

[Andhra Pradesh](#) ~ [India](#) ~ [International](#) ~ [City](#) ~ [Entertainment](#) ~ [Business](#) ~ [Sports](#) ~ [Technology](#) ~ [Health](#) ~ [Features](#)

[Twitter](#) ~ [Facebook](#)

[Home](#) / [Technology News](#) / [2009](#) / [November 2009](#) / [November 17, 2009](#)

[RSS](#) / [Print](#) / [Comments](#)

Sacha Baron Cohen

[How Pammie explained her infamous sex-tape to sons](#)

[Empathy is in our genes](#)

[More on Sacha Baron Cohen](#)

Technology News

[Tibetan art and manuscripts found in Himalayan caves linked to mythical Shangri-La](#)

A treasure trove of Tibetan art and manuscripts uncovered in sky high Himalayan caves in Nepal could be linked to the storybook paradise of Shangri-La. ANI

[Preeclampsia linked to reduced thyroid function](#)

Two new studies by researchers from the National Institutes of Health and other institution have revealed that women

Empathy is in our genes

[Buy Oxytocin Accelerator](#)

Being

Natural Homeopathic Hormone Spray. Supports Trust, Empathy & Energy!
[OxytocinAccelerator.com](#)

[Gene Expression](#)

Search The Most Comprehensive Assay Selection In The Industry!
[www.AppliedBiosystems.com](#)

Ads by Google

empathetic is all in the genes, say researchers who have found a genetic variation linked to a persons ability to infer the mental state of others.

Washington, Nov 17 : Being empathetic is all in the genes, say researchers who have found a genetic variation linked to a person's ability to infer the mental state of others.

The researchers from Oregon State University and University of California, Berkeley have found a variation in the hormone/neurotransmitter oxytocin's receptor that might explain how empathetic a human is, and how that person reacts to stress.

Sarina Rodrigues, an assistant professor of psychology at Oregon State University, revealed that oxytocin has already been significantly linked with social affiliation and reduction in stress.

It is a peptide secreted by the pituitary gland and regulated by the hypothalamus of the brain and is best known for its role in female reproduction (it is important for labour and breastfeeding, for instance).

It is also associated with social recognition, pair bonding, dampening negative emotional responses, trust, and love.

She added individuals can have one of three combinations of this particular naturally occurring genetic variation of the oxytocin receptor. All humans get one copy of this gene from each parent, thus the three possible combinations, labeled in the paper as AA, AG or

Replay

Fast, Easy and Safe money transfers to India

KNOW MORE

Rs

Rs

HSBC The world's local bank

NRI Services

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, India. Incorporated in Hongkong SAR with limited liability.

revealed that women who experience preeclampsia, a serious complication of pregnancy, may have an increased risk for reduced thyroid functioning later in life. ANI

[Tiny insect brains can perform remarkable feats of mental gymnastics](#)

A growing number of studies indicate that although insects have tiny brains, they can perform some seriously impressive feats of mental gymnastics. ANI

Ads by Google

[Telugu Websites](#)

[India Telugu News](#)

[Telephone Directory](#)

[Free Indian Classifieds](#)

GG allele.

For the study, Rodrigues and Laura Saslow, a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley recruited 200 college students and took a standard stress reactivity test involving white noise blasts directed in headphones after countdowns presented on the screen.

Heart rate was monitored through sensors throughout the laboratory session. In general, they found that women were overall more sensitive to the stress tests, but that both men and women in the GG allele group displayed a lower increase heart rate during this task, as compared to baseline heart rate measured at the beginning of the laboratory session.

One of the tests used to measure empathy included the "Reading the Mind in Eyes" test, created by Simon Baron-Cohen (cousin of actor/comedian [Sacha Baron Cohen](#)).

Rodrigues said that this test is commonly used to discern how individuals can put themselves into the mind of another person, which overlaps with empathy, because it tests how well the participant can infer someone's emotional state by their eyes.

"In general, women do better on this test than men," Rodrigues said. "But we found a stark difference in both sexes based on the genetic variation."

Those with the GG genetic variation were 22.7 percent less likely to make a mistake on the "Reading the Mind in the Eyes" test than the other individuals.

The study appears in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

IARK 

The Death of Wal-Mart

The reign of the "King of Retail" is over. *The Wall Street Journal* reports an up-and-coming rival is growing sales at double the pace of Wal-Mart. This future blue chip is the only company in history to grow its sales from \$0 to \$3 billion in its first 6 years.

The best part: The company *Fortune* ranks No. 1 in retail cranks out all this cash -- while making life better for its employees. Get the name of The Motley Fool's FREE report called "The Death of Retail: 3 CORE Stocks You Need to Cash In"

[Click here for instant access to this FREE report!](#)

PRESENTED BY THE MOTLEY FOOL

www.Fool.com

Ads by Google