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OH MY GENOME!

There was a time when trainees would be advised to 'just publish a case report' to further their career. In 2021, to get published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, you need 30 coauthors and to solve the case within 16.5 hours of the blood test being taken. Following ultrarapid whole-genome sequencing, a diagnosis of thiamine metabolism dysfunction syndrome 2 was made in a 5 week old infant. This is a potentially treatable epileptic encephalopathy. At 7 months of age, the paper describes him as now 'thriving.' In contrast, his older sibling died at 11 months of age, 10 years earlier of an undiagnosed Leigh-like illness. The boundaries of what is possible have yet again been stretched by technology.

N Engl J Med. 2021; 384(22): 2159–2161.

MART I

Scientific discovery does not always have to be this objectively attractive! Figure 1 shows a single subject MRI connectome map at unprecedented high resolution. A multishell diffusion scheme was used, with the slice thickness of 0.76 mm. The figures were

Figure 1 In vivo human whole-brain connectome diffusion MRI at 760 μm isotropic resolution (adapted from Wang *et al.* Scientific Data. 2021;8(1):1–2; created using DSI Studio).

Which of the following animals, if any, do you think you could beat in a fight if you were unarmed? %

Figure 2 YouGov Poll—What animal could you beat in a fight? Compared with women, men feel most able to take on medium-sized dogs and geese.

created by whole-brain tracking of 500 000 tracks and cut at midbrain and pons level in a healthy subject.

GENDER GAP

Some important research reconfirms the biases and scale of discrepancy that we see. In a study that mimicked an employment process for postdoctoral research assistants, 117 CVs were randomised and 56 were analysed (dropout due to consent and lost to follow-up). CVs from men were more likely to receive higher ratings and the candidates were more likely to be seen as having 'leadership potential'. Both male and female reviewers favoured men; women scoring the CVs were more likely to score men highly overall and for 'scientific contribution'.

So A Fo Ben asks (with tongue-probing buccinator integrity): can we demonstrate that men reliably show the wisdom and strength of character to deserve such elevation? A recent YouGov poll of Americans asked: if unarmed, which animals would you be confident in fighting (figure 2)? The biggest sex biases were for eagle, medium-sized dog and goose (15%, 21% and 20% points, respectively)—clear evidence of male overconfidence. However, A Fo Ben's attention is

drawn to both ends of the scale—32% of women would not feel confident overpowering a rat—and there is a near equal sex match for the foolhardy who feel pretty sure they could dominate a grizzly bear, lion or gorilla.

J Clin Epidemiol. 2021; S0895-4356(21)00178-5.

LISHMAN (1931–2021)

Alwyn Lishman, the UK's first professor of neuropsychiatry, laid out his views on neurological disease, psychiatric aetiology and the role of biopsychosocial factors in the seminal *Organic Psychiatry* textbook, 1978. A career of inspiring by mentorship and clinical research work was exemplified by his study of neuropsychiatric impairment related to frontal lobe damage in war veterans. His obituary states 'as a clinician, Lishman was peerless', and through careful observation and skilful communication, he inspired a generation of neuropsychiatrists.

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