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**The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences**

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## News Release

August 1, 2005

For immediate release

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### New Four-Year Grant Awarded to CTNS

Berkeley, CA ---- The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS) has been awarded a \$2.5 million grant by the John Templeton Foundation <[www.templeton.org/](http://www.templeton.org/)> for a four-year program to promote new research in the ways science, in partnership with religion, points towards the nature and meaning of ultimate reality. *Science and the Quest for Ultimate Reality: Science and Theology Advanced Research Series* (STARS) will recruit outstanding scientists of all ages, with a particular focus on younger researchers, to partner with seasoned philosophers and religious scholars to pursue ground-breaking research funded by CTNS on a highly competitive basis. The project is designed primarily to recruit scientists who are relatively new to interdisciplinary research and yet who are keenly interested in the broader implications of science for ultimate reality. STARS will build upon, yet extend beyond CTNS' seven year international program, *Science and the Spiritual Quest* (SSQ) <[www.ssq.net/](http://www.ssq.net/)>, in which over 100 distinguished scientists from all the major world religions lectured in public conferences from Bangalore to Tokyo, describing the many ways in which science serves for them as a path or a pointer to spirituality. As the "New Quest", STARS will advance beyond the accomplishments of SSQ by funding advanced research proposals from a select number of newly formed interdisciplinary research teams through a series of highly competitive grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$120,000.

To encourage the formation of these teams, STARS will hold conferences in January of 2007 to discuss cutting edge research in science. The conferences will provide an opportunity and an inspiration for the formation of closely-knit interdisciplinary research teams to explore the implications of natural science for the nature and meaning of ultimate reality. Initial grants of up to \$20,000 will be awarded on a highly competitive basis to support the most promising research teams as they work together to apply for five grants of \$80,000 with the possibility of two being renewed at \$120,000.

STARS will be led by Principal Investigator Dr. Robert John Russell, Program Director Dr. Dennis W. Hair, and Program Administrator, Anne E. Badè. Detailed information on this exciting program will be available on-line this fall at [www.ctns.org/](http://www.ctns.org/).

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CTNS is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to promote the creative mutual interaction between theology and the natural sciences through research, teaching, and public service. It focuses primarily on the relation between contemporary physics, cosmology, technology, environmental studies, evolutionary and molecular biology and Christian theology and ethics while engaging in multi-religious reflection as well. Located in Berkeley, California, CTNS is non-profit corporation affiliated with the Graduate Theological Union. The GTU, a consortium of nine schools of theology and five research centers and affiliates, offers the Ph.D., Th.D., and M.A. degrees. Established in 1981, CTNS has conducted major programs such as the *Science and Religion Course Program*, the *Science and the Spiritual Quest Program* <[www.ssq.net](http://www.ssq.net)>, and the CTNS /Vatican Observatory Research Collaboration.

For more information on CTNS and the STARS program, visit the website: [www.ctns.org/](http://www.ctns.org/), email: [newquest@ctns.org](mailto:newquest@ctns.org) or phone 510-848-2350.

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