

A NEW HOPE FOR DOWN SYNDROME PATIENTS?

A paper which appeared in [Science](#) few months ago attributed the phenotype of the Down syndrome not to specific chromosome-21 genes but to dysregulation of several genes scattered in the genome. A very recent paper in [Cell](#) is, in a way, in line with the Science paper. This paper reports that in yeast the abnormal phenotype of trisomies (in general) is due to the disruption of the morphology of the nucleus. Mutations that increase the levels of long-chain bases, involved in the nuclear membrane integrity, suppress the nuclear abnormalities and restore fitness. Similar results are reported for cells from Down syndrome patients and also patients with Patau (trisomy 13) and Edwards (trisomy 18) syndromes.

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