

CONFERENCE FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AND MATH TEACHERS
February 29 & March 1, 2008

Brief biographies of the presenters and panelists:

Peter Buist is a Professor of Chemistry at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. His undergraduate and graduate degrees were obtained in the Department of Chemistry at McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada. After completing a NATO-sponsored postdoctoral fellowship at the ETH- Zurich, he returned to Canada to initiate an independent research program in bioorganic chemistry. His research group focusses on the mechanistic study of enzymatic transformations that are difficult to mimic using chemical reagents. Recently, considerable progress has been made in our understanding of the production of unsaturated lipids – a ubiquitous process that allows cells to adapt to changes in their niche environment. Ironically, this exquisite response to stressors also renders the cell vulnerable to the ravages of oxygen-generated free radicals and contributes to the formation of biological rust.

Outside the laboratory, Peter continues his relentless pursuit of perfection at the keyboard, on the golf course and in his newly acquired duties as a grandfather

Jim Sloots works as a Forensic Biologist at the Centre of Forensic Sciences in Toronto, Ontario. He graduated from McMaster University with a Master of Science degree in Biochemistry in 1993. He has been involved in hundreds of forensic criminal investigations over his career and has testified as an expert witness in courts throughout Ontario. He lives in Hamilton, with his wife, Kirsten, and they have four children.

Wytse (Vince) van Dijk

born in the Netherlands; immigrated to Canada 1953; received university education at McMaster (B.Sc. Applied Math. and Theor. Phys., 1964; Ph.D. Nuclear theory, 1968); spent two years at Theoretical Physics Department, Oxford University, Uk, as a postdoc; taught one year in the Department of Physics at Mount Allison University; taught physics and math for 11 years at Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa (1971-1982); taught physics and math at Redeemer University College from 1982 to present (emeritus 2007); Adjunct Professor in the Physics and Astronomy Department, McMaster University (1982-present); ; spent time as academic visitor at University of Alberta, McMaster University, University of Liverpool, Kyoto Sangyo University; research concentration: low energy nuclear physics and nonrelativistic quantum mechanics.

Born in Holland, **Frederika Oosterhoff** came to Canada in 1952. She studied history in both Canada and England and received her Ph.D. degree in European history from University College, London University, England (1967). After teaching for eight years at the University of Winnipeg, she moved in 1975 to Hamilton, Ontario, to assume leadership of the newly established secondary school “Guido de Brès.” Both before and after her formal retirement she worked as a part-time instructor at Covenant Teachers College in Hamilton, where during the past eight years or so she has taught a course in intellectual history. She has also given brief courses in this subject at the Theological College in Hamilton.

In her work in the area of intellectual history, Dr. Oosterhoff has increasingly focused on the role of epistemology or theory of knowledge. The analysis of the prevailing theory of knowledge (and in connection therewith of the prevailing worldview) has for several decades been central to her teaching at both the secondary and the postsecondary level. She is convinced that the acknowledgement of the subjective element in knowing is one of the most liberating developments of postmodern times, and that therefore it should be taught at our schools.

In addition to numerous articles, Dr. Oosterhoff has published *Leicester in the Netherlands, 1586-1587* (1988), *Postmodernism: A Christian Appraisal* (1999), and *Ideas Have a History: Perspectives on the Western Search for Truth* (2001).

Arnold E. Sikkema has been Associate Professor of Physics at Trinity Western University (Langley, BC, Canada) since 2005. He has authored and co-authored a number of articles on physics as well as on the interplay between the Christian faith and the natural sciences, and is currently studying the relationship between emergence and physical phase transitions from a reformational philosophical perspective. Originally from Fergus & Guelph (attending Maranatha & Emmanuel through grade 10), he obtained his B.Sc. in physics & mathematics at the University of Waterloo. He holds a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the University of British Columbia, and, after doing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Florida, taught at Dordt College for eight years. He has been an invited scholar at the University of California's Institute for Theoretical Physics and at the Templeton/Oxford Summer Seminars on Science and Christianity organized by the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, and is regularly invited to speak on modern physics in Christian perspective in history, psychology, and religious-studies classes.

Arnold and his wife Valerie (nee Kegel, a horticulturist who grew up at Dufferin Garden Centre in Orangeville and attended DACS) have three musically- and academically-inclined children aged 10 to 15.