

Near-Death Newsletter

October 31, 2006 Volume 03 No. 10



The Near-Death Newsletter is a free monthly newsletter from www.near-death.com. The mission of this newsletter is to provide the latest news on the subject of near-death experiences and related phenomena and to promote IANDS (International Association for Near-Death Studies), near-death researchers, experiencers, events, and multimedia resources. Although this newsletter is not affiliated with IANDS, the author of this newsletter, **Kevin Williams**, is a member of IANDS and is dedicated to the IANDS mission. IANDS is the premier organization for near-death research. Membership gives you access to their prestigious *Journal of Near-Death Studies* and *Vital Signs* newsletters. You can join IANDS at their website.

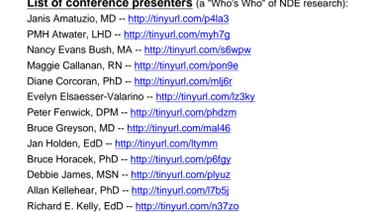
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(1) News from P.M.H. Atwater

Latest Headlines From P.M.H.:



(October 31, 2006) **P.M.H. Atwater**

- Dr. Atwater is back on top promoting her latest book, *Beyond the Light: IANDS Celebrates the New Light* and the *Coming of the Fifth World*. There will be a delay while she looks over her accumulated e-mail. But she will try to get up to her correspondence. She is available for consultations, readings, talks, workshops, or her Prayer Chaplaincy service.

Latest Headlines From P.M.H.:

- (a) 2006 IANDS annual conference: <http://www.iands.org/nk25>
- (b) "We Live Forever" on A.R.E.: Press-top ten books: <http://tinyurl.com/vvot>
- (c) Indigo children: FAE or fiction?: <http://tinyurl.com/6vxe>
- (d) DVD of video of NDE presenters: <http://tinyurl.com/8vz7z>
- (e) When polarities merge: <http://tinyurl.com/awvly>
- (f) Special announcement from the Energy Alliance about the new children: <http://tinyurl.com/ufmuf>
- (g) White buffalo - impossible but true! <http://tinyurl.com/z59k4>

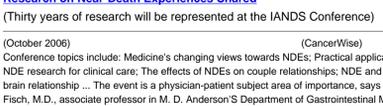
-- Atwater's NDE News Website: <http://www.cinemind.com/atwater/news/>
-- Atwater's NDE News Blog: <http://atwaterendless.blogspot.com/>
-- Atwater's Blogger Profile: <http://www.blogger.com/profile/25661403>
-- Atwater's Q & A Blog: <http://pmhatwater.blogspot.com/>

Book Freebies From P.M.H.:

- Beyond the Indigo Children "Extras"
- The Challenge of September 11
- Dr. P.M.H. Atwater: Her Contributions to the Understanding of Life and Death

(2) News from IANDS

(October 1, 2006) **IANDS NEWS**



IANDS mission is to build global understanding of near-death and near-death-like experiences through research, education, and support. IANDS goals are (1) to encourage thoughtful exploration of all facets of near-death and near-death-like experiences; (2) to provide reliable information about near-death and near-death-like experiences; (3) to serve as a contact point and community for people with particular interest in near-death and near-death-like experiences.

2006 IANDS Conference in Houston, TX on Oct. 25-28: <http://tinyurl.com/2006>

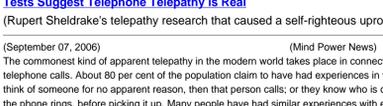
-- Segment 1 schedule (Oct. 25-26): <http://tinyurl.com/3h33>
-- Segment 2 schedule (Oct. 27-28): <http://tinyurl.com/fro2>

