

# Ten Questions for Creationist Policy Makers

John R. Jungck  
Department of Biology  
Beloit College

How will you prepare for vast epidemics in which none of our current antibiotics work because of the evolution of resistance to antibiotics in bacterial populations?

Who will you expect to pay for more and more pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers on our farms? Will intensive monoculture be allowed to completely destroy the diversity in intercropping, permaculture and perennial polyculture?

How will selective breeding of domestic plants and animals be performed scientifically, if quantitative and population genetics do not inform the research?

When the next energy crisis hits, will petroleum geologists be encouraged to use fossil dating of geological strata and identification of ancient biota?

Are you prepared for a "greenhouse effect" or other global problems associated with destruction of tropical forests and extinction of many, many species within them?

Sanitation, nutrition and vaccination have been the three primary contributors to modern health. Will researchers who investigate AIDS and other infectious diseases be allowed to use the "clonal selection theory" to continue to guide their research in immunology?

Biotechnology promises many new products such as hormones, neurotransmitters, non-addictive analgesics, enzymes, diagnostic probes, monoclonal antibodies, etc. The most difficult part of most cloning research is usually to select for microorganisms that possess particular characters of interest; will this selectionist process be evolutionarily informed?

Personal hygiene involves the use of many personal products which strongly affect the evolutionary ecology of the flora living on your skin, teeth, hair, and mucous membranes. Susceptibility to many diseases is coordinated with the relationships among populations of microorganisms which may be eliminated by too frequent use of strong soaps, mouth washes, etc. What theories will inform sensible hygiene?

If mutation as an evolutionary force is denied, are you prepared to deal with the increased deaths due to cancer and birth defects associated with "Love Canal", "Bhopal", "Three Mile Island", "Chernobyl", "Nagasaki", and "Hiroshima"?

Will this country allow the segregation of haves and have nots in education and power of knowledge to continue? Those students from upper middle class suburban high schools and elite private academies will have the background in evolutionary biology, geology and paleontology, astronomy, history, archaeology, etc. to get jobs in industry, government and academia while those inner city and rural school students whose local school boards enforce a creationist education will not even be considered.