

Cilia

The second example from the human body is described by Michael Behe in his book *Darwin’s Black Box* (New York: The Free Press, 1996). Some cells have cilia, which look like hair but beat like miniscule whips. Using cilia, some cells swim around and others beat in synchrony to move things, like pushing mucus up the throat for elimination. Behe states, “The function of the cilium is to be a motorized paddle. In order to achieve this function, microtubules, nexin linkers, and motor proteins all have to be ordered in precise fashion. They have to recognize each other intimately, and interact exactly. The function is not present if any of the components is missing” (p. 204). For example, if the cilia in a person’s lungs do not work properly, pneumonia likely will result.

Blood clotting

The blood-clotting system is a third example of the complexity of God’s creation. Two different pathways with numerous components are finely tuned so that blood coagulates

“The study of the genetic information in cells has shown that a single human cell contains digital information in its DNA equivalent to 2 CDs worth of storage.”

when there is an injury, but otherwise flows freely in the body to prevent a blockage that would result in a stroke. Behe describes this complex process: “The function of the blood-clotting system is as a strong, but transient barrier. The components of the system are ordered to that end. Fibrinogen, plasminogen, thrombin, protein C, Christmas factor, and the other components of the pathway together do something that none of the components can do alone. When vitamin K is unavailable or anti-he-molytic factor is missing, the system crashes” (p. 204).

More complex than the space shuttle

These are three amazing instances of the wonders and elegance of God’s creation. Each body cell is also much more complex than a space shuttle, and the study of the genetic information in cells has shown that a single human cell contains digital information in its DNA equivalent to 2 CDs worth of storage.

All the examples illustrate that these complex systems could not have come into existence gradually by random chance as Charles Darwin supposed. Many of the biological structures and biochemical processes in the human body have well-matched, interacting components, each of which is necessary for the system to function. The loss of any one of these parts renders the system useless. These systems are well designed, finely tuned and meant to come online all at once, not one piece at a time. The wonders and elegance of creation certainly do testify to the power and divinity of our Lord! 🌟

