

## GENES FROM THE JUNKYARD

Pasteur showed us that spontaneous generation does not occur. But can (Mendelian) genes generate spontaneously? Many genes arise from duplications where one copy of the duplicated gene can acquire new functions. However, new genes do not always evolve from existing ones. This article in Nature <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-03061-x>

gives a review, with many examples, of how new genes are born from desolate stretches of non-coding 'plebeian' DNA. True democracy at play!