

## Scientists may have found gene behind hyper-sociability

[H]umans are social beings, an evolutionary trait that helped separate us from other primates millions of years ago...These genetic underpinnings of human sociability, however, have remained a mystery. But in a study appearing [August 10,...]researchers report they have narrowed in on some of the genes responsible for [social behavior](#) by studying people who have Williams syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that makes them hyper-social.

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In the new study, [Alysson] Muotri...[harvested] cells from the lost teeth of children with this disorder. Using...pluripotent [stem cell](#) (iPSC) reprogramming, the researchers turned the tooth cells into nerve cells...They quickly noticed how different these neurons were compared to those from people without Williams syndrome.

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The researchers wrote that their “brain-in-a-dish” cellular model of Williams syndrome could also be used to help better understand a variety of brain disorders...The genes deleted in people with Williams syndrome...appear to keep sociability from being too excessive.

[T]he researchers postulated that the gene named FZD9, missing in most people with Williams syndrome, helps to regulate cell death and neural branching.

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [Scientists Home in on the Human ‘Sociability’ Gene](#)**