

### Research on Student Learning

Several studies have investigated the spontaneous development of student conceptions about the human organism. A general pattern that emerged from this research is that until the age of 7, students have little knowledge about the human organism. By age 9 or 10, there is a marked increase in their knowledge. [1]

Many U.S. adults who accept the idea that plants and animals have evolved reject the idea that humans have evolved. This appears to be related both to their religious beliefs and to their lack of understanding of the molecular basis of heredity. [2]

### References

- [1] Carey, S. (1985). *Conceptual change in childhood*.
- [2] Miller, J.D., Scott, E.C., Okamoto, S. (2006). Public acceptance of evolution. *Science*, 313, 765-766.