

## Virology: The gene weavers

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1. Garry Hamilton is a science writer based in Seattle, Washington.

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### Abstract

**Viruses are often thought of as simple creatures. But their staggering diversity and genetic promiscuity could make them the most creative force in evolution, says Garry Hamilton.**

When high-school students Joe Gross and Jake Falbo walked into Graham Hatfull's lab at the University of Pittsburgh five years ago, they had no idea what they were getting into. Hoping for a little hands-on scientific experience, the two were instead invited to participate in a mission that would have excited the likes of Linnaeus or Darwin.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v441/n7094/full/441683a.html>