

Exploring Our Genetic History



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CURRENT RESEARCH

Using comparative genetics to better understand the diversion of species, including humans

There is an innate curiosity in humans about where we came from that has been present in us since our earliest ancestors walked the Earth. Studying human demographic history satisfies the basic desire to understand our origins, and is also crucial for interpreting patterns of genetic variation for more applied questions, such as determining the genetic contribution to complex diseases. Dr. Jeff Wall is developing cutting-edge analytical and statistical tools to make sense of the flood of genetic data and to understand basic, fundamental questions about our history as a species and the histories of our close relatives and companions. Understanding the history of the human species will explain our past beyond recorded history and help shape our understanding of how things came to be and why things are the way they are. Comparable studies in animals help us understand why some species thrive while others do not, and which populations may need protection under the Endangered Species Act. This is directly relevant for Conservation Biology, and for preserving the biodiversity of ecosystems we interfere with. We as humans change our environment more than any other animal, and we therefore have a responsibility to other species. Dr. Wall's research is helping conservationists and policymakers come to better decisions about protecting endangered species with valuable analyses of genetic diversity and evolutionary history.

Dr. Wall's current research is looking at genetic difference and similarities between species for clues about their past:

1. Investigating the extent of interbreeding between modern humans and 'archaic' human groups, such as Neanderthals
 - Using the full...

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AFFILIATION



University Of California, San Francisco

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., in Ecology and Evolution, 2000, University of Chicago
- A.B., in Mathematics, 1994, Princeton University

AWARDS

- Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Research Fellow, 2005-2009
- NSF/JSPS Short Term (Senior Research) Fellowship, 2002
- NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship in Biological Informatics, 2000-2002
- NSF/Monbuscho grant for summer program (Japan), 1999
- NSF/NATO grant recipient for workshop on Mathematical Problems Arising in Biology (Toronto, Canada), 1999

RESEARCH AREAS

Health & Wellness, Longevity, Immortality Research

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will allow Dr. Wall to collect and analyze more genetic data which will lead to an expansion of his efforts. Large-scale genetic data from humans and other species is the most critical input of this research. Funding will pay for the sequencing of more genomes and a deeper analysis of the results by laboratory members, and will lead to greater understanding of our history.