

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 27, 2006

New Frontiers in Research on Infinity will gather scientists, philosophers and theologians to explore the concept of infinity

Berkeley, CA--April 2006.

The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences (CTNS) has received a \$191,000 grant from the John Templeton Foundation for a year-long project to explore the concept of infinity in a unique, interdisciplinary context. The centerpiece will be an international conference, "New Frontiers in Research on Infinity," that CTNS will convene in August 19-20, 2006 in the Republic of San Marino. Here mathematicians such as Edward Nelson, of Princeton University, and Hugh Woodin, of the University of California, Berkeley, will be interacting with physicists such as Marco Bersanelli, of the University of Milan, and philosophers and theologians such as Wolfgang Aichtner, of the University of Geissen, Germany and Mark Johnston of Princeton University. Dr. Robert John Russell, Principal Investigator for the project, embodies this type of interdisciplinary research. With advanced degrees in both theology and physics, he founded The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences in 1981 and now teaches courses in science and religion at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA.

The "New Frontiers in Research on Infinity" conference includes two distinct agendas. On August 19th, participants will discuss papers they are writing on infinity which will be turned into a full-length scholarly publication. August 20th will be dedicated to exploring ways in which the John Templeton Foundation could launch a major, multi-year funding initiative to sponsor ground-breaking research projects on infinity in an interdisciplinary perspective.

CTNS gratefully acknowledges conceptual input as well as financial support from the John Templeton Foundation www.templeton.org and Euresis.

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The Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, CTNS is an international 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 also engaging in multi-religious reflection. Located in Berkeley, California, CTNS is 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.

For more information, visit www.ctns.org or call 510-848-8152.

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