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The National Academy of Sciences and Institute of Medicine recently released *Science, Evolution, and Creationism*, a book designed to give the public a comprehensive and up-to-date picture of the current scientific understanding of evolution and its importance in the science classroom. In a January 4, 2008, press release, National Academy of Sciences President Ralph Cicerone was quoted as [saying](#) [4], "*Science, Evolution, and Creationism* provides the public with coherent explanations and concrete examples of the science of evolution. The study of evolution remains one of the most active, robust, and useful fields in science."

As its title suggests, the book also addresses creationism in its various forms, including young-earth, old-earth, and "intelligent design" creationism, and concludes, "No scientific evidence supports these viewpoints." Observing that "[c]reationism in its various forms is not the same thing as belief in God because ... many believers as well as many mainstream religious groups accept the findings of science, including evolution," *Science, Evolution, and Creationism* also quotes both leading scientists of faith (including Francis Collins and NCSE Supporter Kenneth R. Miller) and religious leaders and groups (including the late Pope John Paul II and the over 10,000 signatories of the [Clergy Letter Project](#) [5]), who see no conflict between their faith and science.

*Science, Evolution, and Creationism* takes a decidedly firm line on the necessity of including evolution in science education, warning, "Many teachers are under considerable pressure from policy makers, school administrators, parents, and students to downplay or eliminate the teaching of evolution. As a result, many U.S. students lack access to information and ideas that are both integral to modern science and essential for making informed, evidence-based decisions about their own lives and our collective future. ... Given the importance of science in all aspects of modern life, the science curriculum should not be undermined with nonscientific material."

The third edition of a publication first issued in 1984 (as *Science and Creationism*), *Science, Evolution, and Creationism* is twice as long as the second edition, issued in 1999. The current book was written by a committee including a number of NCSE Supporters and members and chaired by NCSE Supporter Francisco Ayala, the Donald Bren Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of California, Irvine, and the author most recently of *Darwin's Gift* [6] (Joseph Henry Press, 2007). Copies of *Science, Evolution, and Creationism* are available from the National Academies Press (call 202-334-3313 or 1-800-624-6242; or visit [the National Academies Press's website](#) [7]), for \$12.95; a PDF version is also available for free download at [the National Academies Press's website](#) [7].

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