-- List of conference presenters (a "Who's Who" of NDE research):
Janis Amatoz, PhD -- <http://tinyurl.com/4p43>
PMH Atwater, LHD -- <http://tinyurl.com/yhm7g>
Nancy Evans Bush, MA -- <http://tinyurl.com/s6wpu>
Maggie Callahan, RN -- <http://tinyurl.com/pj9ne>
Diane Corcoran, PhD -- <http://tinyurl.com/mlj8r>
Evelyn Elisasser-Valarino -- <http://tinyurl.com/2k3ky>
Peter Fenwick, DPM -- <http://tinyurl.com/phz4m>
Bruce Greyson, MD -- <http://tinyurl.com/mak46>
Jan Horacek, EdD -- <http://tinyurl.com/plvny>
John Holden, PhD -- <http://tinyurl.com/6p6fy>
Debbie James, MSN -- <http://tinyurl.com/pljyz>
Allan Kellehear, PhD -- <http://tinyurl.com/7j65j>
Richard E. Kelly, EdD -- <http://tinyurl.com/3vz7z>
Patricia M. Kircher, MD -- <http://tinyurl.com/vh9vz>
Jeffrey Long, MD -- <http://tinyurl.com/m75gd>
Jason MacLurg, MD -- <http://tinyurl.com/ufv46>
Raymond Masuman, MD -- <http://tinyurl.com/pv95b>
Raymond Moody, PhD -- <http://tinyurl.com/pv95b>
Russell Noyes, MD -- <http://tinyurl.com/pjy5j>
San Pisapia, PhD -- <http://tinyurl.com/pjy5j>
Alexander Panatier, Jr., MD -- <http://tinyurl.com/vm7g>
Penny Sartor, PhD -- <http://tinyurl.com/tqubv>
Kimberly C. Sharp, MSW -- <http://tinyurl.com/gm9aj>
Cherie Satterland, PhD -- <http://tinyurl.com/tdk4c>
Scott Taylor, EdD -- <http://tinyurl.com/n6f87>
Pim van Lommel, MD -- <http://tinyurl.com/n9k4c>
Ken R. Vincent, EdD -- <http://tinyurl.com/n9k4c>
Deborah Wilkinson, EdD -- <http://tinyurl.com/vm4ml>

IANDS news links:
(a) IANDS news home: <http://www.iands.org/news/>
(b) Latest news: <http://www.iands.org/news/latest/>
(c) Research news: <http://www.iands.org/news/research/>
(d) Education news: <http://www.iands.org/news/education/>
(e) Conference news: <http://www.iands.org/news/conference/>
(f) IANDS press kit: <http://tinyurl.com/qjfr4>

IANDS multimedia links:
(a) IANDS online store: <http://iands.org/shoppingcart/>
(b) Subscribe to IANDS mailing list: <http://tinyurl.com/q9lga>
(c) IANDS multimedia downloads: <http://tinyurl.com/7zpm>
(d) CD-ROMs and audio from IANDS: <http://tinyurl.com/kv24j>
(e) Free PDF eBooks from IANDS: <http://iands.org/yourresources.html>

(3) NDEs in the News



Articles of NDEs in the News - Read all the major news archives concerning the NDE and related phenomena from 1995 to current. This is a permanent archive to ensure that these news articles will always be available on the internet. The Near-Death News section of this Near-Death Newsletter will soon be available in syndication so stay tuned!

Near-Death Experience, Consciousness, and the Brain

(A new concept about the continuity of our consciousness based on recent scientific research on near-death experience in survivors of cardiac arrest)

(June 2006) (Ingenta Connect)

Although there is no relationship between NDEs and religious belief prior to the experience, there are strong associations between depth of NDE and religious change after the experience... NDEs do not necessarily promote any one particular religious or spiritual tradition over others, but they do foster general spiritual growth both in the experiencers themselves and in their society at large. -- <http://tinyurl.com/6t9y>

--- REFERENCE: Bibliography of Bruce Greyson's publications: <http://tinyurl.com/m53ha>

--- ARTICLE: Bibliography of Division of Perceptual Studies publications: <http://tinyurl.com/6wzt>

