Consilience

“In science and history, consilience refers to the principle that evidence from independent, unrelated sources can "converge" on strong conclusions. That is, when multiple sources of evidence are in agreement, the conclusion can be very strong even when none of the individual sources of evidence is significantly so on its own”. [Wikipedia]
The 38th Society for Scientific Exploration (SSE) conference was held from June 5-8 in Broomfield Colorado. The theme was "consilience" whereby evidence from diverse and independent sources can be used as valid support for scientific theories. For example, on the one hand in quantum physics a conscious observer seems to be needed to trigger the so-called quantum collapse, on the other hand in current medical science applying advanced life-saving interventions the growing numbers of validated near-death experiences can no longer be ignored. So, in both very different domains, the idea of non-matter-dependent consciousness is confirmed.

Within three days 34 presentations of approx. 20 minutes were held, whether or not supported with PowerPoint slides, offering also the opportunity for three to five questioners after every presentation, and 17 poster presentations set up in the hall in front of the conference hall, for which one and a half hours had been set aside on day 2. Personally, I thought that part was the most accessible because you could come quickly in direct contact with the poster's creator.

To be honest, in my opinion there were some poster presentations actually deserving a full presentation and vice versa there were presentations that could have been better appointed as poster presentations.

The following list is an attempt to list the various topics. The order therein does not indicate how much time was spent on each topic. There was usually also a large overlap between the subjects:

1. Consilience, merging entrepreneurship, science and traditions.
2. The importance of anomalies and why they should not be ignored.

3. Healing and research.


5. UFOs

6. Psi

7. Mind-matter interaction.

8. Bioenergy.

9. Medical handling of the mystery.

10. Energy work.


12. Religion and spirituality.

13. Transcendental experiences.

14. Extraordinary experiences from and with children.

15. Experiences with REGs (Random Event Generators).

16. Water as an information carrier.

17. Astrology.

18. Quantum physics (and psi).

19. Mind-matter experiments.

20. The survival of consciousness after death.

What struck me was that when mind-matter interaction was discussed, dualism was usually offered as a preferred model. I.e. there is physical matter and non-physical mind that interact in one way or another. The idea that physical matter is only an illusion projected into (and through) the mind did not come up - except in my own poster presentation.

A small anthology of the topics that appealed to me the most, based on the topic itself and / or the method of presentation:
Is there any Energy in “Energy Healing”? - Bill Bengston

Bill Bengston conducts research into healing at a distance by testing among others on mice. The mice are injected with tumor cells, split into a treatment and a control group, after which the treatment group receives "cure" with a protocol developed by Bengston. See: http://spiritgate.com/people-ask-william-bengston-hands-healing/

His findings:

• The cure needs a "dose". Nothing happens below that dose. The "dose" can be divided over several sessions.
• The effect does not decrease with distance.
• The more aggressive the cancer, the faster the cure.
• Group effect. The more mice in an experiment, the faster they are collectively cured.
• Only during the treatment and in the case of cancer do REGs (Random Event Generators) that are set up in the vicinity show deviations from the standard output.
• The brain of the healer and the person treated has some sort of resonance.
• It is not necessary to "treat" consciously. The process starts autonomously.
• Mice from the control group can become part of the "resonance collective" and can also heal.
• The cure can be "stored" in living mice but also in non-living material.
• Healing can be "recorded" on equipment designed for this purpose and later "played".

Post-materialism, the primacy of consciousness before matter, does not offer sufficient explanation. Information also seems to play an important role.

