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Survey Title: P180B - Cosmic Voyage

Question: 2) Do you believe that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life? (DNA) Do you believe that scientists have opened your eyes on the universe? (Stars, planets, galaxies) Have scientists unraveled the constituents of the human brain? (Neurons) Are we aware of our own consciousness? What is common to all life on earth? How do you know anything that you know?

Participant #1	
<p>Scientists have worked furiously for years and years trying to uncover the secrets of how we live. They did find what makes us individual and that is our DNA. I know they have discovered the structure (double helix) and the basic works (the cooperative works between RNA tRNA, mRNA, rRNA and the proteins and amino acids that help to make it all up) but I also believe that they have so much more to unravel. We know the basic workings but why, why is it this way, and would another way be better?</p> <p>I think it is incredible what researchers and scientists have discovered in our universe. Looking at tiny molecules through a microscope that are right in front of us in one thing but to actually discover what is billions of miles away is astonishing. To know how our universe exists in the Milky Way but to know that there are more out there with more planets and possibly more life is a thing that everyone strives to achieve and we are getting closer and closer, though I don't believe we ar</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #2	
<p>I think that scientists have a chip of an iceberg. They have knowledge of DNA and base pairs and how tightly they are bound with histones to form into chromosomes in the nucleus of a cell that can only be seen under high magnification, which unwrapped and laid out stretch out to meters long. We know that DNA determines our characteristics and forms us as people and there is no life without it. When I study it in molecular biology it seems so complex and complete and I wonder how we could have ever discovered any of it. So compared to when we did not know about DNA, or thought it had no function, we have uncovered so much. However, what if it is like when we first discovered there is more out there than earth? We know so much more now about stars and galaxies and planets than we once did, but we see that there is so much we don't know. It is easier to see that we don't know everything about the universe because it is so big compared to us. DNA being so small is easier for us to</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #3	
<p>I honestly believe that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life, its just a matter of time when we can fully understand how and where our genetic make up determines how long we live, what diseases we are prone to, down to the color of our eyes and skin tone.</p> <p>As far as opening my eyes on the universe, scientists unraveling the constituents of the human brain, and me being aware of my own consciousness, I believe that science has a great deal with me being aware of my own surroundings.</p> <p>The one thing that is common to all life on earth is the fact that we're made up of "recycled galaxy" we are all about 13.7 billion years old, and we wouldn't know any of this if it weren't for early scientist.</p> <p>The reason why we know anything that we know is through our predecessors. Would we understand force, if</p>	3/1/2006

it weren't for Newton? Would we understand the universe if it weren't for Copernicus' idea of a central sun with revolving planets? We stand on the shoulder of our forefathers,	
Participant #4	
2. I do believe that scientist have found that DNA to be an essential ingredients for everything that is in existence. Without mapping DNA there wouldn't be any systematic way into understanding what life is all about. I don't believe scientist have opened my eyes to everything that is out there and how everything functions. I don't think it is entirely scientists that should be blamed though. The universe is so vast that there isn't enough technology yet to understand everything that is out there. If you think about our existence though our earth has been around for about five billion years. It has been only in the last couple of centuries in which we have started to study life. We have a long way to go into understanding everything. We as a human civilization have made huge strides into better understanding not only ourselves, but our galaxy that we live in. In the next couple of centuries we will have technology that will help us explore the smallest atoms and distance gal	3/1/2006
Participant #5	
I believe that DNA is the mechanism for life and that scientists discovered this amazing breakthrough in the mid-1900s. There have been so many experiments to conclude that DNA is the mechanism for life, how could no one believe this? Scientists do not just conclude facts after one experiment; they do them repeatedly to assure that what they are discovering is in fact not just a one-time discovery. Scientists have opened my eyes on the universe because I did not used to believe these ideas until I actually started learning what had actually been found. The way that stars, plants, and galaxies work together is fascinating and I still have a lot to learn about them. Scientists have unraveled the constituents of the human brain, neurons. We have discovered a lot of information about how the human brain works, including the functions of each part. However, why certain parts do what they do is not quite fully understood. It is difficult to discover or understand why anything functions the	3/1/2006
Participant #6	
I do believe that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life (DNA), because we know about RNA and we are able to clone life. We know the three essential elements to make life, which are water, energy, and carbon, and we know the gist of where we came from and how our universe came to be. Yet until the day comes when scientists can harvest and grow a baby without a human being, they have not entirely uncovered the mechanism of life in my opinion. Scientists have definitely opened by eyes to better understanding the universe, such as the stars, planets, and galaxies in it. It's the whole zooming out effect, we are so small yet in comparison to the sun we are even smaller in size, each sun is just one star of billions in one galaxy, each galaxy has it's own planets and each galaxy is one of many in the vast and continuously expanding universe. We know nothing of what goes on in other galaxies and as far as we know the shortest distance between two points is a line, but what if	3/1/2006
Participant #7	
I believe that scientists have discovered most of the basic mechanisms for life starting with the RNA world, since RNA can act as both information and in catalyzing reactions, leading to the mostly protein enzymatic and transcription factors, which control DNA, and the current DNA genetic information storage world, which is used for the instructions of cell differentiation and reproduction. Scientists have opened my eyes awhile ago on the Stars, Planets, and galaxies of the universe from the formation of our and all of the other planets from the conglomerating effects of gravity, heat produced from the collision of large masses with these bodies along with heat produced from electromagnetic radiation from stars and heat produced by the pressure produced by the planets own gravity. These events lead to the settling of large amounts of the elements which are more dense near the core; for example Fe, Mol Wt, 55.85, settled near the core while the lighter elements mostly settled nearer	3/1/2006
Participant #8	
Question#2 I don't believe that scientists have discovered the mechanism for life (DNA). Although DNA is very important, and it is the code that makes us do what we do, and without it life is impossible, it is not the	3/1/2006

only important thing. If you put all the DNA in the entire world into a room and left it there for days and months and years, it would not create life. DNA is a code for making proteins, the proteins are just as important as the DNA (in fact, the proteins are the reason why the DNA even exists at all). I really don't know enough about DNA to say that it is or is not the mechanism for life, but I believe that there is more to it than that. Also, the DNA double helix is being mapped out, does this make us gods? I don't think so. The only thing that really creates life is mommies and daddies. Just kidding. I do believe that scientists have opened our eyes on the universe. Scientists are just people like you and me. The only thing that makes them sc

Participant #9

Yes, scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life. Every life on earth has DNA in some form or another some have linear, other circular, and others have the double helix. With in these structures you have molecules, which are composed, of atoms and in these atoms you have a nucleus that has and even smaller particles composed of quark. These quarks are found in every living organism they make up matter. In a way scientists have opened our eyes to the universe because a scientist built a telescope and that allowed us to have a much better understanding of our universe. Also, the station that is setup to pickup signals from other life forms if it ever does pickup a signal will help us begin to understand outer space. The constituents of the brain have been uncovered they are called neuron the work almost like a telephone wire sending messages to our whole body making it function to sustain us. Not really were not really aware of our own consciousness. Although, we are awake

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Participant #10

I believe that scientists have uncovered a very important part of human life through DNA research. However, I don't feel that they have uncovered the mystery of life in that even with all this knowledge, there is still so much to learn about an organism's (or human's) life. Scientists have definetely opened my eyes to the universe. With all the technology we have today, I feel as though I can ask questions with more meaning and thought behind them rather than being totally clueless about the universe in which we live. By knowing more, we can eventually learn more about the universe, stars, planets and galaxies. Scientists have found many important scientific facts and information about the brain, however, there is always more to learn. If we had all the answers, we wouldn't continue to study it! There is always more to learn and even though we have a lot of knowledge about the brain, we can't know all of it (we can't even USE all of our brain so how can we KNOW about i

