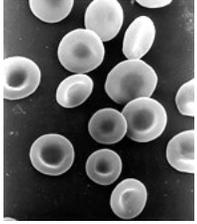


# CREATION MOMENTS

*Proclaiming Evidence for Truth*

## THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

### Blood – Another Masterpiece of Design



*Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. – 1 Peter 1:2*

Have you ever wondered why blood cells look like red discs that are indented toward the middle? Furthermore, is this distinctive shape an element of design or is it the product of millions of years of mutations and natural selection?

Creationist and biologist Alan Gillen makes a strong case for design in his aptly named book *Body by Design*. According to Dr. Gillen, scientists used IBM mainframe computers to determine the ideal shape for a cell whose job is transporting oxygen to cells and taking away waste products. They discovered that the red blood cell's bioconcave shape allows for maximum surface contact of oxygen-carrying hemoglobin with the cells. This facilitates the two-way exchange of blood gases.

He also points out that this shape gives red blood cells flexibility and elasticity, so they can be folded when flowing through narrow blood capillaries. Plus, they have smooth, rounded edges that reduce the amount of friction as they scurry through veins, arteries and capillaries.

Now, what if evolution's first attempt produced red blood cells that were shaped like cubes and had thin, sharp edges? What if the cells didn't have their distinctive bioconcave shape? Obviously, blood cells had to be designed just right the first time or else the living organism would have died.

Ref: Alan L. Gillen, *Body by Design*, p. 76 (Master Books, Seventh Printing, 2011). Photo: Scanning electron micrograph of red blood cells. (PD)

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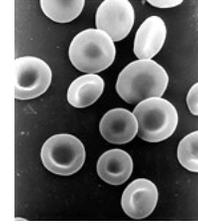
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