

## Editorial

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You will notice that this is a rather slim issue of *Science and Christian Belief*, in contrast to the previous two issues which were larger than usual. I'm sure that this is a temporary blip in the stochastic process of manuscript submission and there will be many more papers in the coming months; some of which are already in the pipeline.

The lower number of papers in this issue is not because nothing is happening in science. Indeed, quite the opposite! In the past few days and months we have heard much about the discovery of gravitational waves and what this means for our understanding of the universe. Gene modification studies with the CRISPR-Cas9 system have led to the granting of a license in the UK to modify the genomes of early human embryos. Super-computers are getting more powerful and are now set to play 'Go', which I am told is a far more complex game than chess. Infection with the Zika virus is causing alarm in South America, with particular concern for pregnant women, with questions of how to control the *Aedes* mosquito, this coming so soon after the Ebola outbreak in parts of West Africa. The pace of scientific discovery and the ongoing need for its application is breath-taking and it feels hard to keep abreast of the many new discoveries, let alone to be able to give informed opinions on their uses, risks and benefits.

With such rapid advances in human knowledge there is therefore an even greater need for well-thought out Christian voices to be heard. There is a risk that people will assume that Christians either have nothing to say or that we are inevitably opposed to any kind of scientific or technological progress, standing against all advances in human knowledge and understanding. As regular readers of *Science and Christian Belief* will know, this is far from the truth, but we do need people who can write (and speak) on these subjects from a Christian perspective, giving honour, credit and thanks for minds that are able to fathom deep mysteries, while urging caution when appropriate. There have been several great advances in science since the journal started in 1989, and many of these have been examined in these pages. We now look for writers to offer Christian insights into these new fascinating yet challenging areas of science and its application.

The rate at which books concerning science and belief are being published continues unabated. There are many more than each of us can possibly read and we struggle to keep up with what is new. I know that many readers are grateful for the good number of knowledgeable book reviews that we are able to publish, which give helpful advice on which are the best books to buy and to invest precious time in reading. This issue is no exception and we are pleased to include sixteen book reviews, thanks to Rodney Holder's oversight.

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