

The Near-Death Experience in Christian Perspective Symposium Speakers

Dr. Jeffrey Long, M.D.

Dr. Long is a physician practicing the medical specialty of radiation oncology, and is a researcher in the field of near-death experience (NDE).



He is author of the New York Times bestseller *Evidence of the Afterlife: **The Science of Near-Death Experiences*** and has co-authored a number of scholarly articles about NDEs, as well as a book chapter on Characteristics of Western Near-Death Experiencers in *The Handbook of Near-Death Experience: Thirty Years of Investigation* (2009, Praeger).

In 1998 he established the non-profit Near Death Experience Research Foundation (NDERF, nderf.org). NDERF has over 300,000 pages read monthly, with more than 3,000 NDEs posted. Portions of the NDERF website have been translated into 22 languages, making it a major global resource for understanding NDEs.

Among Dr. Long's scores of media presentations on NDEs, he has appeared on NBC's *Today Show*, ABC's *World News Tonight with Peter Jennings*, FOX's *The O'Reilly Factor*, *The Learning Channel*, *Discovery Health*, and *History Channel*.

Professor Michael N. Marsh, M.D., D.Phil.

Professor Marsh's background is in clinical medicine together with a major academic component in biomedical research. He has published more than 200 research papers and abstracts, as well as two books and a monograph within the field of intestinal immunopathology.



Professor Marsh received his D.Phil in Theology from Oxford in 2006 – his doctoral thesis was “Out-of-Body and Near-Death Experiences: Brain-State Phenomena or Glimpses of Immortality?” In 2010, he published *Out-of-Body & Near-Death Experiences: Brain-state Phenomena or Glimpses of Immortality?* [Oxford Theology Monograph Series].

Since receiving his doctorate, he has published two papers about the near-death experience: “Concerning Alister Hardy and his ‘Biology of God’: Do near-death experiences advance his cause?” *De Numine* (Lampeter); and “The phenomenology of the near-death experience (NDE): An encounter with Eternity – or simply an aberrant brain-state?” *Modern Believing*.



Professor Janice Miner Holden, Ed.D.

Since 1988, Dr. Holden has been on faculty at the University of North Texas (UNT), Denton where she currently serves as professor of counseling and chair of the Department of Counseling and Higher Education.

Her primary specialization is the transpersonal perspective in counseling, addressing the counseling implications of experiences that transcend the usual limits of space and/or time. In particular, she has researched near-death experiences (NDEs), with over 30 journal articles and chapters as well as numerous presentations on the topic.

Since 2000, Dr. Holden has served six years on the Board of Directors of the International Association for Near-Death Studies (IANDS); authored *Near-Death Experiences: Index to the Periodical Literature through 2005*, an online research tool; and authored *Near-Death Experiences, Part 1: Recognizing a Pleasurable Near-Death Experience*, an online continuing education. She also lead-edited *The Handbook of Near-Death Experience: Thirty Years of Investigation* (2009, Praeger); and serves currently as editor of the *Journal of Near-Death Studies*.