

REGULATION AND BIOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF PATERNAL IMPRINTING

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ABSTRACT : Genomic imprinting is an epigenetic phenomenon by which the two parental alleles of a gene are differentially expressed. Every imprinted gene analyzed to date, is associated with regions of differential methylation. At present 80 out of 30,000 genes in humans are known to be imprinted. Imprinted genes are categorized into two groups like Pegs (paternally expressed genes) and Megs (maternally expressed genes). Genes whose expression is inhibited, when transmitted by fathers are referred to as paternally imprinted. Paternally imprinted genes play a significant role in the regulation of fetal growth and development in mammals.

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