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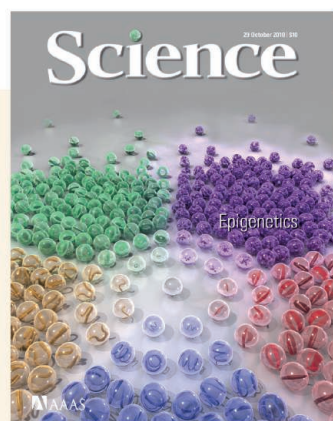
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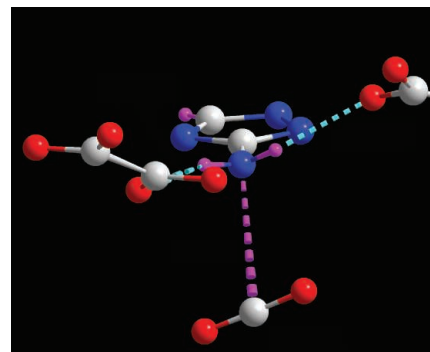
During development, a multicellular organism generates many different cell types (colored marbles) from a single progeny cell (clear marble in the center), yet all of the cells have nominally identical DNA sequences (and, therefore, the same genetic instruction sets). The maintenance and inheritance of these distinct cellular phenotypes is the basis of epigenetics (the prefix "epi-" is Greek for over or above), the subject of a special section beginning on page 611.

Image: *Chris Bickel/Science*

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### The Impact of Conservation on the Status of the World's Vertebrates

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Though the threat of extinction is increasing, overall declines would have been worse in the absence of conservation. 10.1126/science.1194442

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Grain-filled sacks help robots get a grip on cumbersome objects.

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New estimates of 200,000 deaths per year prompt shock and skepticism.

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### Defining Epigenetics

*Science* Senior Editor Guy Riddihough taps experts for their definition of epigenetics.

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Editor's Summary

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