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Jeffrey Epstein: Understanding Evolution is Key to Understanding Genetics

New research reveals the ways in which living organisms adapt and “learn” new skills—a finding that has warranted the attention of [science philanthropist](#), Jeffrey Epstein.

New York, New York, October 25, 2012—

For living creatures, adapting to new circumstances and learning new skills are both necessary for survival. This is true not only on a macro level, among humans and animals, but also on a genetic level. Scientists have long speculated as to how living organisms can learn new skills when drawing from a limited gene pool, but new [research](#) offers some insight—and it has won the attention of scientific philanthropist Jeffrey Epstein, a vocal proponent of evolutionary research [and financial founder of The Program for Evolutionary Dynamics at Harvard University. The Program for Evolutionary Dynamics which started with a \\$30 million dollar grant from Epstein, uses mathematics, genetics and bio-chemistry to study the evolution of living things.](#)

The new research, undertaken by UC Davis microbiologist Dr. John Roth, seeks to answer the question of how genes learn new skills. The common theory has long been that genes duplicate by accident, and that duplicate genes mutate and develop new skills; if the skill proves useful, then the gene is more likely to spread.

Roth’s research has provided insight into how this theory fits in with the broader framework of natural selection. According to the scientist, genes effectively develop two functions—primary and secondary ones—and one skill might become more favored as it becomes more useful or necessary. Less-than-useful skills are weeded out through natural selection.

This research has been heralded for the insight it brings both to the field of genetics and to the study of evolution. ~~It has won the favor of men like Jeffrey Epstein, in particular. A long-time scientific donor who has a keen interest in the study of evolution, Epstein has released a new statement to the press, praising Roth’s research.~~

~~Science activist Jeffrey Epstein, remarked, “The manipulation of gene expression through evolution is increasingly at the core of immunotherapy and other approaches to curing devastating diseases, such as cancer.” says Jeffrey Epstein in his new press statement. Epstein is no stranger to the work being done in~~

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~~furthering the study of evolution; his foundation, The Jeffrey Epstein VI Foundation, established The Program for Evolutionary Dynamics at Harvard University with a \$30 million grant. The Program studies evolution at the biochemical level.~~

The scientific philanthropist goes on to detail some of the new possibilities that Roth’s research allows. “Gene expression can be stimulated with the right environment and then enhanced with evolution,” Jeffrey Epstein concludes.

In addition to orchestrating the activities of the Jeffrey Epstein ~~IVI~~ Foundation, Epstein is also a former member of the NY Academy of Science, a former board member of Rockefeller University, and a current member of the Mind, Brain and Behavior Committee at Harvard University.

Though his formal training is in money management, Jeffrey Epstein’s passion has long been for supporting the sciences. Through his Foundation, he has made significant endowments to laboratories, research facilities, and educational initiatives around the world. The Jeffrey Epstein ~~IVI~~ Foundation also supports the arts, youth-related organizations, independent film, and more.

ABOUT:

Jeffrey Epstein is a money manager and science philanthropist whose passion is for investing in scientific inquiry, research and education, throughout the world. Through the work of his Jeffrey Epstein ~~IVI~~ Ffoundation, he has made significant contributions to universities, hospitals, museums, laboratories, individual scientists and numerous charitable organizations. ~~Though formally trained in finance, Epstein is equally passionate about science and technology. Epstein is also a former member of the Council for Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission and a current member of the Edge Foundation, an exclusive think tank for scholars in the sciences.~~

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