

DNAliens

Ever notice how most of the aliens on *Star Trek* are humanoids? The writers eventually came up with a reason for this (other than budgetary constraints) in a 1993 episode of *The Next Generation* called “The Chase” about an ancient alien race that seeded hundreds of worlds with humanoid DNA. And the proof is hidden inside our own DNA. Pure sci-fi, right?

In 2013 two researchers from Kazakhstan, Vladimir I. shCherbak and Maxim A. Makukov, reported that they discovered something unusual while studying DNA: a “mathematical and semantic message” deeply embedded in our genes. Could it have been placed there by aliens who seeded our world? “This code,” the researchers wrote, “is the most durable construct known. Therefore it represents an exceptionally reliable storage for an intelligent signature.” They call their finding a “biological SETI” (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) and maintain that once our genome is fully charted, we may discover that the proof that there is intelligent life elsewhere may have been hidden inside us this whole time.