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Participant #11

I believe that the mechanism for life is DNA, however knowing that this is only constructed of nucleotides holding the key of amino acids there may be a smaller function; more critical function of life that hold more genetic information. DNA holds the genetic code in the future it will be broken down even farther to see that the nucleotides are composed of a smaller life form that holds traits for viruses, eye color, and plant characteristics. Science has expanded my horizons beyond anything that I can see. I always believed that nothing existed unless I could see it and feel it. However though my education my attitude has been drastically altered. I have never been able to hold a star yet I believe and know its there though evidence. Scientists have opened my eyes to the universe yet I'm not convinced that is all there is. Seeing images of the galaxy and knowing that there is not beyond the fundamental elements and chemistry in space, it seems more that likely that there is other I

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Participant #12

I think that scientists have uncovered a discovery in DNA which is a major finding that has and will unearth many things about our bodies and life, but I still don't think that we really now HOW life exists? What makes something living or dead? Scientists have also figured out a lot of things about the universe. It is amazing since they have done so without being able to actually have a human travel many parts of the universe. They know how stars form, what they are made up of, their estimated life span, knowledge of other galaxies, etc. Scientists have unraveled much of the constituents of the brain. We know that the brain is linked with neural paths that connect all throughout the body to our senses. We know which parts of the brain control our

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memory, senses, and emotion. Although we know about these elements of the brain, it is extremely complex and we still have much to learn. I believe we are aware of our consciousness. We are aware of ourselves and our situation. With th	
Participant #13	
2) 2. DNA is the mechanism for life evolving, and studies of the smallest and simplest forms of life - Bacteria and Archaea hold the answers for the origin of all life on earth and even ideas of how life arose from non-life. Even the way our brains work is simple firing of electricity in patterns- electrons moving through space. All aspects of life can be simplified down to three basic elements: liquid water, carbon and energy. All forms of energy come from one source – nuclear reactions between the atoms in our sun and consequences thereof. How do we know anything we know? It is all relative to what we knew before. We humans are figuring out our origins piece by piece through technology, communication and the combination of many brains working together. Maybe this is what God intended... ;-)	3/1/2006
Participant #14	
2) I do believe that we are close to uncovering the mechanism of life(DNA). I feel that scientists have come a long way in trying to explain out universe, however at the same time I feel that we have only scratched the surface. I feel this way in many areas of science. For instance, with pharmacological drugs today, the most owe know about any one drug is 50% of what it does. For example, there is Prozac, which is an anti-depressant. It is a SSRI(selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor). This drug goes into the body as Fluxatine and then metabolized into nor-Fluxatine.. After this we are not sure where the drug goes in the body. We have no idea of the long term effects of drugs. When it comes to the unraveling of the human brain, I feel that there is much more that can be achieved. I think that we have done a great job of getting a basic grasp on how it works, both on the psychological, biological, chemical, bio-chemical point of view. There is still more that needs to be un	3/1/2006
Participant #15	
I think scientists have discovered the mechanism for life. DNA is the basis of all living things, without it, we would have no genetic code and everything around us would be the same. Humans had to start from a certain substance and DNA would explain how we were started since it is our chemical code. If we took a microscope and looked at any organism, the last thing we would come across is its DNA. Although, things change over time and in a few hundred years we may find that DNA is not the smallest form of our chemical code. Scientists have opened my eyes and also made me ask more questions about the universe, like, do we know how far the universe expands out? I never knew that we had structures that are detecting for radio waves to see if aliens are present. There are a lot more things out there than just planets and stars. There is evidence of life since they have found micro bacteria on a meteorite from Mars. From my perspective I think that there is life on another planet. The univ	3/1/2006
Participant #16	
Scientists have showed experimentally that Earth's early atmosphere can produce organic material such as nucleic acids. I believe that life, whether organized by a higher being or by chance, was created by these conditions. DNA and RNA is contained in all reproducing beings but I don't know if I would say it creates life. One's definition of life will have an influence on their answer to this question, but there are things like viruses that have DNA or RNA but I wouldn't consider them to have life. Science has definitely opened by eyes to the way the world works and what it is created of. As we have seen in the past, without science, many false assumptions have been made about the universe and its workings. By using scientific principles and looking at fact we are better able to account for the universe. It is important to theorize for science to progress, but scientific theories are based on logic, not on feelings, or on the supernatural. While some people try to focus on how	3/1/2006
Participant #17	
Yes I do believe that scientists have uncovered DNA. Today there is so much information about what DNA is and we are confidently taught about it in our classes. Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is a nucleic acid, usually in the form of a double helix, that contains the genetic instructions specifying the biological development of	3/1/2006

<p>all cellular forms of life, and most viruses. DNA is often referred to as the molecule of heredity as it is responsible for the genetic propagation of most inherited traits.</p> <p>I do think that scientists have opened my eyes on the universe. I feel that in each science class I take I am learning more information and expanding my horizons. Also videos such as the Cosmic Voyage are very powerful and get a person to think and come back to reality and to stop and think how life began and why we are here today. I believe that scientists put the information out there for us to learn from so that we can create and prove theories and find more information about things such a</p>	
Participant #18	
<p>I do believe the scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life in DNA because they have photos on electron microscopes of rings of DNA. Also the experiment formed by Watson and Crick on the X ray crystallographer were interpreted and it showed the structure was a double helix. If DNA was not a mechanism for life contemporary biology would have to be rewritten and many theories about how hereditary information is passed from one generation to another would be erroneous.</p> <p>Scientists have opened my eyes to the universe in the way that they have presented it. I don't know for myself whether or not there is nitrogen or sulfur gas on another planet we are really just trusting those who seem qualified enough and smart enough to claim so. With the little that I do know about chemistry and physics and believe the scientists are correct in what they have concluded and their methods seem to make sense. A lot of the theories about the stars, planets, and galaxies are mind blowing in the</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #19	
<p>Yes I think that DNA is the mechanism for life. It is not only responsible for the continuation of life, cell division and reproduction and passing along of the genotype of living organisms, but also how a cell functions. We all know how DNA is what carries the human genotype and blah blah blah, so that's one of the reasons it is the mechanism for life. But also it is what codes for the production of proteins. Proteins are sooooo important to life and how a cell functions. In cells alone they are integral to transporting things across the membrane(and we saw how important that is when we learned about the action potential, so without proteins there is no action potential), in identification (important in cell to cell communication and we see this in blood types, proteins are the reason our blood is A, B, O whatever), enzymes, made of proteins, are important to just about everything, and the list goes on. Cells are what make up life, so if proteins are what make life work, they are wha</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #20	
no time to do this one.	3/1/2006
Participant #21	
<p>Personally, after watching this video, I believe that man has great understanding of the universe, but there is still an infinite amount of discoveries out their. I do believe that humans have grasped much there is to know about the mechanisms of life, however if smaller particles and things that are still not known now are discovered, it could totally change the way we understand life's mechanisms all together. Likewise, I think we understand some things about the universe, but not as much as "inner" space. I believe that this is mainly because of the fact the man has only had access to space since the mid 1900's so space exploration is still an extremely young field. There are still some area's of inner space though that are still largely unknown about. Man has studied the brain and observed the neuron in hopes of unlocking all its mysteries. Although we may understand how it works and the steps that happen in order for it to work, we still don't know exactly why it happens in all ca</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #22	
<p>I do believe that science has, is, and will continue to try to explain the mechanisms for life and existence as we know them to be now. However, I do not believe that these processes will ever be fully understood, regardless of how far civilizations gets. It is true that DNA codes for all biological processes within an organism, and that since it was found, many specific codes have been found. This 'genetic code' alone does not make something "alive". Science has "opened my eyes on the universe", such that now I have a fuller understanding of the rules which govern all things in nature. The vast expanse of space is of yet much too</p>	3/1/2006

