

What Gives Us Diabetes: Nature or Nurture?

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Type 2 Diabetes is a serious metabolic disorder that is rapidly becoming more common throughout the world. The causes of diabetes are complex, involving aspects of diet and the environment; together with genetic risk factors. Two of the most intriguing new developments involve epigenetics (environmentally induced, and partially heritable, modifications to DNA) and the gut microbiome (the vast bacterial community that plays a central role in human health and metabolism). Professor Seielstad will use the example of diabetes to illustrate how these complex interactions between genes and the environment conspire to cause complex human diseases.