

## Do animals inherit basic memories through sperm, epigenetics?

Over the past decade, the field of epigenetics has caught fire in the minds of scientists and the public.

Research into epigenetics has revealed that changes in an organism's external environment, including its life experiences and choices, can influence the expression of its otherwise inflexible DNA code. According to *National Geographic's* Virginia Hughes, "epigenetics, in other words, is enticing because it offers a resolution to the tedious, perennial debates of nurture versus nature."

Now, new research could shed more light on the field of epigenetics, writes Hughes. "Brian Dias, a postdoctoral fellow in Kerry Ressler's lab at Emory University, had reported that mice inherit specific smell memories from their fathers — even when the offspring have never experienced that smell before, and even when they've never met their father. What's more, *their* children are born with the same specific memory."

Read the full, original story here: [Mice Inherit Specific Memories, Because Epigenetics?](#)

### Additional Resources:

- "[Epigenetics: How to alter your genes](#)," Telegraph
- "[No Nobel, but epigenetics finally gets the recognition it deserves](#)," Conversation
- "[Memories of positive associations get written onto DNA](#)," Ars Technica