

# Medicine tailored just for you is on the cards

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**I**t sounds like something out of a science fiction novel, but doctors will soon be able to tailor prescriptions for you based on your DNA.

According to Dr George Gericke, a specialist in the field of genetic testing and a member of the National Pathology Group, an individual's DNA holds the key to developing a personalised medicine programme. This will guarantee the best possible health for the individual.

Gericke believes developments in pharmacogenetics (how genes influence the response to medicines) will put an end to prescribing them to people on whom they will have little or no effect.

These developments will ultimately result in a situation where a doctor could prescribe the most effective and safe drug tailored to an individual's genetic make-up, assuring the best results.

"As your doctor gains a greater understanding of the role of genetics in disease, he will also be able to counsel you with regard to preventive health, including lifestyle and reproductive decisions," says Gericke.

"The fact that drugs help some people but not others is not exceptional; in fact, it is the rule for drugs and a principle