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Summary of Newspaper Article

There is an evolutionary theory that states that man evolved from animals. In “Human Powers of Hibernation May Be Dormant in Genetic Code” explores that very theory. In this article written by Jeremy Hsu for NBC news, it was explained that scientist of all different pedigrees are studying the genetics of hibernation. With the idea that if animals can do it why can’t we. Although scientist are aware of how it sounds like science fiction movie, they are hoping that with the research they are conducting it could provide serious break throughs in medicine. When thinking about hibernation most people feel it is nothing more than a long winters nap for animals but scientist aren’t interested in how the animals are sleeping its what their bodies are capable of withstanding during that nap that has them fascinated. During hibernation animals’ bodies can withstand extreme changes to their metabolism such as reduced breathing and heart rate which reduces the amount of energy the body needs. What is most fascinating to scientist is how animals can awake form their long nap with very little medical issues documented. In hospitals all over doctors try to perform medically induced hibernation for those who are critically ill. This process usually involves lowing the patient’s body tempature with ice to slow down metabolism. This process has worked on many patients, but it is not without flaws such as blood clots. Scientist hope to replace this method with a process that is more natural and safer. NASA scientist are optimistic about these new developments because hibernating astronauts would solve many engineering problems in our mission to Mars.

As this hypothesis is being tested, research from many scientists are being used to determine the genome sequencing of hibernation. One postdoctoral fellow, Will Israelsen, believes that “hibernators have the same hibernation- related genes but each species uses them slightly different.” This is related to genetics because the scientist are studying genetic sequences of the hibernating mammals. This being in a non-scientific paper the exact genetic details are not explained. Although it is exciting to read that someday in the future we may treat our critically ill while they hibernate.

Hsu, J. (2018). *Human powers of hibernation may be dormant in genetic code*. [online] NBC News. Available at: https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/human-powers-hibernation-may-be-dormant-genetic-code-ncna922326 [Accessed 24 Oct. 2018].