

ALLERGY, GENETICS

IL4 CLUSTER REVISITED

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I am interested in 5q31 and the IL4 cluster since I met David Marsh in the lobby of a hotel in Heidelberg around 1993. David was one of the founding fathers of asthma genetics and I remember how he vividly told me that he has a [forthcoming Science paper](#) on the IL4 cluster and IgE. The cluster is still one of the best allergy regions where the signalling through IL4 and IL13 now gets more interest than the work of any of his competitors.

Nature genetics now has an update on the 3-dimensional resolution of the genomic region. It is not crystallographic work as might be expected but a nice study of the chromatin structure that is leading to a coordinated expression of these cytokines. SATB1 (special AT-rich sequence binding protein 1) is thought to anchor specialized sequences letting DNA loops come into interaction. I wonder if there might be even a direct physical interaction of the IL4 and IL13 promoter and if there will be any SNP influencing that interaction? David (who died of brain cancer [in 1998](#)) would have really liked this work. Yea, yea.



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