<p>far for humanity to traverse, but I think that it is possible to study things from afar and still understand them, although not completely. When it comes to our own bodies and parts, however, I feel that science is only partially capable of explaining everything that goes on. True, the neuron has been found; and true, the methods by which messages are</p>	
<p>Participant #23</p>	
<p>I believe we have uncovered the mechanism for life (DNA), but we still do not fully understand it. We are still working on stem cell research, cloning, etc., and we have been manipulating DNA in order to uncover such things as "faulty" DNA (for example, down syndrome and baldness). We have successfully mastered gene splicing, allowing us to genetically alter DNA. However, we still have much to understand about DNA. It holds a lot of information and we have only been studying its secrets for half a century. Scientists have opened my eyes to the universe. I have been an amateur astronomer for the past 9 years and I have always found astronomy very interesting. It has broadened my mind to scientific explanation rather than "this is my religion, accept these facts because God said so." Science (and scientists) allows creativity and the chance to experiment, over blindly accepting "facts." When it comes to the human brain, I personally think we have gotten almost nowhere.</p>	3/1/2006
<p>Participant #24</p>	
<p>I believe that scientists have uncovered some of the mechanism of life because there is a lot more out there than what we think. Just look how much we learned and know about life in the past 100 years. Evolution and technology has expanded our horizons and knowledge of life to successfully begin to understand the many questions life has to give. Our knowledge and technology of life will just begin to increase and get smarter. Very soon we will be cloning humans and creating life by hand through technology and maybe finding ways to bring life back to the deceased. Scientists have definitely opened our eyes to the universe because they have provided with very interesting details and facts of the world outside the Earth. There is so much to learn about our solar system but the thing is the solar system is only a very minuscule part of the galaxy. There is so much more to explore and see in the galaxy where one can't do it all in one lifetime. Scientists haven't completely unraveled the co</p>	3/1/2006
<p>Participant #25</p>	
<p>2) Science has come a long way since its early days. With the discovery of DNA, scientists have answered a lot of unanswered questions, but I feel that there is still more to find. Even though we can use DNA to trace our ancestry to another place, we still don't have a cure for every disease known to man. Or for that matter we don't really know if there are anymore unknown diseases that we still have to discover. Scientists have definitely opened my eyes to the universe. We are not only of looking at the stars from the comfort of our own house, but soon we should be able to travel to outer space. Scientists have unraveled some of the constituents of the human brain, although they know a lot about its behavior and its purpose there's still much to be discovered. One thing they do know is the basic things for life such as oxygen and water are important for survival of organisms.</p>	3/1/2006
<p>Participant #26</p>	
<p>The unit of life is cells, and all cells have DNA. Thanks to Watson, Crick, and Franklin for the discovery of DNA, I do believe that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life. DNA is a nucleic acid in the form of a double helix that contains the genetic instructions specifying the biological development of all cellular forms of life. I think the mechanism of life can be explained with the central dogma of molecular biology, DNA is transcribed to RNA and RNA is translated into proteins. Proteins are essential to the structure and function of all living cells. Many proteins are enzymes or subunits of enzymes, catalyzing chemical reactions. Other proteins play structural or mechanical roles, such as those that form the struts and joints of the cytoskeleton, serving as biological scaffolds for the mechanical integrity and tissue signaling functions. Scientists have successfully opened my eyes to the universe. I learned that outside of Earth is another world filled with stars</p>	3/1/2006
<p>Participant #27</p>	
<p>It is know that scientists have discovered DNA and how DNA works to create traits and characteristics seen</p>	3/1/2006

in every living thing. However, I don't think that we know everything about DNA that there is to know. It was only 50 years ago that Watson and Crick discovered DNA, which in the grand scheme of things is not long ago at all. I am sure that there is much more to DNA than anyone realizes. Scientists have come a long way and have certainly opened the worlds eyes to the universe just like changing the theory that the earth was the center instead of the sun. As time goes on people begin to accept what science has to offer even though it may go against what has been a long-standing belief for so long. Scientists are still trying to find out if there is life on any other planets in our galaxy, and after that we will start looking outward more into other galaxies. The human brain is much like the universe. The information that we have about the brain and how it works is still so n

Participant #28

I believe that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life. I think that they have proved that DNA is what sets people apart from other people. DNA is what gives people their different personalities, abilities to learn, brain capacities, and things of that nature. These things of course give rise to how each of those individual people with those kinds of attributes adapt, survive, and live through life.

I believe that scientists have opened our eyes to the universe. The invention of the telescope helped in that it allowed us to see out in space to actually see the stars, planets and other galaxies. With that, they have explained how things in the Universe work: billions of stars, and those stars having planets of their own, and that goes on seemingly like forever.

I think that scientists have unraveled the constituents of the brain. The neurons interact in a way that makes the brain work. Without the neurons, the brain cannot really function to it's full effect. Th

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Participant #29

"It's alive, It's Alive," exclaimed the mad Dr. Frankenstein as he created his hideous monster. As off collar as it may seem, this quotation does a good job of illustrating my beliefs on life and our knowledge of it. The fact is we can not create life, therefore we don't understand everything about it. Yes, we know about DNA, but we have not decoded it all. Nor do we understand completely the human chromosome. What I do believe modern science is, is a stepping stone to great things.

We are yet in the beginning stages of understanding the full function of our brain, let alone the entire universe. As we map brain activity, and map the stars we are finding the building blocks for tomorrow's science. The great thinkers of each generation shall make bounds leading eventually to what constitutes life.

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Participant #30

I'm not sure that we can really "know" anything for sure. We have uncovered DNA and it definietly does an incredible amount of work, but what if there is something behind DNA that is sort of a driving force that we havent uncovered yet. I mean look at how long it took us to find DNA and we had no notion of its abilities before then, so why now cant it be possible that we havent uncovered something else incredible like DNA. My eyes have been opened to the universe because scientists have doen absolutely mind boggling work digging into how everything works and why it works. For example i find the knowledge of the contents of the Earths core and its consequent magnetic field extremely facsinating. At the same time however i keep my eyes and mind open to the idea there there is still an infinite amount of possibilty in terms of what may still be out there and the things we have no clue about yet. I think the idea of scientists unraveling the contstituents of the human brain relates exac

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Participant #31

I do think that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life. Everything we know to be living on this earth and many other planets have the common ground of DNA. Everything down to the clothes we wear to the water we drink came from some source of life with DNA. I think that DNA is a key necessity to the mechanism of life. But, I think that with the knowledge we have now of life and how it is created and with human's innate curiosity, I wouldn't doubt that that there is more to the mechanism of life than DNA. I think the creation of life can be taken to even more complicated levels than we humans can comprehend to current day society. How was DNA created?

I do also think that scientists have opened our eyes to the universe. With out man kind's innate sense to question we would most likely not exist. It is through this innate sense that scientists have theorized and gained knowledge of the huge space we sit in. By studying these stars, planets, and galaxies we get a little

