

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## SCIENCE CHANNEL TAPS PAULA ZAHN TO LEAD SPECIAL, EXPERT DISCUSSION CREATING SYNTHETIC LIFE: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

-- Open Forum With Ethicists and Science Experts Premieres Thursday, June 3, at 9 PM (ET) --

-- Emmy Award<sup>®</sup> Winning Actor Michael Emerson to Narrate Science Channel's **CREATING SYNTHETIC LIFE** Premiering Thursday, June 3, at 8 PM (ET) --

(Silver Spring, Md.) – Science Channel has tapped Emmy<sup>®</sup> Award winning journalist Paula Zahn to host **CREATING SYNTHETIC LIFE: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**, premiering **Thursday**, **June 3, 2010, at 9 PM (ET)**. This exclusive one-hour special further explores important ethical, scientific and societal questions surrounding Dr. Craig Venter's recent announcement that he and his team have created the first living, self-replicating synthetic cell.

What exactly does Dr. Venter's announcement mean for the human race? Where exactly will it take us? Could the technology be used for negative purposes? What are the ethical concerns we must weigh before using it? In **YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**, Zahn, a respected 30-year news veteran and current host of Investigation Discovery's "On the Case with Paula Zahn," will help guide the discussion by probing intriguing topics and asking provocative questions of leading experts. Zahn will also take viewer questions for the discussion. Viewers can log on through May 26 to http://sciencechannel.com/ to submit their questions.

Joining the discussion will be Dr. Venter; journalist and author Michael Specter; futurist, inventor and author Raymond Kurzweil; George Church, professor of genetics and director of the Center for Computational Genetics at Harvard University; Fr. Nicanor Pier Giorgio Austriaco, assistant professor of biology and an instructor of theology at Providence College; Dr. Lee Silver, professor in the Princeton University Department of Molecular Biology and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs; Jonathan B. Tucker, senior fellow at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies; and Robert Klitzman, associate professor of clinical psychiatry at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Mailman School of Public Health.

Prior to CREATING SYNTHETIC LIFE: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED is the exclusive Science Channel world premiere of CREATING SYNTHETIC LIFE at 8 PM (ET). Narrated by Emmy<sup>®</sup> Award winning actor and "Lost" alumnus Michael Emerson, the one-hour special embeds viewers in the failures, successes and breakthrough moments of Dr. Venter, Nobel Laureate Hamilton Smith, Dr. Clyde Hutchison and JCVI researchers as they endeavored to create a synthetic single-celled organism.

The world premiere of **CREATING SYNTHETIC LIFE** will air on Science Channel Thursday, June 3 at 8 PM (ET), and will roll-out internationally across the U.K., Europe, Latin America, Asia and Australia in the coming months.

CREATING SYNTHETIC LIFE is produced by Compass Light Productions. Rocky Collins and David Conover are executive producers for Compass Light Productions. Wyatt Channell is executive producer for Science Channel. Bernadette McDaid is the vice president of production and executive producer for Science Channel. CREATING SYNTHETIC LIFE: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED is produced by CBS Eye Too Productions. Stewart Kasloff is executive producer for CBS Eye Too Productions. Brooke Runnette is executive producer for Science Channel. Deborah Adler Myers is general manager and executive vice president of programming for Science Channel.

## **About Science Channel**

Science Channel, a division of Discovery Communications, Inc. (Nasdaq: DISCA, DISCB, DISCK), is broadcast 24 hours a day and seven days a week to more than 66 million U.S. homes and simulcast on Science Channel HD. We immerse viewers in the incredible possibilities of science, from string theory and futuristic cities to accidental discoveries and outrageous inventions. We take things apart, peer inside and put things together in new and unexpected ways. We celebrate the trials, errors and brinking moments that change our lives forever. To find out more, go to sciencechannel.com.

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