

Academic genealogy organizes a “family tree” of scholars based on mentoring relationships, typically through doctoral dissertation or postdoctoral supervision. Understanding your scientific heritage may provide excellent networking opportunities, and allow one to enjoy a broader perspective on his or her own scientific interests. So, here is mine in a nut shell, advisor by advisor (thank you to [academicstree.org](http://academicstree.org)):

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Robert W. Nairn (University of Oklahoma)

William J. Mitsch (The Ohio State University)

Howard T. Odum (University of Florida)

G. Evelyn Hutchinson (Yale University)

Ross Granville Harrison (Yale University)

William Keith Brooks (Johns Hopkins University)

Alexander Agassiz (Harvard University)

Louis Agassiz (Harvard University)

Carl F.P. von Martius (University of Munich)

Johann C.D. von Sreber (University of Erlangen)

Carl Linnaeus (Uppsala University)

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Yes, that Linnaeus of binomial nomenclature fame. Performing this exercise demonstrates rather explicitly just how small the world really is – if you keep going back in time, names like Johannes Kepler, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Nicolaus Copernicus, Desiderius Erasmus, and Galileo Galilei show up in my tree! I am in no way comparing myself to these giants of science, but I do think examining these past academic relationships is really illustrative that we are all connected, all of us inhabiting or who have ever inhabited this “pale blue dot” we call home (by the way, I am 15 backward connections away from Carl Sagan through a common ancestor).