

Throckmorton, Warren

From: Collins, Francis (NIH/NHGRI) [V] [4rancis@mail.nih.gov]
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2008 3:33 PM
To: David Roberts
Cc: Throckmorton, Warren
Subject: RE: one last request

Hello David and Warren,

I am happy to confirm that these e-mail communications from May 2007 and yesterday are indeed authentic, and represent my best effort at summarizing what we know and what we don't know about genetic factors in male homosexuality. I appreciate your continuing efforts to correct misstatements that seem to be circulating on the internet.

Regards, Francis Collins

-----Original Message-----

From: David Roberts [mailto:david@exgaywatch.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2008 10:27 AM
To: Collins, Francis (NIH/NHGRI) [V]
Cc: Warren Throckmorton
Subject: Re: one last request

Dr. Collins,

Since the principle issue at this point is verification of your comments to us, both in May 2007 and now, I have cc'd this last email to a professor friend who, while he could be in some respects considered on the "other side" of the socio-political isle than me, he is interested in where the science leads as well. He also has some credentials in this area, and he teaches at a Christian college in PA, Warren Throckmorton.

Your confirmation to him that our exchange from last year is accurate and true as posted, and equally your recent comments bellow, would enable us to use him as a third party point of verification when needed. While you have been most gracious in taking the time to respond at all, this would allow us to avoid imposing on you for such in the future.

So if you wouldn't mind once more, just hit "reply all" and confirm to Dr. Throckmorton that you have spoken with us both in May 2007 and again yesterday, and that we have been faithful in reproducing your thoughts on the matter of the genetic origins of homosexuality. We will both take care of informing the various other people of their errors in the hope that they will correct them, or at least do further research through your own work.

Thank you again, good luck in your new ventures and take care,

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David Roberts
Editor
[Ex-Gay Watch](#)

On Sat, 2008-09-20 at 15:21 -0400, Collins, Francis (NIH/NHGRI) [V] wrote:
Dear David,

Thanks for the heads up. I am truly sorry to hear that there is a continuing effort by Mr. Quinlan and others to distort this information about genetic factors in homosexuality. The facts have not changed since the e-mail message I sent you on May 20, 2007.

Regards, Francis Collins

-----Original Message-----

From: Berger, Monica (NIH/NHGRI) [E]
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2008 7:36 PM
To: Collins, Francis (NIH/NHGRI) [V]
Subject: FW: Please route to Dr. Collins - Thank you

----- Forwarded Message

From: David Roberts <david@exgaywatch.com>
Date: Fri, 19 Sep 2008 19:33:28 -0400
To: <mjanossy@mail.nih.gov>
Subject: Please route to Dr. Collins - Thank you

Dear Dr. Collins,

Below you will find a brief exchange between us from May 2007. I had come to you with concerns about the way an organization called NARTH was distorting some quotes from your book to lend credence to their own claims that homosexuality is completely learned and such people can completely rid themselves of those desires if they so wish.

You were very kind to take the time to clarify and give me permission to post your words to our blog. This was done in an attempt to keep a repeated lie from appearing to be truth by sheer quantity of references (this has happened with the rather dismal work of a man named Paul Cameron).

I believe your clarification did help in that regard, but some have still ignored it, choosing to believe the distortion instead of the clarification. So that you might see an example of how this happens, see below a link to a current post on our blog about a man who is so determined to put words in your mouth that he has called our attempt to correct the record with your own words to us "fraudulent" -- he believes we are simply lying.

<http://tinyurl.com/3nmg6b>

I realize your time is at a premium, and I'm not asking you to do anything. I only wanted you to be aware of this, and perhaps to expect a few emails from people who wish to verify the accuracy of your quote to us from last year. For reference, I am also including a link to that original post.

<http://tinyurl.com/4dv7vr>

And finally, here is the raw video of the man who is currently distorting your words. The reference in question comes about 30 seconds into the video.

<http://onewsnw.com/Blog/Default.aspx?id=249872>

Thank you again for your wonderful work and witness.

PS: Since it appears you have stepped down from your previous position, would you mind confirming receipt of this so I know it made it to you? Thank you.

--

David Roberts

Editor
Ex-Gay Watch <<http://www.exgaywatch.com>>

On Mon, 2007-05-21 at 03:14 -0400, Collins, Francis (NIH/NHGRI) [E] wrote:

You are welcome to quote my message in your blog.
Warm regards, Francis

-----Original Message-----

From: David Roberts [<mailto:david@exgaywatch.com>]
Sent: Sunday, May 20, 2007 7:51 PM
To: Collins, Francis (NIH/NHGRI) [E]
Subject: RE: Could you clarify?

