

Genome project turns up evolutionary surprises

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Abstract

Findings reveal how DNA is conserved across animals

The latest studies of the instructions embedded in the human genome are revealing how evolution has shaped our species. On [page 799](#) of this issue^{1,2}, and in a themed issue of *Genome Research*³, scientists report the first findings from a project called ENCODE. This 'encyclopedia of DNA elements' attempts to discover how our cells make sense of the DNA sequence in the human genome. Already, ENCODE is up-ending one piece of conventional scientific wisdom: the idea that biologically relevant DNA resists change over evolutionary time.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v447/n7146/full/447760a.html>