

## **AUTHOR'S REPLY**

Dear Sir,

The series on medical history in the Singapore Medical Journal is meant to showcase the individuals themselves as much as their contributions to medical science. Darwin, published in the July 2005 issue, is no exception<sup>(1)</sup>. It was not meant to pit science against religion, and we certainly did not mean to portray science as right, and the bible, wrong. Indeed, thoughtful theologians regularly remind us that it is entirely possible to reconcile the teachings of science, including the evolution theory, with biblical dogmas such as the existence of God and creation.

I agree that any discrepancy between geological and biblical estimates of the earth's age may be more apparent than real. I am also told by knowledgeable scholars that it was a human miscalculation, based on incorrect premises, that placed the biblical estimate at 6,000 years. Apparently, nowhere in the bible is the age of the earth expressed in this way. Contrariwise, whether the earth is precisely 4,000 million years old as claimed by some geologists continues to be debated – as all scientific assertions ought to be. However, this should not detract from geology being accorded the respect of a bona fide earth science.

We are grateful to Dr Loke for his interest in our article, and will use his comments to reinvigorate our alertness to reader sensitivity, especially in the religious realm.

Yours sincerely,

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## **REFERENCE**

1. Tan SY, Luu VT. Charles Darwin (1809-1882): history's most famous naturalist. Singapore Med J 2005; 46:320-1.