--- WEBSITE: Bruce Greyson's web page: <http://tinyurl.com/yh34d>

--- SCHOLAR: Google Scholar listing of Bruce Greyson: <http://tinyurl.com/qcvpy>

Psychiatrists Use Near-Death Experiences to Help Survivors

(Chinese doctors use NDEs from one of history's deadliest earthquakes)

(July 25, 2006) (People's Daily Online)

Chinese psychiatrists are using the near-death experiences (NDE) of victims of the mammoth earthquake in Tangshan 30 years ago to help people through similar traumas today. They believe the experiences of survivors of the quake, which claimed 240,000 lives and razed the city of 1.3 million, are helpful for disaster relief efforts and for those dealing with failed suicide attempts. Feng Zhinying, a psychiatrist who has been singled in NDE research for nearly 20 years, has begun, with his colleagues, to put their research findings into clinical use. -- <http://tinyurl.com/6tm4>

--- RELATED: "Glimpse of the afterlife" - "Chinese NDE earthquake" <http://tinyurl.com/8d9f7>

--- REFERENCE: Wikipedia listing for "1976 Tangshan earthquake" <http://tinyurl.com/73agt>

--- ARTICLE: "NDE research on Tangshan survivors" <http://tinyurl.com/gv5fr>

--- ARTICLE: Tangshan: The deadliest earthquake? <http://tinyurl.com/3oxpd>

--- SCHOLAR: "Community attitudes toward NDEs: A Chinese study" <http://tinyurl.com/3q3bd>

Research on Near-Death Experiences Shared

(Thirty years of research will be represented at the IANDS Conference)

(October 2006) (CancerWise)

Research topics include: Medicine's changing views on near-death NDEs; Practical applications of NDE research for clinical care; The effects of NDEs on couple relationships; NDE and the mind-brain relationship... The event is a physician-patient subject area of importance, says Michael Fisch, M.D., associate professor in M.D. Anderson's Department of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology who is helping coordinate the event. "There is a lot of worry about death that happens in cancer care," Fisch says. "Near-death experiences happen to some of our patients. Some patients are toward the end of life, and some are destined to be long-term cancer survivors, but the fact is that patients may have a near-death experience or have hopes (or fears) around this topic." <http://tinyurl.com/utgg>

--- REFERENCE: IUT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Houston: <http://tinyurl.com/g9ewj>

--- BROCHURE: IANDS conference brochure (PDF): <http://tinyurl.com/ppg2>

--- WEBSITE: IANDS Conference information page: <http://tinyurl.com/k3uac>

--- MAP: M.D. Anderson Center map and driving directions: <http://www.tmcmaps.info/>

Early Near-Death Experiences

(An interesting article by Michael Prescott)

(September 20, 2006) (Michael Prescott's Blog)

'As I've noted elsewhere, I'm interested in NDEs - particularly those that were reported before 1975 when Raymond Moody's "Life After Life" popularized the concept. A good source of such accounts is Robert Crookall's 1964 book "More Astral Projections" (out of print, hard to find), which contains a section on out-of-body experiences reported by "people who nearly died." Crookall lists 25 cases of this type, most of which he borrows similarities to what are now called NDEs. Here is a much-abridged sample ... <http://tinyurl.com/6xbz>

--- REFERENCE: "Who was Robert Crookall?" <http://tinyurl.com/pjy7z>

--- ARTICLE: "NDEs in the Past" <http://tinyurl.com/6k5se>

--- BLOG: Michael Prescott's Blog: <http://michaelprescott.typepad.com/>

--- BOOKS: All Titles by Michael Prescott: <http://tinyurl.com/345fr>

--- BOOKS: All Titles by Robert Crookall: <http://tinyurl.com/24z2m>

Theories of Telepathy and Afterlife Cause Uproar at Top Science Forum

(Two modern-day "Big Bangs" cause an uproar with the "High Priests")

(September 26, 2006) (Times Online)

