

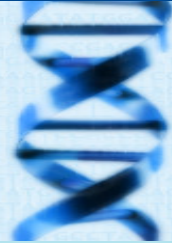
RSE @ Schools

The Suffering Gene

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**THE ROYAL
SOCIETY
OF EDINBURGH**



How are our genes adversely affected by the modern environment in which we live?

How much of an impact does modern technology have?

How do our bodies defend themselves?

This talk will explain what science knows about how our genes are adversely affected by the modern environment. Ironically these environmental adversities are mainly the result of the unintended consequences of the very industrial revolution and modern technologies that have transformed our lives in many positive ways.

These include toxic industrial and agricultural chemicals, excessive sunlight (as a result of the hole in the ozone layer), nuclear radiation, other forms of radiation (such as from mobile phones and electricity transmission systems), food contaminants and atmospheric pollutants (like tobacco smoke and car exhaust fumes).

The talk will illustrate how our bodies defend themselves from external attack and what the consequences are if these defences are overwhelmed. In conclusion more cautionary approaches to the development of new technologies, industrial processes, products and foodstuffs will be discussed.



Suitability: Standard Grade and Higher

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's National Academy, is Scottish Charity No. SC000470

Photos courtesy of Professor Burdon