

# Liberty University Research Week 2018

## *Department of Biology and Chemistry*

**Title:** The Mystery of the Cone Head Mummies: Human or Aliens?

**Program of Study:** Forensic Science

**Presentation Type:** Poster

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**Category:** Basic

### **Abstract:**

Between 1880-1947, several hundred mummified bodies were excavated from burial sites in the Paracas peninsula of Peru. These mummies had deformed skulls that are believed by historians to have been deliberately induced using boards and weights. The practice of cranial binding, observed in other “new world” societies, produced skulls that were elongated into tall conical shapes [1]. However, since the discovery of these bodies, also known as the Cone Head mummies, many anthropologists and archaeologists have been unable to agree on the genetic origins suggesting that the mummies’ cranial deformation points to another human species, an unknown hominid species, or an alien [2]. The goal of this project was to investigate the genetic profiles and hair structure from tissue and hair samples derived from the skulls of Cone Head mummies. Tissue and hair samples were obtained from Dr. Dennis Swift (Creation Science Ministries of Oregon, Beaverton, OR) and subjected to comparative hair analysis and DNA typing using Short Tandem Repeat (STR) analysis. Comparative

microscopic hair analysis of samples from the Cone Head mummies and humans of varying ethnicities revealed very similar hair structure and characteristics associated with human hair. Following DNA extraction, amplification using polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and separation of the amplified STR alleles (Genetic Analyzer 3500 and GlobalFiler Software) using capillary electrophoresis the results demonstrated allelic profiles or responses similar and consistent to those DNA profiles observed in humans. Moreover, no foreign DNA or unusual patterns/profiles were observed in any of the samples tested. Although these results need to be replicated and more analysis undertaken the data demonstrate that the Cone Head mummies (or the Paracas civilization) are humans and not an unknown hominid species or alien.

**Christian Worldview Integration:**

Since the excavation of the Paracas mummies scientists, anthropologists and archaeologists have argued that these remains support the existence of another human species, maybe the Nephilim from the Old Testament, an unknown hominid species, or an alien. In Genesis 6:4 (ESV), when corruption on earth was increasing, the Nephilim (a reference to mighty men that were renown) are “introduced” as the sons of God that took the daughters of man as their wives. “The Nephilim were on the earth those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were old, the men of renown.” In Numbers 13:33 (NIV), Moses writes “And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.” Both scriptures suggest that Nephilim were tall and mighty men. However, the Paracas mummies were small and short in stature generally not

much taller than 4–5 feet suggesting the Cone Head mummies were not the Nephilim. In Genesis 1:21-28 (ESV) God created all living creatures according to their kind and then God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created them. The concept that the Paracas mummies are aliens and not humans is counter to the Scriptures and not supported by Christians. The implications of this research to our culture are vital. Such data/information provides additional support to Creationist Theory and the Christian worldview.

**References:**

1. D. R. Bronfin, Misshapen Heads in Babies: Position or Pathology, *Ochsner J.* Oct: 3 (4): 191-199. (2001).
2. L. Pye, *The starchild skull - genetic enigma or human-alien hybrid.* Bell Lap Books, Inc. (2007).