Scientists [Dr. Rupert Sheldrake and Peter Fenwick, DPM] claiming to have evidence of life after death and the powers of telepathy triggered a furious row at Britain's premier science festival yesterday. Organisers of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (the BA) were accused of lending credibility to maverick theories on the paranormal by allowing the highly controversial research to be aired unchanged. Leading members of the science establishment criticised the BA's decision to showcase papers purporting to demonstrate telepathy and the survival of human consciousness after someone dies. They said that such ideas, which are widely rejected by experts, had no place in the festival without challenge from sceptics. <http://tinyurl.com/hvny>

--- WEBSITE: The official site of Rupert Sheldrake: <http://www.sheldrake.org/>

--- ARTICLE: Rupert Sheldrake's rebuttal against his critics: <http://tinyurl.com/7z2zh>

--- BOOKS: All Titles by Rupert Sheldrake: <http://tinyurl.com/kv24j>

--- REFERENCE: Peter Fenwick biography and lectures: <http://tinyurl.com/8vz7z>

--- LECTURE: Peter Fenwick's outstanding NDE resource: <http://tinyurl.com/8vz7z>

--- BOOKS: All Titles by Peter Fenwick: <http://tinyurl.com/26t6v>

Tests Suggest Telepathy Research is Real

(Rupert Sheldrake's telepathy research that caused a self-righteous uproar)

(September 07, 2006) (Mind Power News)

The commonest kind of apparent telepathy in the modern world takes place in connection with telephone calls. About 20 per cent of the population claim to have had experiences in which they think of someone for no apparent reason, then that person calls, or they know who is calling when the phone rings, before picking it up. Many people have had similar experiences with e-mails. <http://tinyurl.com/6jkbh>

An example of email synchronicity from Kevin Williams: Recently, when I found out that my Dad has cancer, I decided to bring over him a "care package" containing a variety of goodies including a copy of the best NDE book I have ever read - Ken Ring's "Lessons From The Light." So I put Ken's book in the box and decided to check my email before I went to visit my Dad. One of the emails I downloaded was one by Ken Ring himself letting me know that an updated edition of "Lessons" has just been released. This was one of the few greatest synchronicities I have ever had. First of all, it had been well over 2 years since I corresponded with Ken - so it was a pleasant surprise to hear from him. Secondly, the synchronicity of the experience felt like a "kiss from heaven" that I had chosen wisely in selecting the correct NDE book to help prepare my Dad for his death which it was only a few years away.

--- RESEARCH: Rupert Sheldrake's research overview: <http://tinyurl.com/kx9zg>

--- ARTICLE: "Michael Shermar - D Skoptics Play Fair" <http://tinyurl.com/345fr>

--- PORTAL: Rupert Sheldrake's online experiments portal: <http://tinyurl.com/yh5f>

--- PARTIAL: Rupert Sheldrake's scientific papers: <http://tinyurl.com/g2zpq>

Of Death, Dying and the Possibility of a Hereafter

(An article by a renowned cardiologist of how both he and a dying patient had a spiritual experience which convinced him that death is a transition, not an ending.)

(March 1, 2006) (Buzzle.com)

Father More was simultaneously dying, and moving into another realm, an inner journey that opened him to a oneness with the divine, and an absolute peace he had never before imagined. His prayers had been answered. At the moment of his passing, Father More's last words were, "I'm coming home to God." Father More's of his death opened the way to the possibilities that when people walked in, instead of staring blankly, Cooper had already observed that when he began to explore realities that transcended those we know through science and technology. As the physicist Werner Heisenberg wrote, "Scientific concepts cover only a very limited part of reality, and the part that has not yet been understood is infinite." -- <http://tinyurl.com/6mcna>

--- WEBSITE: The official site of Dr. Richard Helfant: <http://www.richardhelfant.org/>