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Participant #32	
Scientists I believe scientists have barely touched on the subject of how life works and the universe. There is so much to learn about the human body. Yes, we have discovered DNA, the building blocks of life, but have we discovered the mechanism, no. If scientists have discovered the mechanism of life, they can prevent all the disease, cancers, disorders, that life is filled with. As you can say, an 'ultra' fit human being, free of all disease, cancers, and disorders, do people really want that though? Only the future will tell. With the universe, scientist have barely touched the subject, yeah they opened my eyes, maybe a better understanding but with the universe, its like the depths of the ocean, we know its there but don't know much about it. Scientists are barely discovering planets outside our own galaxy. We have to understand, with the universe we don't know where it begins and where it ends, as we know it, the galaxy can run for millions, and millions of light years.	3/1/2006
Participant #33	
2) I do not believe that scientist have completely uncovered the mechanism for life, but merely gotten a good glimpse of it. I highly respect their genius and their drive to find out the inner workings of the miniscule universe, but I think there is far more to learn than scientists know now. The inner universe and the outer universe are similar in their awesome-ness, but to me, the beauty of the "outer" universe is greater than the "inner" universe. They both have their astounding glory, but I was far more impressed with the outer universe instead...hehe.	3/1/2006
Participant #34	
I think that scientists have discovered a lot about DNA, but I think that they have a lot more to learn about. I think that the future of DNA science will involve trying to find cures for genetic diseases by some how cloning DNA or possibly using DNA from another organism. Yes, I do believe that scientists have opened my eyes to the universe. I learned a lot from watching the video, Cosmic Voyage. I don't think that scientists have begun to fully understand the mysteries of the human brain, I think that it is as vast and unexplained as the universe. Wow, this is a tough question; it really makes you think, I think that we are aware of our own consciousness on some level, but not fully. I think that we are aware of our consciousness on an emotional level, but not a molecular level. Meaning that we are aware what we are thinking and doing, but not what is going on deep in our bodies. All life on earth has some common traits; everything can respond to stimuli, somehow reproduce, and has a	3/1/2006
Participant #35	
a. I believe that although scientists have discovered DNA, there are smaller parts that they have seen which could be the mechanism for life. Yes scientists have greatly opened my eyes on the universe, but I believe that there are greater things that will be discovered some day. I believe the brain is one of the most unknown things on the earth, especially if you are a scare crow, and scientists have not even cracked the surface. I am unsure about the awareness our own consciousness, sometimes we do things without thinking about it. All life on earth has life in common with life on earth. Also, the theory that all life started in the ocean. I know everything I know because I know that I know everything that I know except for the things that I don't know but if I want to know them, then I know that I can get to know them.	3/1/2006
Participant #36	
2) I believe that scientist have uncovered the mechanism to life in decoding the DNA strand. But a lot more questions arise into how we are going to be able to make this knowledge become useful to us. I believe that scientist have opened our eyes to the universe. Our early ancestors believed everything revolved around the sun. It wasn't till relatively recently in human history that we discovered earth revolves around the sun and there are planets and stars outside our solar system and galaxy. The next step will be to explore all those planets. Scientist has done lots of work to unravel the human brain, but there is still much work that can be done in the field to increase our understanding. We are aware that we have a consciousness it is our unconscious that is the new focus of study. Knowing how and why we store memory the way we do. We have discovered cells which are the basics to human life. We know what we do because we have faith in	3/1/2006

what our senses have perceived as the	
Participant #37	
<p>I think scientist have only touched the tip of the iceberg. With ever discovery they make it will lead them to even more un answered questions as well as new questions that they didn't know existed until that new discovery. It's a frustrating situation.</p> <p>I think the mechanism for human life is DNA but what about the mechanism for the universe. What is the mechanism for that? Scientist have a basic comprehension of the human brain and I hope they never fully comprehend to the human brain because that will then leas to artificial intelligence. I think computers taking the place of humans have gone far enough but that is another story.</p> <p>Scientist has opened my eyes about the universe. It makes you wonder what else is out there.</p> <p>Us as humans only play a small fraction in the universe. Everything seems like a cycle, we feed of the universe and it feeds of us.</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #38	
<p>I believe DNA is the mechanism for life. I believe it is the molecule responsible for me being 6'1" blonde hair and blue eyes. It was the molecule that made it possible for life to form on this planet. Scientists have helped me become aware of the universe. I have learned many things in school about our world and beyond along with many books and incredible television programs. I think that to really open your eyes you need to have the desire to find these answers and knowledge. I wouldn't really say my eyes are open as much as they could be due to lack of time and dedication to that purpose. One day in the future I hope to take that into my own hands and do the eye opening myself and use the many scientists that have come before me as guides. Scientists still have no idea how many parts of the human brain work. We know an unbelievable amount about our bodies and our brains but what we don't know is way more significant than what we do. We are not aware of our own consciosun</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #39	
<p>I believe that though we discovered DNA, we still need to try and understand DNA. Scientists are still exploring the science of genetics, and it is difficult at this stage due to moral and ethical reasons. I believe that we can learn plenty from DNA, and over time, we will learn more, whether it takes 10 years or 100 years. At the other end of the spectrum, I also believe that we have so much more to understand about the "outer limits" (the universe and beyond). Before I saw the film, I did not realize the magnitude in size of the universe. The universe is huge, therefore the possibilities of new discoveries are endless. We can discover new stars, galaxies, and planets, and we can even discover life on other planets. This can have a huge impact on humans, because a lot of questions could be answered regarding how we came into existence. Even personal beliefs would be challenged! Though our search is very ambitious, it is possible, and more discoveries will occur over time.</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #40	
<p>I believe that even if scientists believe they have uncovered the mechanism for life they actually can't. They may discover how the body works, all the macromolecular events that happen in the body but they can't uncover the secret to life. They can never make a person live forever.</p> <p>Scientists have opened my eyes to the universe, because without them researching all that they have and reporting it to the public, I wouldn't know half the stuff that I do about the universe, even thought we only know like 10% of what the universe is.</p> <p>Scientists have not unraveled the constituents of the human brain, or proven that we are aware of our own consciousness. It was only a few centuries ago that people believed that the human heart was the center of a persons consciousness.</p> <p>I know anything that I know by learning it by experiencing it by watching and learning.</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #41	
<p>Scientists have discovered DNA, we are still working with it and learning from it, but we know it exists and we have promoted and benefited human exist form that knowledge. Scientists have changed the world with their work on DNA, and yes have opened my eyes on the universe. The can fix and safe one small life which</p>	3/1/2006

may seem meaningless when learning about the grandeur of the universe, but it changes that whole person perspective, and allows them the very chance to also learn and benefit and possibly even contribute to our understanding of our world. Scientists and their discoveries have changed our very lives, without them, we might still think the world is flat...but now we are able to go to the moon, take pictures of the galaxy with cameras placed on satellites and predict the distances in between objects in our universe.

Scientist has unraveled neurons and can tell that with in them lie other matters called forces (I think I couldn't exactly make it out). As for as being awar

Participant #42

Everything that we have learned this far has been very much so relied on faith and what people have told us. Only now as college students are we able to begin to test what was told to us growing up and see for ourselves if it is the truth or not. Also we are given the opportunity to take what people before us have learned and expand on it. As far a DNA is concern, I feel that scientist have discovered DNA and all the amazing attributes it has. However based history and the continuing betterment of our tools, it is hard to determine if it truly is the most basic mechanism for life. Years from now, new discovers may take us deeper into discovering what truly makes us work and give us life. I believe whole heartedly that scientists have opened our eyes to the universe; they have given us the opportunity to look up and see things we would have never gotten to see normally. I also believe that we will go much further one day and see it with our own eyes even closer and farther away. I have

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Participant #43

I do believe that scientist have uncovered the mechanism for life because DNA is the genetic makeup that makes up each individual. It holds the genetic information that makes each one of us so different yet so the same. I think scientists have discovered a lot of things, but they are still in search for something new to figure out about not only the environment around us but our own bodies. Of course scientist have opened up my eyes about the universe, we would never know what you do today if it wasn't for them. It dates back way to Galileo with his telescope and finding the different moons and craters. It is odd to think that if scientist had never been searching for answers we might not have know about the environment around us today. The common element of all life on earth is DNA, and how it makes up every creature, human or plant. It is the make-up of all life. I don't think I can say for that I am fully aware of my own consciousness, I know the greater picture, but I shoul

3/1/2006

Participant #44

I believe that scientist have gotten close to uncovering the mechanism of life. The only reason that they have not yet uncovered is because we are not able to understand what goes on inside of a single molecule and what are their driving forces that make them what they are. I do believe that scientist has opened our eyes to the universe. We can tell by our fascination with the idea of being able to travel into outer space and being able to visit other planets. For example we have films such as star wars and star trek that deal with the idea of travel that scientist have pitched at us. Scientist have unraveled the constituents of the brain. They have been able to explain how electricity and chemical reactions control our emotions and our actions. We can see that the brain is controlled by these mechanisms. As you told us in class the brain perceives an electrical signal that is the same but applied at different patterns to tell it that certain things are happening. One thing tha

