

ALL OF US! ALL OF US! —

Ars on your lunch break: The consequences of a government genetic database

Our final episode for the week looks at the good—and bad—of knowing our genes.

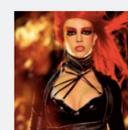
ROB REID - 7/19/2018, 12:00 PM



[Enlarge](#) / Do you want GATTACA? Because this might be how we get GATTACA.

Below you'll find the third and final installment of my interview with medical geneticist Robert Green about the promise and pitfalls that could lie in reading out your full genome. Please check out parts [one](#) and [two](#) if you missed them. Otherwise, press play on the embedded player or pull up the transcript—both of which are below.

Today we open with a heartening story about an infant who went through one of Robert's studies and may have picked up fifteen IQ points as a direct result (this is neither a metaphor nor an exaggeration)! It's an early—and perhaps even the first—hard example of how full-genome sequencing at birth could one day save innumerable lives and preclude untold human suffering.



FURTHER READING

Ars on your lunch break: The toxic truths within our DNA

[Click here for a transcript](#) and [click here for an MP3 direct download](#).

We then talk about the vast potential of pre-conception genetic screening and an early initiative in this area that has almost eradicated an awful genetic disease that long plagued the Ashkenazi Jewish population.

We close by discussing a massively ambitious government initiative that's just gathering steam called "All of Us." If it delivers on its goals (and doesn't turn into a DMV-like debacle), it could transform our understanding of health, aging, and disease innumerable times more than the renowned Framingham Heart Study (which Robert and I also discuss).

If you're curious about the latest episode in the main After On podcast feed, [this week](#) it's an interview with Yale ornithologist and evolutionary heretic Richard Prum. Rick boldly and brilliantly refutes much of the common wisdom about sexual attraction, aesthetics, and more. And the wellspring of his unorthodox ideas is... Charles Darwin himself. Even if you're not at all into birds, you'll find this interview fascinating if you're at all interested in the deep roots of human behavior and biology.

Finally, if you enjoy my conversation with Robert, please consider browsing the full archive of the After On podcast [on my site](#). Alternatively, you can find it in your favorite podcast app simply by searching under the words "After On." I've posted deep-dive interviews with dozens of world-class thinkers, founders, and scientists—tackling subjects like cryptocurrency, astrophysics, drones, genomics, synthetic biology, neuroscience, consciousness, privacy & government hacking, and more.

And of course, I hope you'll join me here again on Ars next week when we'll be serializing another episode from my podcast's recent archives.

This special edition of the Ars Technicast podcast can be accessed in the following places:

iTunes:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/the-ars-technicast/id522504024?mt=2> (Might take several hours after publication to appear.)

RSS:

<http://arstechnica.libsyn.com/rss>

Stitcher

<http://www.stitcher.com/podcast/ars-technicast/the-ars-technicast>

Libsyn:

<http://directory.libsyn.com/shows/view/id/arstechnica>



Join Ars Technica and
Get Our Best Tech Stories
DELIVERED STRAIGHT TO YOUR INBOX.

SIGN ME UP

Will be used in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#)

READER COMMENTS

28

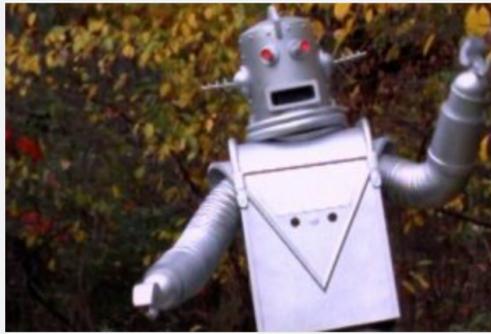
SHARE THIS STORY



Related Stories



Ars on your lunch break, week 4: Some possible solutions to Fermi's Paradox



Ars on your lunch break, part two: History, reality, and robots for the elderly



Ars on your lunch break, week 4: Our closing remarks on Fermi's Paradox



Ars on your lunch break, part one: Rodney Brooks and robot ethics

Sponsored Stories

Powered by outbrain



Massachusetts No Cost Solar Program. Is It Still Available?
asksolar.com



Big Brother is Watching - Start Using a Secure VPN Right Now
Yahoo! Search



[Pics] Man Builds A 500 sq Dream House For Only \$9,000, Wait Until You Look Inside
Ice Pop



Massachusetts Launches No Cost Solar Program
Energy Bill Cruncher



The Must-Have App For Anyone Who Shops Online - Including Amazon
Honey



(Photos) Few Aircraft Can Keep Up With This Beast
theProfessional.net



(Gallery) Few Challengers Can Pace This Warbird
theProfessional.net



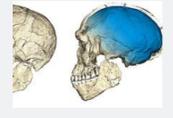
Massachusetts No Cost Solar Program. Is It Still Available?
asksolar.com



[Pics] Man Renovating His Home Discovered a Tunnel... to a Massive Underground City
Ice Pop



These Laptops Will Blow Your Mind
Yahoo! Search



300,000-Year-Old Bones Found In A Moroccan Mine Shake The Foundations of Human History
Absolutehistory



Why You Should Sign Up For This Language Subscription Today
CNN Underscored

Today on Ars



Homeopathic co. expands recall as FDA warns of "life-threatening" infections



Amazon may make a free, ad-supported streaming service for Fire TVs



UK cops used facial recognition at show, found someone with outstanding warrant



Implantable brain device could stop epileptic seizures in their tracks



FCC can define markets with only one ISP as "competitive," court rules



Illinois governor vetoes bill meant to cripple rental car competition



Microsoft obliquely acknowledges Windows 0-day bug published on Twitter



Nintendo shuts down tool used to build Pokémon fan games

[RSS FEEDS](#)
[VIEW MOBILE SITE](#)
[ABOUT US](#)
[SUBSCRIBE](#)

[CONTACT US](#)
[STAFF](#)
[ADVERTISE WITH US](#)
[REPRINTS](#)



NEWSLETTER SIGNUP

Join the Ars Orbital Transmission mailing list to get weekly updates delivered to your inbox.

SUBSCRIBE

CONDÉ NAST

CNMN Collection
WIRED Media Group

© 2018 Condé Nast. All rights reserved. Use of and/or registration on any portion of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#) (updated 5/25/18) and [Privacy Policy](#) and [Cookie Statement](#) (updated 5/25/18) and [Ars Technica Addendum](#) (effective 8/21/2018). Ars may earn compensation on sales from links on this site. [Read our affiliate link policy.](#)
[Your California Privacy Rights](#)

The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Condé Nast.
[Ad Choices](#)