Dear Dr. Collins,

Thank you for your thoughtful reply - it does help to clarify your meaning. The only time I ever see that old "gay gene" report from the 90s offered, it is by organizations such as NARTH who set it up as a Red Herring to then argue against - we certainly don't give any weight to it ourselves.

Do you mind if I quote you in context for an article on our blog? I think it only fair that others understand and are perhaps encouraged to read your book for themselves, rather than take their impression of your words from NARTH. I'll be happy to send you a link to the published post.

Thank you again for your work and your witness.

David Roberts

On Sun, 2007-05-20 at 18:42 -0400, Collins, Francis (NIH/NHGRI) [E] wrote:

> Dear David,

> Thanks for your message. It troubles me greatly to learn that anything I have written would cause anguish for you or others who are seeking answers to the basis of homosexuality. The words quoted by NARTH all come from the Appendix to my book "The Language of God" (pp. 260-263), but have been juxtaposed in a way that suggests a somewhat different conclusion than I intended. I would urge anyone who is concerned about the meaning to refer back to the original text.

> The evidence we have at present strongly supports the proposition that there are hereditary factors in male homosexuality -- the observation that an identical twin of a male homosexual has approximately a 20% likelihood of also being gay points to this conclusion, since that is 10 times the population incidence. But the fact that the answer is not 100% also suggests that other factors besides DNA must be involved. That certainly doesn't imply, however, that those other undefined factors are inherently alterable.

> Your note indicated that your real interest is in the truth. And this is about all that we really know. No one has yet identified an actual gene that contributes to the hereditary component (the reports about a gene on the X chromosome from the 1990s have not held

up), but it is likely that such genes will be found in the next few years.

> I hope this response is of some help.

> Francis Collins

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: David Roberts [<mailto:david@exgaywatch.com>]

> Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2007 3:39 PM

> To: Collins, Francis (NIH/NHGRI) [E]

> Subject: Could you clarify?

>

>

> Dear Dr. Collins,

>

> Thank you for your time, I will try to be brief however this is a matter

> of some importance to many lives and I hope you will take it seriously.

> I am the editor of a blog made up of contributing authors who do their

> best to keep track of the activities of what is generally called the

> "ex-gay" movement. We are not rabid extremists or even necessarily to

> the left, but we do all have personal experience with the pain that can

> be inflicted by those whose agenda overshadows their morality and the

> facts (something that is tragic no matter what ones point of view). I

> will confess that most of us are also Believers, and we respect the

> right of any individual to attempt to live their lives in a way which is

> congruent with their faith as they understand it. Our desire is to help

> people understand the facts before moving forward.

>

> I must also confess a certain admiration for you. I've seen and read of

> your faith, and the way in which you embrace the truth found through the

> scientific method as further evidence of the Glory of God and not

> something in competition with the Word. I maintain a similar view, and

> it has helped this former atheist come closer to God without the need to

> leave reason behind. I am concerned however by some things I have read

> about your comments on homosexuality and heredity, and perhaps more so

> by the way these comments are sometimes being used.

>

> For example, the following excerpt:

>

> <http://www.narth.com/docs/nothardwired.html>

>

> Whatever we may find to be true of the genetic component of

> homosexuality, or any other element of the human condition, I do not

> fear the truth - it is what it is. However, and this is the point I

> would like you to clarify - your words are being offered by such

> organizations to support their stand that those of us who have been

> attracted to the same sex romantically and physically since as long as

> we can remember, can reverse this attraction with a high degree of

> success (some even saying 100%) or that it can be prevented (heaping

> guilt on parents for whatever they must have done wrong). This is a

> conclusion which I do not think is supported by the facts - quite the

> contrary.

>

> Could you explain if this is what you meant to communicate? If not,
> could you take the time to explain better what you did mean? We are not
> seeking some sort of genetic excuse for not being able to make ourselves
> attracted to the opposite sex - so many of us have already been down
> that road, often for decades. We know the difficulty in such a task.
> As with your own work, we seek to uncover the truth. As a man with
> hefty credentials, your words on subjects like this carry probably even
> more weight than you know. This implies an equal level of
> responsibility for those words spoken as an authority. If you meant to
> express what NARTH is saying through your mouth, then I would beg you to
> reconsider this position. If you did not, I would again beg you to
> clarify, hopefully in way which can be shared.
>
> I look forward to your reply with great anticipation. Thank you for your
> incredible work, and your time.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> David Roberts
> Editor
> Ex-Gay Watch

----- End of Forwarded Message