



Lawrence M. Krauss

*Director, ASU Origins Project*

*Foundation Professor*

*School of Earth and Space Exploration and Physics Department*

*Co-Director, Cosmology Initiative and Beyond Center*

February 19, 2010

Jeffrey Epstein  
Florida Science Foundation  
Ste 1404, 250 South Australian Avenue  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401-5016

Dear Jeffrey:

Thanks very much for your important input into our Origins of Human Uniqueness conference, and for your conversations with me and Martin Nowak about the possibility of applying techniques from physics, notably minimization and action integrals to calculations in evolutionary dynamics. As you know, issues of the origin and evolution of life are central to the goals of the Origins Project at ASU, which aims to explore questions ranging from the origin of the universe, to the origins of consciousness and culture. As a part of this we are organizing several workshops in which we are bringing in the most active and brightest researchers from a wide variety of areas to explore forefront questions in science. We feel your participation in these workshops is vital to their success.

I am writing with two specific requests. First we would very much like you to serve on our Origins External Scientific Advisory Board. As you can see from the names listed on following page, the board currently contains 5 Nobel Laureates, The President of the Royal Society, as well as several important science entrepreneurs. The list has been carefully chosen to provide the necessary expertise to help guide us as we build our program, and we feel you could play an essential role. Second, we feel your physical presence at the Institute here will assist us tremendously as we build our programs. Over the next year we will be running an Origins of Life program, including a workshop exploring current ideas regarding how inorganic chemistry became biochemistry, and how the templates that later would form the basis of an RNA world, and then a DNA world arose. Participants will include Nobel Laureate Sidney Altman of Yale University. In addition, we have asked Martin Nowak to help us coordinate a workshop in Evolutionary Dynamics. Both Martin and Sidney have indicated their desire to have you involved directly in the program. Given the transdisciplinary nature of our initiative we want to get people to think outside the box. This involves integrating ideas from interested individuals whose expertise may be outside the specific areas of study. Your provocative and thoughtful suggestions have already stimulated activity, and with a physical presence at the discussions, you would be able to have the kind of impact that we all feel could be so important to the success of the initiative. If your schedule allows it, we would like to request that you consider a regular series of visits timed to coincide with the workshops, as well as several during the planning phases.

We hope you will be able to accept both of our invitations, and we look forward to welcoming you to Tempe and the Origins Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Krauss".

Lawrence M. Krauss

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Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA
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