

From the Dayton Business Journal:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/dayton/news/2012/01/26/ud-professor-gets-450k-grant-for.html>

UD professor gets \$450K grant for genetics research

Dayton Business Journal by Laura Englehart, Reporter

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2012, 11:46am EST

Related:

[Health Care](#), [Education](#)



Laura Englehart
Reporter - Dayton Business Journal
[Email](#) | [Twitter](#)

A **University of Dayton** assistant biology professor has received \$450,000 to conduct genetic research that could parlay into studies on cholesterol, heart attacks and disease susceptibility.

[Thomas Williams](#) received the three-year grant this month from the **National Science Foundation** to examine gene networks within DNA and how those networks evolve. Williams will look at aspects of fruit flies for insight on how the same genes are used differently and create diversity, according to the university.

This research relates to the way in which genes receive signals that tell them when and where in an organism to make a protein. According to research, mutations in the "switches" that send the signals could affect cholesterol levels and risk for developmental disabilities, heart attacks and diseases.

In 2011, Williams received a \$132,000 grant from the American Heart Association to help further research on fruit flies that could help understand genetic changes that contribute to increased risk for heart disease and other issues.

Williams has published research on topics in evolutionary biology in *Nature*, *Nature Reviews Genetics* and *Cell*. His research focuses on understanding why members of the same and different species look and behave differently.

E-mail lenglehart@bizjournals.com. Call (937) 528-4426.

[Twitter.com/lenglehartDBJ](https://twitter.com/lenglehartDBJ)