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Smoking influences gene function

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Here's yet another reason why you should kick the butt -smoking influences gene function, a new study has claimed. Researchers at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research have found that exposure to cigarette smoke can alter gene expression-the process by which a gene's information is converted into the structures and functions of a cell. These alterations in response to smoking appear to have a wide-ranging negative influence on the immune system, and a strong involvement in processes related to cancer, cell death and metabolism, say the researchers.