

SPECIAL SECTION
GENES & ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

52 Genes under pressure

REVIEWS

54 Going global by adapting local: A review of recent human adaptation *S. Fan et al.*

59 Transgenerational inheritance: Models and mechanisms of non-DNA sequence-based inheritance *E. A. Miska and A. C. Ferguson-Smith*

64 Writ large: Genomic dissection of the effect of cellular environment on immune response *N. Yosef and A. Regev*

69 Exposing the exposures responsible for type 2 diabetes and obesity *P. W. Franks and M. I. McCarthy*

► EDITORIAL P. 15

ON THE COVER



A Sherpa porter at the base of the Khumbu Ice Fall, Mount Everest. Some human populations exhibit greater tolerance for high elevation,

due to genetic variants that likely mitigate the deleterious effects of low oxygen concentrations at altitude. Genetic and epigenetic changes shape our response to the environment and may play a role in disease. For more on the interactions between genes and the environment, see page 52.

Photo: Max Lowe/National Geographic Creative

NEWS

IN BRIEF

16 News at a glance

IN DEPTH

18 BATTLE OVER RARE DISEASE DRUG ENSNARES NIH

Firms and parents of kids with fatal condition clash over drug delivery and role of agency *By M. Wadman*

20 NOBEL HONORS DISCOVERIES IN HOW CELLS EAT THEMSELVES

Cellular sanitation helps keep diseases at bay *By M. Enserink and E. Pennisi*

21 TRIO WINS NOBEL FOR EFFECTS OF TOPOLOGY ON EXOTIC MATTER

Work presaged research revolution in topological insulators *By A. Cho*

22 EUROPEAN XFEL TO SHINE AS BRIGHTEST, FASTEST X-RAY SOURCE

Free electron laser's rapid-fire pulses will probe free-floating molecules in their natural habitat *By E. Carlidge*

23 U.S. CHARGES JOURNAL PUBLISHER WITH MISLEADING AUTHORS

OMICS Group Inc. has drawn numerous complaints about allegedly shady editorial practices and meetings *By J. Bohannon*

24 FIRST POLYNESIANS LAUNCHED FROM EAST ASIA TO SETTLE PACIFIC

"Game-changing" study of ancient genomes traces Polynesian roots solely to East Asian farmers *By A. Gibbons*

FEATURE

26 RESCUING THE GUARDIAN OF THE GENOME

New drugs combat cancer by propping up a mutated tumor-fighting protein *By R. F. Service*

INSIGHTS

PERSPECTIVES

32 GROWING A SYNTHETIC MOLLUSK SHELL

Three-dimensional organic templates control calcium carbonate precipitation *By F. Barthelat*
► REPORT P. 107

34 A PRAGMATIC WAY FORWARD?

Training of informal providers may improve the quality of primary health care in rural India *By T. Powell-Jackson*
► RESEARCH ARTICLE P. 80

35 COLD ATOMS TWISTING SPIN AND MOMENTUM

Ultracold atoms can simulate complex quantum systems *By M. Aidelsburger*
► RESEARCH ARTICLE P. 83

36 THE MIFstep IN PARTHATOS

Preventing cells from killing themselves may save tissues from damage during disease *By E. Jonas*
► RESEARCH ARTICLE P. 82

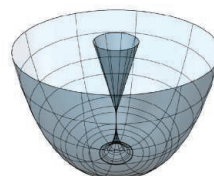
38 HUMAN BRAINS TEACH US A SURPRISING LESSON

Young interneurons continue migrating to the frontal lobe during the first few months of life *By M. McKenzie and G. Fishell*
► RESEARCH ARTICLE P. 81



38 & 81

CONTENTS



35 & 83

Cold atoms mimicking condensed matter

7 OCTOBER 2016 • VOLUME 354 • ISSUE 6308

39 APES KNOW WHAT OTHERS BELIEVE

Understanding false beliefs is not unique to humans *By F. B. M. de Waal*

► REPORT P. 110

41 ROGER Y. TSIEN (1952–2016)

An exceptionally creative scientist shed light (of many colors) on biological mysteries *By S. J. Lippard*

POLICY FORUM

42 SOCIAL NORMS AS SOLUTIONS

Policies may influence large-scale behavioral tipping *By K. Nyborg et al.*

BOOKS ET AL.

44 THE FOLLY OF FASHIONABLE THINKING

A physicist casts a critical eye on popular ideas in cosmology, quantum mechanics, and string theory *By M. Livio*

45 QUANTIFYING CULTURE

A humanist's ode to mathematics reveals how numbers underlie literature, art, and music *By C. J. Phillips*

LETTERS

46 NEXTGEN VOICES: APPLIED SCIENCE

RESEARCH

IN BRIEF

77 From *Science* and other journals

RESEARCH ARTICLES

80 HEALTH ECONOMICS

The impact of training informal health care providers in India: A randomized controlled trial *J. Das et al.*

RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY; FOR FULL TEXT:

[dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.aaf7384](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaf7384)

► PERSPECTIVE P. 34

81 NEURODEVELOPMENT

Extensive migration of young neurons into the infant human frontal lobe

M. F. Paredes et al.

RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY; FOR FULL TEXT:

[dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.aaf7073](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaf7073)

► PERSPECTIVE P. 38; PODCAST

82 CELL DEATH

A nuclease that mediates cell death induced by DNA damage and poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase-1 *Y. Wang et al.*

RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY; FOR FULL TEXT:

[dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.aad6872](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aad6872)

► PERSPECTIVE P. 36

83 QUANTUM SIMULATION

Realization of two-dimensional spin-orbit coupling for Bose-Einstein condensates *Z. Wu et al.*

► PERSPECTIVE P. 35

REPORTS

88 GEOPHYSICS

Localized seismic deformation in the upper mantle revealed by dense seismic arrays *A. Inbal et al.*

92 SOLAR CELLS

Quantum dot–induced phase stabilization of α -CsPbI₃ perovskite for high-efficiency photovoltaics

A. Swarnkar et al.

96 QUANTUM GASES

Ultrafast many-body interferometry of impurities coupled to a Fermi sea

M. Cetina et al.

99 DEVICE TECHNOLOGY

MoS₂ transistors with 1-nanometer gate lengths *S. B. Desai et al.*



102 BIOCATALYSIS

An artificial metalloenzyme with the kinetics of native enzymes *P. Dydió et al.*

107 BIOINSPIRED MATERIALS

Synthetic nacre by predesigned matrix-directed mineralization *L.-B. Mao et al.*

► PERSPECTIVE P. 32

110 COGNITION

Great apes anticipate that other individuals will act according to false beliefs *C. Krupenye et al.*

► PERSPECTIVE P. 39; VIDEO

114 STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY

The methanogenic CO₂ reducing-and-fixing enzyme is bifunctional and contains 46 [4Fe-4S] clusters *T. Wagner et al.*

DEPARTMENTS

15 EDITORIAL

Gene–environment interplay

By Jeremy Berg

► GENES AND ENVIRONMENT SECTION P. 52

142 WORKING LIFE

The hard road to reproducibility

By Lorena A. Barba

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Science Staff | 12 |
| New Products | 121 |
| Science Careers | 122 |

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