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In the October 5 Science, Len Pennacchio and colleagues, at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California, describe how interspecies sequence comparison of the human and mouse apolipoprotein gene cluster (*APOAI/CIII/AIV*) led to the identification of a novel apolipoprotein-like gene (*APOAV*)(*Science* 2001, **294**:169-173). Transgenic mice overexpressing the human *APOAV* gene have reduced plasma triglyceride levels, whereas *APOAV*-deficient knockout animals had four-times higher levels than controls. Pennacchio *et al.* found that single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the human *APOAV* gene were linked to changes in plasma triglyceride levels. Thus, *APOAV* polymorphisms may serve as prognostic indicators for hypertriglyceridemia susceptibility and cardiovascular disease risk. The authors emphasize that comparative sequence analysis was key to the identification of *APOAV*.

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