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Near-death experiences occur when the soul leaves the nervous system and enters the universe, claim two quantum physics experts

- Ground-breaking theory holds that quantum substances form the soul
- They are part of the fundamental structure of the universe

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quantum substances which form the soul leave the nervous system and enter the universe at large, according to a remarkable theory proposed by two eminent scientists. According to this idea, consciousness is a

A near-death experience happens when

program for a quantum computer in the brain which can persist in the universe even after death, explaining the perceptions of those who have near-death experiences. Dr Stuart Hameroff, Professor Emeritus at the

Departments of Anesthesiology and Psychology and the Director of the Centre of Consciousness Studies at the University of Arizona, has advanced the quasi-religious theory. It is based on a quantum theory of

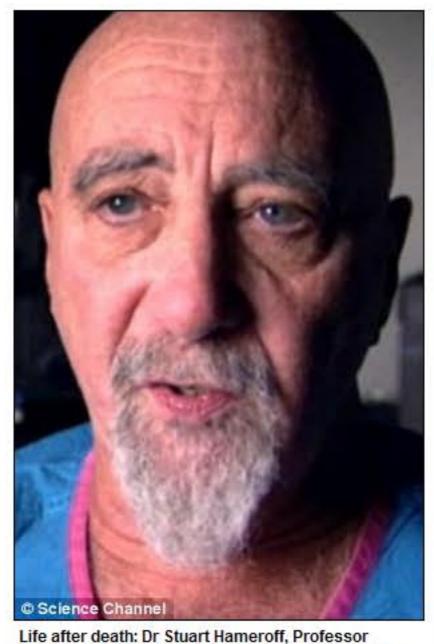
consciousness he and British physicist Sir Roger Penrose have developed which holds that the essence of our soul is contained inside structures called microtubules within brain cells. They have argued that our experience of

consciousness is the result of quantum gravity

effects in these microtubules, a theory which they dubbed orchestrated objective reduction (Orch-OR). Thus it is held that our souls are more than the interaction of neurons in the brain. They are in

fact constructed from the very fabric of the

universe - and may have existed since the



Emeritus at the University of Arizona, advanced the theory on a television documentary

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The concept is similar to the Buddhist and Hindu belief that consciousness is an integral part of the universe - and indeed that it is really all there may be, a position similar to Western philosophical idealism.

With these beliefs, Dr Hameroff holds that in a near-death experience the microtubules lose their quantum state, but the information within them is not destroyed. Instead it merely leaves the body



released from the body and re-enters the cosmos, before returning when they are revived Dr Hameroff told the Science Channel's Through the Wormhole documentary: 'Let's say the heart

stops beating, the blood stops flowing, the microtubules lose their quantum state. 'The quantum information within the microtubules is not destroyed, it can't be destroyed, it just

distributes and dissipates to the universe at large.

'If the patient is resuscitated, revived, this quantum information can go back into the microtubules and the patient says "I had a near death experience"."

He adds: 'If they're not revived, and the patient dies, it's possible that this quantum information can exist outside the body, perhaps indefinitely, as a soul.'



The Orch-OR theory has come in for heavy criticism by more empirically minded thinkers and

MIT physicist Max Tegmark is just one of the many scientists to have challenged it, in a 2000 paper that is widely cited by opponents, the Huffington Post reports.

remains controversial among the scientific community.

Nevertheless, Dr Hameroff believes that research in to quantum physics is beginning to validate Orch Or, with quantum effects recently being shown to support many important biological processes, such

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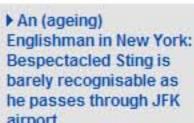
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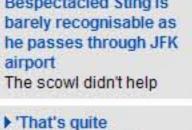
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