Thomson Scientific’s Essential Science Indicators

For the second time in as many years, a publication by Lawrence Joel Too and his colleagues ("Purified Argonaute2 and an siRNA form recombinant human RISC") has been selected as a "New Hot Paper" by Thomson Scientific’s Essential Science Indicators. New Hot Papers are leading indicators of scientific advance and are likely to signal important new trends in research. Joining Leemor Joshua-Tor in the research—published in Nature Structural & Molecular Biology—were Niraj Tolia, Joshua-Tor and her colleagues "New Hot Paper" by Thomson

Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation

Kathryn Davis, a veteran 39-year-old artist interested in making a substantial difference in the world, recently helped the Laboratory create the Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation. Research at the new center will focus on improving the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, Parkinson's disease, and other forms of mental illness.

Landon & Lavinia Clay

Landon and Lavinia Clay have established a $1 million Endowment to support a Professorship and a Student Fellowship in Behavioral Genetics at CSHL. Landon, a successful venture capital investor, and his wife Lavinia founded the Clay Mathematics Institute in 1998 to encourage gifted individuals to pursue mathematical careers and to recognize and disseminate extraordinary achievements and advances in mathematical research.

Dipping Into the Double Helix

Every now and then, calls come for scientists to make more of an effort to explain their work in simple terms for lay audiences. Only when scientists engage the public, it is argued, will they be listened to and may lead to significant new trends in research. Joining Leemor Joshua-Tor in the research—published in Nature Structural & Molecular Biology—were Niraj Tolia, Joshua-Tor and her colleagues "New Hot Paper" by Thomson

Gensetech

To mark its 30th anniversary, Gensetech has donated $2.5 million to seed the establishment of the Genentech Center for the History of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology. The center will focus on making the history of molecular biology and biotechnology accessible to all. Additional support for the center is coming from leading scientists including Sydney Brenner, Barbara McClintock, Hermann Muller, and Jim Watson. Scholarly research at the Genentech Center will focus on an extraordinary period and help ensure that the history of molecular biology and biotechnology is preserved and made accessible to all. Additional support for the center is coming from leading scientists and scientific companies that have played a central role in this historical.

Excerpt

"As a walk through virtually any old graveyard in New England will prove, it is nothing new to live to 90 or to reach 100. During the last decade, geneticists and gerontologists have maintained impressive evidence that the genetic cards one drew are at least as important as many of the recognized non-genetic factors in limiting or promoting longevity....With these advances, the idea of someday applying that knowledge to extend the human life span has moved from science fiction to a scientific (albeit still remote) possibility. "

Title » The Strongest Boy in the World

How Genetic Information is Reshaping Our Lives

by » PHILIP R. REILLY

Publisher » COLD SPRING HARBOR LABORATORY PRESS, 2006


Book Review

Dr. Parker is Senior Editor of the journal Nature Genetics.

"The book’s subtitle includes the word “metagene,” which draws me as much as another way to describe the impact of genetics than the “revolutionizing” that goes on so many other times. Rhyeh’s voice is always one of moderation and his tone throughout The Strongest Boy in the World suggests that whereas advances in genetics can be quite powerful, their incorporation into our view of the world need not be as wrenching as some would have us believe. Alan Parker

"The book is divided into four parts: “Humanity,” “Diseases,” “Animals and Plants,” and “Society.” The first section deals with hot-button topics such as genetic modification of humans, race, longevity, and intelligence. “Diseases” discusses a series of human genetic disorders. “Animals and Plants” covers genetics and the genome projects that have made dogs, cats, mice, cows, rice, and other organisms genetically tractable. Finally, “Society” is a smorgasbord of topics including forensic science, crime prevention, poverty, and diabetes. Rhyeh’s narrative style is ultimately lucid, and even specialists will likely find it an enjoyable and informative read. I particularly appreciated the reader-friendly historical perspectives of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease and San Luis Valley leprosy which emphasizes message to convey a great deal of complex genetics. I will even confess to learning from this book that Will (the muse gene) is derived from the ancient Greek word for “soul.”

"If there is one thing that distinguishes this book from so many others in its category, it is the absence of hype. The book’s subtitle includes the word “metagene,” which draws me as much as another way to describe the impact of genetics than the “revolutionizing” that goes on so many other times. Rhyeh’s voice is always one of moderation and his tone throughout The Strongest Boy in the World suggests that whereas advances in genetics can be quite powerful, their incorporation into our view of the world need not be as wrenching as some would have us believe. Alan Parker

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