

IMS Public Lecture



How similar are human and chimpanzee at the genomic level?

Speaker: Professor Wen-Hsiung Li
University of Chicago

Date: Wednesday, 27 March 2002

Time: 6.00 - 7.00 p.m.

Venue: LT 31 (Faculty of Science Auditorium)
Blk S16, Level 3, 3 Science Drive 2
National University of Singapore
Singapore 117 543


Wen-Hsiung Li

The speaker is the George Beadle Professor of Ecology and Evolution at the University of Chicago. He is a world leader in molecular evolution and human evolution. He has published more than 200 papers on these subjects and two books on molecular evolution. He has been interviewed many times for his scientific discoveries by the news media, including BBC, CNN, NBC, New York Times, Washington Post and Chicago Tribune. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.


ABSTRACT

Thanks to the completion of a draft of the human genome and the sequencing of a substantial part of the chimpanzee genome, the following intriguing and long-standing question is ready to be answered: Are human and chimpanzee very similar to each other in terms of DNA sequences? Since human and chimpanzees are very different in terms of morphology and cognitive ability, it will be very surprising if they are genetically very similar. After presenting some basic knowledge of genetics for the general audience, the speaker will discuss the genomic similarities between human and chimpanzee.

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