--- ARTICLES: Writings by Dr. Richard Helfant: <http://tinyurl.com/6k5se>

--- BOOK: "Courageous Confrontations: Lives Transformed by Life-Threatening Illness" - <http://tinyurl.com/6wzt>

"Lie Back and Think of Jesus"

(Fay Weldon, a famous atheist and feminist, has a NDE and is transformed)

(September 5, 2006) (Guardian Unlimited)

Human hands glow, but fingernails release the most light, according to a recent study that found all parts of the hand emit detectable levels of light. The findings support prior research that suggested most living things, including plants, release light. Since disease and illness appear to affect the strength and pattern of the glow, the discovery might lead to less-invasive ways of diagnosing patients. Mitsuo Hiramatsu, a scientist at the Central Research Laboratory at Hamamatsu Photonics in Japan, who led the research, told Discovery News that the hands are not the only parts of the body that shed light by releasing photons, or tiny, energized increments of light. <http://tinyurl.com/9633a>

--- REFERENCE: Wikipedia on "Biophoton" <http://tinyurl.com/7n2pd>

--- ARTICLE: Presentation of Dr. Mitsuo Hiramatsu - <http://tinyurl.com/6em6f>

--- WEBSITE: International Institute of Biophysics - <http://www.iibfsciences.de/>

--- SCHOLAR: "Ultra-weak photon emission from human hand: Influence of temperature and oxygen concentration on emission" - <http://tinyurl.com/gfzgw>

Scientists Turn Dead Cells into Live Tissue

(Breakthrough could mean new treatments for diseases of the brain)

(September 24, 2006) (The Observer)

Scientists working at a British laboratory have achieved one of the most controversial breakthroughs ever made in the field of stem cell science by taking cells from dead embryos and turning them into living tissue. The technique could mean using cells to create treatments for patients suffering from diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, the researchers say. The scientists claim this is the first time they have succeeded in creating a fully formed stem cell circumventing opposition to stem cells experiments. "This should get round opposition to stem cell science because living cells will no longer need to be used in all experiments," said Professor Miroslav Stojkovic, the researcher who carried out the experiments at the Centre for Stem Cell Biology at Newcastle University last year. -- <http://tinyurl.com/7fzgc>

--- RELATED: "The ethics of genes used to make new stem cells" - <http://tinyurl.com/s66m>

--- WEBSITE: "Dead embryos can be used to make new stem cells" - <http://tinyurl.com/m6paxu>

--- WEBSITE: The Centre for Stem Cell Biology and Developmental Genetics: <http://tinyurl.com/6vly>

"Resurrecting" Bacteria's Secret Revealed

(Could this be the molecular basis of resurrection?)

(September 27, 2006) (National Geographic News)

Death is the ultimate fate for most bacteria blasted by huge doses of radiation or parched by a severe lack of water. The genetic material irreversibly splinters into hundreds of pieces, dooming the organisms as surely as Humpty Dumpty. But a few bacteria can "resurrect" themselves by quickly piecing their DNA back together - a strange ability that has mystified biologists for decades. Now researchers have figured out how one species of these phoenix-like bacteria can rise from the ashes. A group led by Miroslav Radman, a molecular geneticist at University of Rene Descartes in Paris, France, announces its findings today on the Web site of the journal Nature. Radman's group studied a bacteria called Deinococcus radiodurans, which survives in sunbaked deserts and rock surfaces. -- <http://tinyurl.com/ok6kr>

--- REFERENCE: Wikipedia on "Deinococcus Radiodurans" - <http://tinyurl.com/7yn7z>

--- REFERENCE: An excellent overview of NDEs - <http://tinyurl.com/pv2xv>

--- RELATED: "Miracle Microbes Thrive at Earth's Extremes" - <http://tinyurl.com/pgkld>

--- RELATED: "Cheating DNA Death: How an Extremophile Repairs Shattered Chromosomes" - <http://tinyurl.com/s4zch>

--- WEBSITE: The International Society for Extremophiles - <http://extremophiles.org/>

