

Zebrafish may help identify functions of human genes

Its size may be deceiving, but the Zebrafish—which grows to a maximum length of only two inches—is having a large impact on medical and genetics research.

“In fact, *Danio rerio*, to give them their scientific name, are not so much useful for modern biological research as indispensable,” writes *The Guardian*’s Robin McKie. “In combination with its transparency and its remarkable growth rate, the zebrafish’s genetic structure is surprisingly close to that of *Homo sapiens*.”

Although the human genome was sequenced a decade ago, scientists still do not know what it is these genes do inside the body. “That is where the zebrafish comes in.”

Read the full, original story here: [“How the diminutive Zebrafish is having a big impact on medical research”](#)

Additional Resources:

- [“Muscle Disease Gene Identified in Fish,”](#) The Scientist
- [“Zebrafish genome helps in hunt for treatments,”](#) Nature