

## Finding the Right Genes 寻找完美基因

Genetics determines almost everything about us, from our physical qualities to our chances of developing certain diseases. It possibly even determines certain aspects of our **personality**. Through scientific advances, we're starting to make more sense of what genes mean to us.

遗传支配我们人体的绝大部分，从身体特征到罹患某些疾病的机率，甚至可能影响我们性格的某些层面。拜科学进步之赐，人类开始对基因更进一步的了解。

**Thanks to** genetics, men and women can **see into** their future. With genetic **counseling**, patients can be **informed** of their risk of developing an **inherited disorder**. It can help future parents prepare for diseases that they may **pass on** to their children.

由于遗传学的发展，人们得以预见自己的未来。透过基因咨询，病人可得知自己罹患某种遗传病的机率。此咨询也有助准父母们预知自己可能遗传给下一代的疾病。

New treatments for those who suffer from certain diseases are also being developed through genetics. Gene therapy involves **inserting** new genes into an individual's cell and tissues to treat a disease. The technology is still in its **infancy**, but its potential to save lives is **astonishing**.

遗传学也为某些疾病的患者发展出新疗法。基因疗法是将新基因嵌入患者的细胞或组织来治疗疾病。该科技虽还在萌芽阶段，但救人一命的潜力令人惊叹。

Even our diet is being affected by genetics. Today, we have what are called [genetically-modified foods](#). Scientists can take **regular** crops and change their genetic **makeup** to make them more **resistant** to things like **droughts**, weather conditions and even **pests**. These are just some of the possibilities. In the future, we may see bananas that produce **vaccines** against infectious diseases, or fish that **mature** more quickly. Genetics holds great **promise**, and we've only begun to **scratch the surface** of what it can do for us.

遗传学甚至影响了人类的饮食。如今，我们有所谓的基因改造食品。科学家将普通农作物的基因结构加以改变，使其对干旱、天气、甚至虫害更具抵抗力。这只是许多可能性中的一小部分而已。未来，我们或许可以见到能制造传染病疫苗的香蕉，或是可以成长更快的鱼类。遗传学的未来潜力无限，而人类对它的功用才刚略知一二而已。

-by Joe Henley

### Vocabulary

**counseling** [ˈkaʊnsəlɪŋ] n. 咨询服务

**astonishing** [əˈstɒnɪʃɪŋ] adj. 惊人的

**drought** [draʊt] n. 干旱

**vaccine** [ˈvæksɪn] n. 疫苗

**inherit** [ɪnˈhɛrɪt] v. 经遗传而获得

**resistant** [rɪˈzɪstənt] adj. 抵抗的

### More Information

**personality** [ˌpɜːsnəˈæləti] n. 个性, 性格

**thanks to** 托...福; 幸亏

**inform** [ɪnˈfɔːm] v. 告知

**disorder** [dɪsˈɔːdə] n. (机能)失调, 轻病

**pass on** 传递

**insert** [ɪnˈsɜːt] v. 插入; 嵌入

**regular** [ˈregjələ] adj. 普通的, 一般的

**makeup** [ˈmeɪkʌp] n. 构成; 构造

**pest** [pest] n. 害虫

**mature** [məˈtʃʊr] v. 使成熟; 使长成

**promise** [ˈprɒmɪs] n. 希望, 前途

**scratch the surface** 略懂皮毛

**infancy** [ˈɪnfənsɪ] n. 初期; 未发达阶段

**see into** 查看, 调查.....; 观察.....的真义, 性质等