3/1/2006

Participant #45

I believe scientists have uncovered a partial mechanism of life (DNA) that they have gotten a look inside but it probably goes deeper than DNA. Scientists have definitely opened my eyes to the universe, stars and planets, etc. I think it is so interesting. There is so much out there to learn. Scientists have done much research on the outer universe as well as the inner universe. The constituents of the human brains (neurons) have been discovered by scientists but I think there is so much more to know about them. We are barley scratching the surface. Water, carbon and energy are common to all life on earth. I'm not sure if we are aware of our own consciousness, I don't think most people ever really take the time to think about it but I'm thinking that if we were more aware of our own consciousness we might behave differently and see the world in a different way. We do not know that we know anything; we believe that we know things. It is only our

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perception, which becomes our real	
Participant #46	
Scientists are the kids in the back that wondered why the lightbulb worked, or why the caterpillar looked the way they did, they are the kids that no one liked because he/she asked the questions no one thought of. So inherently scientists are the curious folk that wanted to know more- not for the sake of a grade- but for the fact that life is too grand to allow for an idle existence. With that said, I do not believe that scientists uncovered the mechanisms for life, nor have they opened our eyes to the universe, or unravel the constituents of the human brain. Rather it is the people that wish to know that are unraveling it for themselves. Then these people will share it to an audience that wishes to unravel these mysteries for themselves as well. Scientists are no different from you or I, the only difference is the experience and years they have had in their field of science. When Galileo was first observing the skies, he may have been writing it down for the sake of science but a	3/1/2006
Participant #47	
I do believe that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life. DNA explains many of the most basic aspects of biology, from genetics to evolution. I believe that DNA is the basic framework and "blueprint" for all life on Earth primarily because it fits in so well with other important biological processes and phenomena. The structure of DNA is perfectly suited to its purpose. The matched base pairs on the two strands of the double helix allow for the replication of DNA, which is a pivotal step in mitosis. Furthermore, scientists have done experiments in which they have demonstrated that it is the DNA, and not the protein, of a bacteriophage (a virus that attacks bacteria) that transmits its genetic information. Given this evidence, I believe that there is a strong enough case for DNA as the central mechanism for life. I also believe that scientists have revealed a great deal about the stars, planets, and galaxies of the universe. Since I'm a biology major, I've studied DN	3/1/2006
Participant #48	
In my mind there is no doubt that scientists have uncovered the mechanism in life as DNA. With the human genome project going on I believe in my life time there will be breakthroughs on gene therapy and replacement (despite my blonde hair and blue eyes being recessive I can be sure my kids will have the same features). By decoding the genome we can also do more important things than choose physical features, or sex of the baby. With this knowledge we can help prevent neurological disorders and other diseases such as autism and down syndrome. Along with preventative uses we could also use our knowledge to find a mitochondrial eve since we know that we get all organelles in our cells from our mother. This discovery would help us further realize how humans evolved. Speaking of evolution the continuing work with DNA should one day definitely answer the question to whether or not we evolved from apes (we did, don't let some evangelical crazies tell you otherwise). I believe scientis	3/1/2006
Participant #49	
Yes, partially, I do think that DNA is the blueprint for life and the mechanism by which life is replicated. I also think there must be some other mechanisms that affect and control the progress of life that have not been discovered yet, through the biology courses I have taken I have understood the life cycle but it seems to primitive to intricately control the development of life from conception. Yes they have definitely opened my eyes to the vastness of our universe and all its diverse planets, stars, and galaxies spotted with little wonders like black holes, comets, and worm holes. I don't believe scientists have completely unraveled mysteries of our consciousness, our brain is so complex, but all the explanations I have heard about our brain doesn't account for our comprehension of complex ideas, or the unique and artistic characteristics of our intellect. All life on earth has metabolism, and needs to take in sources of energy and produce some sort of products. I know from trial	3/1/2006
Participant #50	
I believe that scientists have only just cracked the surface of DNA. I think that it is such a complex aspect of	3/1/2006

<p>life and that we have many strides to still make. I feel that we will eventually be able to manipulate DNA (completely) and put certain aspect of DNA together and remove other aspects of DNA in order to achieve the DNA that would best fit our needs. I think they have opened my eyes to the universe and the planets and aspects that are entailed with the over universe. I think it is interesting that there might be other livable planets out there and that we might be able to visit those places. However the universe is a HUGE space and is going to be almost impossible to complete break down and understand in its entirety. I think they have begun to develop studies of the neurons that exist inside of us. I believe that we know of them and how they work, but we are a long way from being able to fully "understand" what is actually happening inside of us. I think that we are defiant!</p>	
Participant #51	
<p>Based on what I have been taught and completely accept to be true, I do believe that DNA is the mechanism for life. From microscopic prokaryotes to incredibly complex humans, all living things contain DNA. All living things are connected through this DNA. DNA is one of the many things common to life on Earth. Another similarity between life on Earth is reproduction. Every species of every living thing has a way preserving the species through reproduction. I also believe that evolution is common to all life on Earth. Every organism on this planet derived from one common ancestor. From that ancestor, individuals made adaptations, and passed those adaptations onto their offspring. These adaptations eventually led to an evolution of a new species. Without evolution, we'd still be unicellular organisms floating mindlessly in the oceans.</p> <p>Scientists have discovered some amazing things about the human brain, but I think that is just the tip of the iceberg. Thought, memory, and i</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #52	
<p>Scientists have discovered that DNA carries the genetic coding of life of most organisms. Many live bacteria have RNA instead of DNA carrying their genetic material. Scientists have discovered that DNA holds the information for human life. In actuality it may have been RNA or some smaller polymer thereof that began to form what we consider life. A researcher at Scripps Institute in the 1990's created synthetic RNA in the lab by recreating what they think the early earths atmosphere and ocean my have been like. He then sent electric shocks through it to mimic lightning, and RNA was created, which by itself was a huge feat. The thing that startled him as well as others is that the RNA began to self-replicate and before not long mutations within it caused strands of its progeny to begin to evolve. This evidence along with the fact that viruses have DNA and under the modern description of life, viruses are not considered to be alive, lends us to believe that DNA may not be the mechan</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #53	
<p>In my knowledge and what I have learned through science I truly believe that scientists have discovered the mechanism for life. DNA contains genetic instructions that specify the biological development of life. It controls heredity and human traits and without it life wouldn't exist. Scientists really have opened my eyes on the universe. It's amazing to learn what lies beyond our planet and how our system is just a part of an even bigger system. Space is so vast and one can't help but wonder what else is out there and how everything came about. I believe in the theory hypothesized in the film Cosmic Voyage on how it explains the development of the universe but I know that it doesn't explain it all. These systems that exist are so complicated and intricate that I find it nearly impossible that we can understand every component which makes them up. In the study of the human brain, I feel that we have gained an extraordinary amount of information and in uncovering neurons and how they are</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #54	
<p>Although scientists have discovered DNA the building block of life they have yet to discover the mechanism for life. Were at not yet close at doing this, because if it was so then scientists could make the super human that would be free of any type of disease. Scientist have somewhat opened my eyes to the potential of the universe, since it is so vast our current technology doesn't allow for this. We have yet to find the technology to land a person on Mars which is our neighboring planet, this tells you that we have a long way. We know what Neurons do we know how they work but we do not know the complexy of this microscopy part of the brain that makes us who we are. I think we are aware of our consciousness but what makes up our</p>	3/1/2006

