

GENETICS

MEN R'SPONDING TO WOMEN

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We know much about the differences between [men and women](#) – the [X is the default pathway](#) and the Y under the microscope looks as worn down and “[misshapen as a stubbed-out cheroot](#)”. There turns out to be something really new. So far all effects of Y genes on sex determination have been attributed to SRY, the testis determining gene (NR0B1, FOXL2 and WNT04 are probably ovary-determining).

The careful analysis of an Italian pedigree now described a new gene that can reversal XX to male when being disrupted: It is R-spondin 1 (or RSPO1), a growth factor that may act through β -catenin stabilization and synergize with Wnt.

Do you know remember the [nice cartoon](#) of the Y chromosome with the HUH? selective hearing loss ;-) it is finally RSPO1. Yea, yea.

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