

CREATIO CONTINUA:  
The Doctrine of Creation and  
Biomedical Technologies;  
The Foundations of Dialogue

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Postmodern biomedical innovation has placed our society in the position of being “technological giants but ethical infants”.<sup>1</sup> The circumstances are perplexing and multitudinous. We have an almost infinite capacity to uncover new knowledge, but only limited wisdom to apply this knowledge. This new biology is replete with unfamiliar problems for which traditional ethical principles and historical moral standards simply are ineffective. Somehow we have to narrow the gap between the power of science to discover new knowledge and our prescriptions to apply this knowledge wisely.<sup>2</sup> How can the really hard ethical questions be answered?

Clearly established scientific insights exist which suggest that modern science is not inhospitable to a metaphysical discernment of meaning and purpose lying behind cosmic history.<sup>3</sup> Indeed, John Polkinghorne maintains that science is possible and cosmic history has been fruitful because the world we inhabit is a creation.<sup>4</sup> This concept of creation is contained within and protected by the Christian doctrine of creation. In fact, the Christian doctrine of creation has been a common theme running through the development of the scientific philosophy attached to biomedical innovation. The teleology of the Christian universe, this doctrine of creation, the doctrine that all things in nature were made to fulfill a plan or design, allowed scientists through the development of science to communicate with one another. Therefore, science is considered a natural outgrowth of the doctrine of creation in that it provides the regularity and intelligibility of the natural world which makes scientific inquiry possible. Science arises naturally from a Christian worldview. This worldview is of universal value because it is true. There is an ethic and there is a view of humanity which makes science possible.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> George H. Kiefer, “Whither Bioethics” (paper presented at the U.S. Student Pugwash Conference, University of California, San Diego, June 19-26, 1979).

<sup>2</sup> Kiefer, “Whither Bioethics.”

<sup>3</sup> John Polkinghorne, *Beyond Science. The Wider Human Context* (University of Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), 79.

<sup>4</sup> Polkinghorne, *Beyond Science*, 92.

<sup>5</sup> Paul Ramsey, *Fabricated Man, the Ethics of Genetic Control* (Yale University: Yale University Press, 1970), 18.

