nature REVIEWS

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GENETICS

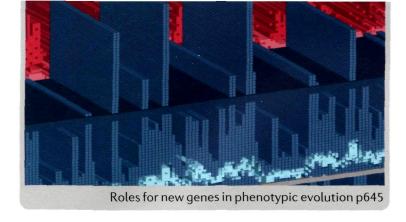


PARENTAL INFLUENCES

Imprinting and parent-of-origin effects in complex traits

Environmental challenges

Signalling and gene regulatory networks in plants



CONTENTS September Z

REVIEWS

Genomic imprinting and parent-of-origin effects on complex traits

Heather A. Lawson, James M. Cheverud and Jason B. Wolf

Increasing evidence suggests that parent-of-origin effects, particularly genomic imprinting, contribute to complex traits. This Review discusses how such effects can be identified in order to expand our understanding of their roles in phenotypes such as human diseases and traits important for agriculture.

FEATURED ARTICLE

Single-cell sequencing-based technologies will revolutionize whole-organism science

Ehud Shapiro, Tamir Biezuner and Sten Linnarsson Technologies that are based on next-generation sequencing are increasingly being used to study individual cells. The authors discuss the application of this approach to single-cell genomics and transcriptomics, and explore the implications for both basic research and medicine.

Spatiotemporal signalling in plant development

> Erin Sparks, Guy Wachsman and Philip N. Benfey This Review considers mechanisms by which information is transmitted over short and long distances during plant development and how different modes of signalling integrate with gene regulatory networks to allow plants to respond to their environment.

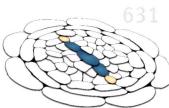
New genes as drivers of phenotypic evolution

Sidi Chen, Benjamin H. Krinsky and Manyuan Long Genes that have originated in recent evolution are present in only a subset of organisms and are often assumed to be dispensable or redundant. This Review discusses our latest understanding of how new genes in diverse species have actually evolved to have important functions in diverse developmental and physiological processes in various organisms.









On the web www.nature.com/reviews/genetics

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Forthcoming articles:

Emerging patterns of somatic mutations in cancer

Ian R. Watson, Koichi Takahashi, P. Andrew Futreal and Lynda Chin

Rare disease genetics in the era of next-generation sequencing: discovery to translation Kym M. Boycott, Megan R. Vanstone, Dennis E. Bulman and Alex E. MacKenzie

Recent human adaptation: genomic approaches, interpretation and insights Laura B. Scheinfeldt and Sarah A. Tishkoff

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► COVER: 'Signally' by Patrick Morgan, inspired by the Review on p631.



Research Highlight on the effects of the microbiome on speciation p598

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Selections from the recent scientific literature

PROGRESS

Omics technologies and the study of human ageing

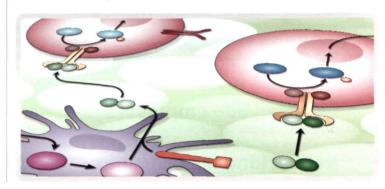
Ana M. Valdes, Daniel Glass and Tim D. Spector

High-throughput technologies are starting to be applied to assess the complex molecular changes that occur with increasing age in humans. This Progress article introduces the emerging findings for transcriptomics, epigenomics, metabolomics and other 'omics' approaches.

ANALYSIS

Genetic insights into common pathways and complex relationships among immune-mediated diseases

Miles Parkes, Adrian Cortes, David A. van Heel and Matthew A. Brown Research into the genetics of immune and inflammatory disease has experienced major recent advances owing to the availability of a custom single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) genotyping array — the Immunochip — developed specifically to investigate these disorders. In this Analysis, the authors assess findings from studies that have used this platform, and explore the shared and phenotype-specific genetic associations among several immune-mediated diseases.



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