consciousness how do we measure it, well these questions have not been answered yet. The only thing that is common to all life on earth is that one day it will die, yes it is made up of atoms and when we die those atoms are recycled and transform into somethin	
Participant #55	
Despite our great knowledge of the workings of our mind. The mystery of our neurons have not yet been fully understood. We are still studying the inner workings of our minds. We seek to understand ourselves ,and the world around us. This is the greatest gift that our evolutionary paths have taken us. Our curiosity drives us to find out everything we encounter. We are well aware of our consciousness, yet we can only explain the local workings of it. It is like a person who can only see as far as his eyes can take him, yet as he walks further and further, his vision will find new sights and sounds, and the images he has encountered are remembered (and some forgotten) by his memory. The only absolute common thing about all life on earth is that it is a part of an even greater part of a greater whole. That whole is also a part of an even greater whole. Yet trace back to the starting point of our topic, and we may go backwards and see that there are parts of that whole as well; broken down	3/1/2006
Participant #56	
I do feel that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life, or at least have uncovered most of it. It seems to make sense that DNA is the main mechanism because all living things have some type of DNA. For example, all humans have a DNA sequence, and all humans are alive. But there are some cases where part of a persons DNA is missing, or mutated, which leads them to a different type of life, either resulting in a disability, or even death. So it seems to me that scientists were right when deciding that DNA was the mechanism for life. I also feel that scientists have opened my eyes on the universe. From as far back as I remember, I have read about planets and stars, and knew that scientists were the ones who figured all that out. Never on my own would I have imagined that I'm living on a spinning sphere that travels around a star called the sun, that really is only a speck in the universe. I feel too that scientists have unraveled the elements of the human brain. I feel t	3/1/2006
Participant #57	
I believe that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life through the discovery of DNA. However I know that we are still far away from completely understanding how DNA functions. We have the illusion that we know how DNA works but that illusion seem far fetched when we can't even understand how the same drugs work differently in different races. And even the concept of race is sketchy because, according to DNA studies there is more variation within races than between them. If this is in fact true than why do drugs such as BIDIL work better on "blacks" than "whites." All of this conflicting information makes me wonder how much we actually know about DNA. Maybe it is safer to say that we are still in the discovery process rather than the knowledge state. I believe that scientists have opened my eyes on the universe, through such projects as the Hubble Space Station and Mars Rover. But I am concerned that we know more about what is above us than what surrounds us. Se	3/1/2006
Participant #58	
Yes I do believe that scientist have uncovered the mechanism for life, DNA. My opinion is that there is only so much information about DNA. Research now is not based on what DNA is but probably on how te getnetically improve DNA. What alterations can be made to make perfect, indestructible DNA. Some sort of super human so we never become extinct. Also with plants we are starting to scratch the surface by genetically modifying them making our crops that much better. DNA is the basis for all human beings so better understanding the mechanism for life is definately a constant battle to help improve our lives. I definately believe scientists have opened my eyes about the universe. Is that a rhetorical question? Scientist that have spent their lives solely researching certain aspects about our life have definately broadened my imagination about the universe along with other things with everyday life. Scientists are the reason I question everything. I need proof/evidence everytime someone pr	3/1/2006
Participant #59	

<p>I do think that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life which is DNA. I believe this because it is what I have studied and what I have been told by all my science teachers. DNA is the building blocks of life. I wish I could say that I do not believe we have uncovered what makes life but if DNA is not the building blocks of life than what is? I really cannot think of any other theory or explanation to what is the mechanism for life. Therefore I conclude DNA is the mechanism. Furthermore, there is a lot of evidence to show DNA controls life. Differing strands of DNA create differing forms of life. Also we use DNA to clone life. Without DNA, cloning would not be possible and is not a clone a form of life. By altering DNA, we have been able to manipulate such as changing the strands of fruits and vegetables to make them juicer, bigger, and even more nutritious.</p> <p>Scientists have opened my eyes on the universe. I had a very general knowledge of the universe. I knew ab</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #60	
<p>Scientists have just begun to uncover the mechanism for life. Sure DNA is a major component of life and how it works, it explains that which was once fantasy and speculation, but being aware that DNA is the genetic information for a cell is a giant leap into the mechanism for life. Although we have established that we can decode the human genome we still do not know why many of our own are afflicted with such things as diseases. Granted we realize why cancer occurs, the inability of our cells to stop the rapid cell division that cause tumors and quite possibly can lead to death. Yet even though we have this information we still have not found a cure which in my opinion is crucial to be considered in the understanding of a "Mechanistic" value of life. There is too much out there that proves to me that we have only begun to realize what DNA does and how it controls or deteriorates one's life. DNA is the genetic map of life not the mechanism. I would have to say however that the uni</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #61	
<p>After viewing the video, Cosmic Voyage and from my own acquired knowledge, I believe that science and scientists, have allowed us have a deeper understanding about the mechanism of life. I believe that the discovery of DNA, as well as the discovery of the DNA double helix in 1953, has given us a better understanding about life, as well as death. As a science student here at SDSU, I believe that Watson and Cricks' contribution to the science community has given us a very powerful tool for the understanding of the mechanisms of our lives and our bodies. Further, I believe that our understanding of the universe has given us an understanding, not only of the future, but of our past as well. I think that it is ironic that we view the universe as something futuristic, when in-fact, due to the acceleration of the universe, the further we look into the universe, the further we can look into our past. This idea was presented in the video, and I found it very interesting. I can attribute my know</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #62	
<p>I believe there are more information many more theories that are being revealed in the scientific world and that there is more to uncover in the mechanism for life, the universe, and the constituents of the brain. I don't believe we are aware of our own consciousness. "In approaching the problem, we made the tentative assumption (Crick and Koch, 1990) that all the different aspects of consciousness (for example, pain, visual awareness, self-consciousness, and so on) employ a basic common mechanism or perhaps a few such mechanisms. If one could understand the mechanism for one aspect, then, we hope, we will have gone most of the way towards understanding them all"</p> <p>-Francis Crick and Christof Koch. The things that I know what I know about scientists is through the past and scientific theories until that theory has been proven wrong.</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #63	
<p>Who the crap is this student? I hate whoever it is. Haha just joking, those are pretty good questions. Yeah I believe that scientists have uncovered mostly everything about DNA. You can't say they know everything because there is always a possibility of something new. We have all kinds of cool microscopes that can magnify so much we can see DNA structure.</p> <p>Yeah, scientists totally opened my eyes to the universe. If it wasn't for them and my 2nd grade teacher, I wouldn't know about any of it. It's nice to know that someone dedicated their life to studying the crazy phenomenons of life and space and we all benefit and learn from it. With all the cool pictures they have and video they are able to take and we are able to share in their works; space is truly fascinating.</p>	3/1/2006

