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Presentation title: **Transposable elements: their history and evolution**

Message to the participants:

The biological role of transposable elements (TEs) have long been characterized and debated. Dr. McClintock who was awarded the 1983 Nobel Prize in Physiology identified TEs. Initially, research communities have largely regarded TEs as junk or parasitic DNA. Emerging evidence however begins to suggest TEs as an important player in regulating the stability and evolution of genomes. Relevant hypotheses on the role of TEs will be discussed.

