HG19 Section 2
Nature, Nurture: Is It Genes or Upbringing That Defines Us?

Week 6: Thursday, 2/16/06

Reading Points for Chapter 5: Genes in the Fourth Dimension

Does the analogy of development to baking a cake (where DNA and environment are the raw ingredients and biological and psychological processes of development are the cooks) work for you? If not, can you modify it or come up with another analogy that works better for you?

Comment on the following statements: (1) Behavior is just an extreme form of development. (2) Neurons are subject to “use it or lose it.” (3) The best way to prove the importance of an experience is to deprive an animal of it.

How can natural selection be involved in a behavior that is influenced by experience?

Why is Kallman syndrome much less common in women than in men? Can you think of another trait that is much less common in women than in men?

What determines how messenger RNA (the translation product of genes) is spliced? Why is alternative splicing so useful?