<p>For the most part, scientists know how the human brain and neurons work. We know that the brain creates electrical signals and crap and it sends it through the motor cortex and to neurons and are sent throughout your body</p>	
<p>Participant #64</p>	
<p>Yes, I believe that DNA is the mechanism for life, and scientists have been successful in uncovering this. Our DNA dictates all the characteristics, physical traits, personality, etcetera. Without DNA, things wouldn't exist the way they do today, all the cells in our body follow the pattern set by DNA. DNA is the cause of all of us being individuals. Without scientists, I doubt that the general public would've accepted the discoveries in space like the stars, planets, and galaxies. The curiosity in all living systems, especially in humans, drove us to search for the answers to questions about the how we came to exist, what else is out there besides life on earth, or if there is something even more significant than the universe. The human brain is what sets us apart from every other living organism on earth. It is so complex that not even at this point have scientists been able to "unravel the constituents of the human brain." If they mastered these constituents, then artificial</p>	<p>3/1/2006</p>
<p>Participant #65</p>	
<p>Yes, I believe we have found part of the mechanism for life, but not the entire mechanism. I believe that all things including life have more than one mechanism. This question for me is a yes and no answer. Yes, because they have shown us things that could not even be created by the imagination yet, no, because, there is something bigger than we are. I do not know what it is I have my theories of what it is but right now if we look there is something bigger than everything else. I do not think that we have unraveled the brain yet because if we did then we'd know how things occur and why. Without how or why we have nothing in my opinion. This question as well is a yes and no answer. Yes, because we do make our own choices in our life. No, because there are times that life has rhyme or reason. What is common to all life is that will to survive to pass on it's will to future generations. If you look at any creature, the will to survive is encoded from a simple bacterium to the mo</p>	<p>3/1/2006</p>
<p>Participant #66</p>	
<p>I do believe that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life in DNA because it is the basis of life and the more we learn about DNA the more we will understand about life. My eyes have been opened to the ideas of the vast amount of galaxies made of other planets and stars. However there is so much that we do not know and even what we do know is so hard for our minds to even fathom. We may be presented with the information and our eyes may be opened to the greatness of our universe yet no one can really comprehend it. I think that scientists have just begun to unravel the constituents of the human brain through the understanding of the neurons. The brain and the entire human body are so complex and intricate it is difficult to believe that one day we will be able to understand everything about it. Personally I don't think that this is possible, we will get close but never understand everything. I think that we have the knowledge of our consciousness however we are not aware</p>	<p>3/1/2006</p>
<p>Participant #67</p>	
<p>I definitely think that DNA is the mechanism for life. All living things contain DNA and its patterns contribute to each individual's unique design. There are 6 billion people in the world, each with different DNA (with the exception of twins) but there are also billions of species of bacteria, archaea, animals, plants, etc. I believe that scientists have opened my eyes to the universe, but definitely have not shown me everything. It seems like there is so much stuff out there that we haven't discovered. I feel like the human brain is way too complex to be explained by only neurons. It seems like there is so much unconsciously going on in our heads, that we won't ever be able to consciously discover it.</p>	<p>3/1/2006</p>
<p>Participant #68</p>	
<p>I think that DNA is the mechanism for life as we define it. Scientists have certainly discovered many new, cool events and ideas but they have also created many more unsolved questions. No I do not believe that scientists have unraveled the constituents of the human brain but when they do I think the danger of the knowledge will outweigh the benefits. Are we aware of our own consciousness? You mean are we conscious of our consciousness? Either we are conscious of our consciousness or we are not conscious.</p>	<p>3/1/2006</p>

Earth life commonality: Life begets life, and life is made from non-life  ironic! Nothing I know I know for certain.	
Participant #69	
<p>I do believe that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life. We have seen DNA Scientists have linked DNA structures with certain characteristics we have. I believe that DNA is the one thing that scientists have almost completely uncovered. The one thing left for scientists to uncover is evolution. We still have arguments on whether or not humans came from apes or not.</p> <p>With inventions such as the microscope and telescope, I believe that scientists have opened my eyes to some of the universe. We have observed that atoms are the one common thing to all life on earth. Everything is made up of them in some sort of way. Scientists have also broadened my knowledge on the universe; the stars, planets, galaxies, and worlds around us, but who's to say that our universe has an end. We have limitation in our telescopes and we can see distance galaxies, but could there be something past those galaxies? We can see stars and far off planets, but we cannot reach them in order to under</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #70	
<p>I believe that DNA is the library of information that contains our genetic makeup, but is not the mechanism of life. We still do not know for sure what cases the beginning of life. Scientists have definitely opened my eyes to the universe. Allowed us to see beyond what we could naturally see and beyond what we could imagine or make up in our head. However there is still a lot to be learned about the universe, there are many things regarding ourselves and our planet that we have yet to figure out. Even the brain although it can be dissected and discussed is not fully known. Personally I don't believe I will ever find out what makes humans conscious beings, and what gives life on early its thoughts, feels, and emotions. We know that a series of patterns makes up all the sensory input that our brain receives and that we base reality as we know it on the signals. However I would like to think that my consciousness and ability to reason comes from something more or something greater that a</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #71	
<p>With the knowledge that I have, I do believe that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life. I do not believe that they understand it to its full potential, but I do believe DNA is the mechanism for life. What has led to this decision is my experience in biology. Reading on viruses and how they spread when DNA is present and how they do not when it is not. As far as scientists opening my eyes to the universe, they have been doing that since I was in the first grade. I find it hard not to be fascinated by the worlds and galaxies around us. To think about all they have discovered, for example the millions of other planets and stars, and not believe there is life on other planets has become impossible for me. It intrigues me every time I hear of the new satellite or telescope that has lengthened our sight in the universe. Although, it is hard for me to look elsewhere for discoveries when just inside of us so much is unknown. Neurons have been discovered, but their full ability has</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #72	
<p>I do believe that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life (DNA) because DNA is the material inside the nucleus of cells that carries genetic information. Our DNA is what tells us many of our physical features (how we will look) and without DNA, our genetic information would not be present within the nucleus of our cells.</p> <p>I think that with all the advancement in technology and what we know so far about our immense universe, scientists have opened up my eyes on the universe. Knowing the fact that our universe is massive, it is hard to believe that we are the only living life forms that exist. I believe that there are many Earth like planets out there for us to discover and the way that scientists have been approaching this matter has got me interested. With the recent discovery of water on other planets to discovering an entirely new galaxy, my interest on this topic has allowed me to see the universe in a whole different way. It is hard to comprehend how big the unive</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #73	

<p>I believe that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life. It has been well documented and recorded that every single living species alive here on Earth today share the same DNA structure. I learned that we're only one gene away from our closest living relatives which are the chimpanzees. I think its really fascinating that every species share this common trait. I also agree that scientists have helped me open up my eyes to our universe. I find the topic really interesting and I know that my brother and I have some deep talks about it. We both believe that the government should really invest more money with space exploration and research. We were talking about how its unfair that space exploration and research is mostly voluntary without constant funding. For humanities own good, I believe that studying space is just as important and clinical research. I believe that scientists are getting closer to uncovering the mystery and mechanism for life because we have a</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #74	
<p>The discovery of the double helix configuration of deoxyribonucleic acid led to much advancement in the fields of understanding genetic makeup and cell structures but I still don't believe that we are able to see the big picture. There still are several questions to be answered about DNA and more importantly we need to find out what arrangements are responsible for what genetic makeup. I believe if we can be able to further map DNA as well as the human genome, and to be able to identify certain characteristics that might prevent cancer or other illnesses; it would be a great scientific achievement.</p> <p>With respect to the universe, I think its great that scientists are so curious about the nature of our universe. I definitely think that scientists have opened our eyes on the universe. Personally I have seen the photos of deep space by telescopes such as the Hubble; and I think that this subject is one of the more interesting subjects in the scientific field.</p> <p>Brain chemistry is another</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #75	
<p>Yes, I believe that scientist have discovered the mechanism for life. With out the discovery for DNA, our world wouldn't be anywhere near what it is today. Scientist have indeed opened my eyes to the universe. After viewing the video, it really put into perspective just how large our universe is and how big 10^{23} power is for each star galaxy really is. Yes, I am aware of my own consciousness. Its amazing that's for sure! Just learning about how the human body works and how it took 15 billion years for humans to evolve after the big bang. What is common to all life on earth is that it is composed of atoms, the smallest unit of measurement in a living organism. All life begins from non- life. When the temperatures and elements are right. I know things that I know from other people. Without others, I would know nothing. I'd pretty much be a useless idiot!</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #76	
<p>Yes, I do believe that scientist have uncovered the mechanism for life. All life contains DNA, which can be founded in cells such as animals and plant. DNA contains hereditary information between generations since the beginning of time. Without DNA animals and plant would not have their own physical properties as they do today.</p> <p>Yes, scientist has opened my eye on the universe. The more questions that are being asked the more curious I become. The more information that are available to me the more I realize how interesting our universe is. Scientist made it possible for others to understand that the little glitter sparkles in the sky are stars just like our sun. Through findings such as these whether they are big or small, the more curious we are and the more motivate we are to find the answer.</p> <p>Yes scientist has unraveled the constituents of the human brain. Neurons help control our nerves that sends signal to our brain, which gives us our 5 senses.</p> <p>And no we are not aware of our</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #77	
<p>I do believe that scientist have uncovered the mechanism of life which is DNA. It has been said by scientist after extensive testing that DNA is what makes up humans and is what makes us individuals. I do believe that scientist have opened my eyes to the universe and the galaxy and all the information they have been finding. I would have never imagined that they would see what Mars would look like so early in my life it is just so amazing. Scientist work so hard to educate on our world and everyone one should be grateful at the knowledge we have been receiving on how for example our universe was made. Scientists have come very</p>	3/1/2006