Integrative medicine: A way for legitimation of alternative practices? - Charles F. Emmons

Alternative and complementary medicine is now taught at scientifically accepted medical institutes using the name: Integrative Medicine (IM). See e.g.: https://www.schoolforintegrativemedicine.nl/.
A good example is: Therapeutic Touch (TT): https://www.therapeutictouch.nl/index_no_mobile.html

Although the hard skeptics do denounce these practices emphatically - https://skepsis.nl/evidence-therapeutic-touch/ - they find their way into the medical world, especially of course in the lower ranks of the medical professions. IM practitioners do not need a connection with the paranormal to learn and practice IM. Is this perhaps a way to accept and legitimize the extraordinary?
The brain and Psi: A New Paradigm for Consilience - Morris Freedman

Starting from the idea that the frontal lobes of our brain play a role in suppressing psi, this can provide an excellent field of research on the way to greater acceptance of psi symptoms. Examples:

- Research on people with frontal lobe injury produces significant psi effects. Research with MRI suggests the left medial frontal area of the brain is important.
- Repeated transcranial magnetic (rTMS) and transcranial electrical stimulation (tDCS) can cause temporary impairment in healthy subjects.

Interacting with the future: Evidence for Consciousness Extending Outside of Space-Time - Dale E. Graf

The experiment was set up to observe and draw photos that will appear in the newspaper in the coming three or seven days. Various notable successes were shown. Unfortunately, 20 minutes was far too short for a good presentation, but perhaps his books, such as "Tracks in the Psychic Wilderness," will provide somewhat more solid information: [http://dalegraaff.com/books.htm](http://dalegraaff.com/books.htm). Dale Graf was director of the Stargate project of the CIA.

Vital Force Technology: Creating Effective Energy Pattern to Fight Stress - Yuri Kronn

Vital Force Technology is a company that uses certain techniques - based on traditional Chinese medicine knowledge - to generate the so-called subtle energy blueprint of each element and substance and to "infuse" it into another product so that that product will now display those properties. In this way an "expensive" effect can be obtained by a "cheap" substance. See: [http://www.vitalforcetechnology.com/how-it-works/the-technology](http://www.vitalforcetechnology.com/how-it-works/the-technology). This has been used to produce real measurable stress reduction with water enhanced by VTF processes in mice and also in human subjects.

The Secret Relations between UFOs and Consciousness - Robert M. Wood

Although it is true that there are thousands of UFO reports and that some of them are misconceptions of ordinary phenomena, the history of UFO reports contains a large number that excellently matches large ships and real crews. There are an enormous number of cases of "missing time" by abducted persons, memories of previous lives, the ability to control the direction and speed of UFOs
with thought processes and telepathic communication with aliens. See: [http://www.majesticdocuments.com/team.php](http://www.majesticdocuments.com/team.php)

**Expanding the Scope of Mind-Matter Interaction Experiments - Dean Radin.**

Dean Radin presented a number of experiments showing mind-matter influence. What particularly appealed to me is the so-called double slit experiment which normally produces a light-dark interference pattern. The locations where the dark and light bands are projected can be calculated exactly on the basis of the frequency of the light, the distance between the gaps and the distance of the gaps from the screen. The camera photographing the interference pattern is aimed at the first dark band next to the center. When the photons are influenced in their path, the dark area will light up because the interference is disturbed. See: [https://noetic.org/publication/psychophysical-modulation-of-fringe-visibility-in-a-distant-double-slit-optical-system/](https://noetic.org/publication/psychophysical-modulation-of-fringe-visibility-in-a-distant-double-slit-optical-system/)

He also spoke about an application of influencing a plasma sphere through the mind. You can buy those things in the toy store for as little as $25.-. Radin was very pleased with the affordability of that experiment.

Finally, a poster presentation that also appealed to me:
If we apply the summation over all histories approach - as first proposed by Richard Feynman in quantum mechanics - to the universe from the Big Bang - as Hawking and Duke proposed in 2006 - then we are creating the universe indeed retroactively. Since all possibilities exist in the state wave of the universe, we ourselves choose the preferred "path". This effect would explain the functioning of psi and also our experience of time.

And last but not least

The atmosphere was warm and good. There was intensive listening and criticism. Hopefully this club finds a way to make their findings better known to the public. That was also the final message of my own poster presentation.