Woman in Vegetative State Communicated Through Her Thoughts

(A new way to detect awareness in the vegetative state)

(September 8, 2006) (Medical News Today)

A woman who had suffered severe brain injury in a car accident and was in a vegetative state managed to communicate just by using her thoughts, say scientists from the UK and Belgium. They even visualized her brain and paying terms when she verbally "ingested" to do so by the scientists. The breakthrough has been hailed by many scientists and ethical experts because it could circumvent opposition to stem cells experiments. "This should get round opposition to stem cell science because living cells will no longer need to be used in all experiments," said Professor Miroslav Stojkovic, the researcher who carried out the experiments at the Centre for Stem Cell Biology at Newcastle University last year. -- <http://tinyurl.com/hb5h>

--- REFERENCE: "Detecting Awareness in the Vegetative State" - <http://tinyurl.com/6axm>

--- WEBSITE: NINDS Transcendent Brain Injury Information page: <http://tinyurl.com/m752>

--- SCHOLAR: "Is She Conscious?" <http://tinyurl.com/5uar>

--- EBOOK: "The Vegetative State: Medical Facts, Ethical and Legal" - <http://tinyurl.com/d4rbs>

Is Your Brain Really Necessary?

(A student without a brain earns a degree in mathematics)

(September 2006) (AlternativeScience.com)

The student in question was academically bright, had a reported IQ of 126 and was expected to graduate. When he was examined by CA1-scan, however, Lorber discovered that he had virtually no brain at all. Instead of two hemispheres filling the cranial cavity, some 4.5 centimetres deep, the student had less than 1 millimetre of cerebral tissue covering the top of his spinal column. The student was suffering from hydrocephalus, the condition in which the cerebrospinal fluid, instead of circulating around the brain and entering the bloodstream, becomes dammed up inside. Normally, the condition is fatal in the first months of childhood. Even when an individual survives he or she is usually seriously handicapped. Somehow, though, the Sheffield student had lived a perfectly normal life and went on to gain an honourous degree in mathematics. <http://tinyurl.com/6us3k>

--- WEBSITE: The Alternative Science website - <http://www.alternativescience.com/>

--- ONLINE BOOK: "Shufflebrain: The Quest of Holographic Mind" - <http://tinyurl.com/hcund>

--- RELATED: "Running On Empty" - <http://tinyurl.com/hmm9g>

--- RELATED: "Brain, Mind, and Altered States of Consciousness" - <http://tinyurl.com/ea7bv>

--- RELATED: "The Top 10 Mysteries of the Mind" - <http://tinyurl.com/mjy2tu>

Out-of-Body Experiences Traced to Brain Zaps

(And the cause of OBEs is not relevant to whether OBEs are transcendent)

(October 3, 2006) (Chicago Tribune)

They are eerie sensations, more common than one might think: A man describes feeling a shadowy figure standing behind him, then turning around to find no one there. A woman feels herself leaving her body and floating in space, looking down on her corporeal self. Such experiences often are attributed by those who have them to paranormal forces. But according to recent work by neuroscientists, delivering mild electric current to specific spots in the brain can induce these sensations. For example, a zap to a brain region called the angular gyrus resulted in a sensation that she was hanging from the ceiling, looking down at her body. In other women, electrical current delivered to the angular gyrus produced an uncanny feeling that someone was behind her, intent on interfering with her actions. <http://tinyurl.com/xtgpt>

--- ARTICLE: "People See Verbal Experiences While Out-of-Body" - <http://tinyurl.com/pwz9b>

--- ARTICLES: Essays on Astral Projection - <http://tinyurl.com/kk3kz>

--- WEBSITE: Out-of-Body Experience Research Foundation - <http://www.oberf.org/>

--- SCHOLAR: "Dissociation in People Who Have Near-Death Experiences: Out of Their Bodies or Out of Their Minds?" - [http://tinyurl.com/](http://tinyurl.com/2h2q4)