<p>far about knowing how the human mind works. Neurons are how humans function and send signals to their body from their brain. This has been tested many times and scientists and doctors have a very good grasp on how parts of the brain work. Being aware of you consciousness is a very hard concept tha can be debated for years to come. Many people just follow t</p>	
<p>Participant #78</p>	
<p>Scientist are barely uncovering the perfection of DNA and how it works. Scientist know what DNA is made of and what it leads to, but scientist are barely uncovering genes and their code due to the fact that DNA is so long, especially human DNA. I believe scientist have opened up my eyes to the universe but only to the possibility of other galaxies. For me, seeing and evidence would help me believe in other galaxies but scientist have helped me understand stars and planets. As a side note, I believe there is life on other planets but I do not believe that humans or aliens are on any other planets in our galaxy. I don't think this is a possibility because scientists have discovered the planets environment and I dont think life could multicellular life could exist in such extreme environments. When it comes to the human brain, scientists know how the brain works and its purpose but there will always be "miracles" or crazy events that can't be explained due to the brains complexity; Sc</p>	3/1/2006
<p>Participant #79</p>	
<p>This is not a possibility yet but scientists have found other details that relate to the mechanism of life. For example, important details such as discovering a tiny genetic mutation that explains the first appearance of white skin in humans tens of thousands of years ago. This finding has helped solve one part of the goal of the experiment but scientists are still working on finding more details that will help explain why it was here to begin with. Learning about scientists and their amazing findings of the universe has open my eyes greatly because it has helped me understand why things are the way they are and how human life is developed. The stars, planets, and galaxies are interesting to learn and hear about but I don't believe that scientists have uncovered everything there is to know about our stars, planets, and galaxies. On the other hand, the human brain is the most complex organ in the human body. It produces our every thought, action, memory, feeling and experience of t</p>	3/1/2006
<p>Participant #80</p>	
<p>I think that scientists might have found the mechanism of life however it is not of conventional thinking, nor has it been proved. Have you asked me this question, have scientists found the mechanism of life, DNA, two years ago I would have said yes. However, having been educated in the string theory I have to rethink my answer. The string theory states that little tiny vibrating strings smaller then anything humans have ever contemplated before determine all matter and how it acts. So I must say that if the string theory is valid, strings are the mechanism of life, and DNA is just the medium that strings act through. I believe scientists have opened my eyes to what might be in the universe. I have found that sitting and looking at the stars in a remote location seems to be more profound then any lecture I've ever sat through. The lectures tell me where to look, what I'm looking at is called, and why its there. The abstract idea that black holes suck up huge stars, larger then</p>	3/1/2006
<p>Participant #81</p>	
<p>I do believe that DNA is a mechanism of life, but not the only one. If a person has only DNA then that is all they have. The DNA needs a host, and multiple chemicals. Even when a piece of DNA is placed inside a perfect host, such as in invetro fertilization, a life still may not form. So, much more than DNA is needed for life, leading me to believe not all the mechanisms have been found because then invetro would work every time and we would have cloned a human by now. We are never fully aware of our consciousness. We may be talking to a friend and next thing we know for some reason we are crying because something someone said reminded our consciousness of the time our mom had breast cancer. When we laugh when we cry, we usually don't tell ourselves to act that way, something in our consciousness caused us to react that way. what si common to all life is the fact that we all live, and through living we are connected. come on tony that is deep!</p>	3/1/2006
<p>Participant #82</p>	

<p>Yes, I do believe that scientists have uncovered the mechanism to life and how life is brought down from generation to generation. As scientists have uncovered DNA they have found how we actually pass down certain traits and genes to our descendents. They have found how we came to be on this earth with the theory of evolution. Life began on this planet about 4 billion years ago. Scientist knows this from fossil and DNA records that they have found.</p> <p>Scientists have opened my eyes to the universe because I want to know what else is out there. I can't possible imagine that they only life in all the galaxies that are our there are in the Milky Way and on only one planet: earth. Scientists have done just that, they have only opened people's eyes they still have to move their hands and feet to get any where. By saying anywhere, I mean by fully understanding the universe. The human brain is the most complex thing on this planet; it is more complicated than any supercomputer of this plan</p>	3/1/2006
Participant #83	
<p>DNA is the mechanism to life as we know it on earth. It is our blueprint and was essential to any form of evolving on this planet. Scientists have but posed the question in my mind to open my eyes to the universe. But it begs the question if the scientists eyes are open to the universe, if there is infinite knowledge of out there then even what we consider to be vast amounts averages out to be zero (thank you HHGTTG), then the blind scientists are leading the blind me. So perhaps my eyes are not open, but the idea and curiosity of that possibility excites me. As for the human brain, we are still a mystery unto ourselves. We are beginning to account for the mechanics of the brain (the chemicals, the neurons and how they interact) but so much is unknown. We are not aware of our own consciousness, our reality is limited and biased, we can only postulate that we are conscious and even exist at all (if we could define existence). All life on earth is carbon based and is determined by coded</p>	3/2/2006
Participant #84	
<p>I think that scientist have uncovered some truth for the mechanism of life. However I think that there is so much more to life that not everything has been discovered. They have done a great job in discovering the basic essentials to life. For example the idea that discs of stars, dust particles, and gases came together to form a new galaxy. Studies from Scientist show that this was how life started. There may have been other events that led to the formation of our galaxy and through time we will be able to list the events and steps leading to our galaxy, life. We are humans and as much as we want to be aware of our own consciousness because sometimes things just happen. We are not always aware of everything that is going on around us. Oxygen and Iron is common to all life on earth. Without Oxygen life would not exist, which will lead to the extinction of life. I think we are able to pick up information and store it in our brains. We are able to pick up and process what is in o</p>	3/2/2006
Participant #85	
<p>Time and time again, scientists have done countless experiments to prove/disprove a theory. Numerous experiments have been done to prove that DNA is indeed the mechanism for life, and I believe it is. Although it is hard to believe that something such as simple atoms could give rise to life, it is for the most part proven that it is true.</p> <p>Most people living on Earth usually don't think about life outside where they live. They may think about other parts of the world, but on the most part, people do not ponder about the universe. Scientist are the people that open up these "unknown" regions to other people. Without scientists I have learned a great deal more, and I want to learn more. Is there really other galaxies that hold life like our planet? Are there other galaxies that parallel ours? There are so many questions that need to find answers.</p> <p>Once again, scientists have done studies trying to explain how something works. The brain is very complex and scientists have tried to expla</p>	3/2/2006
Participant #86	
<p>No, I do not believe that scientists have uncovered the mechanism for life yet, but I believe that they are very close to it because of thier work on DNA so far. Scientist are able to predict many things with DNA but there are still somethings that they do not fully understand. Yes I bbelieve Scientists have opened my eyes on the yniverse because they has to be a truth about how the Universe was created and other living beings must be around somewhere out there. No scientists have not unraveled the constituents of teh human brain, they</p>	3/2/2006

have the basic principals of how it works but they do not fully understand how somethings work and why we are unable to use the grey matter of our brains which constitute about more than 50%. We are aware of our own consciousness because we all interact within the same plane of the universe. What is common to all life on earth is the fact that we are all composed of the same elements and cannot live without water. I know anything that i know becaus