



## About Our Cover

On our cover is the garden pea, *Pisum sativum*, the species used by Gregor Mendel in his famous genetics experiments done at his monastery in Brno, Czech Republic, in the 1850s to the 1860s. This study showed that one in four pea plants had purebred recessive alleles, two out of four were hybrid, and one out of four was purebred dominant. His experiments led him to make two generalizations, the Law of Segregation and the Law of Independent Assortment, which later came to be known as Mendel's Laws of Inheritance. Mendel's paper was published in 1866 in *Verhandlungen des naturforschenden Vereins Brünn*. Mendel's work was rejected at first, and was not widely accepted until after he died. During his own lifetime, most biologists held the idea that all characteristics were passed to the next generation through blending inheritance, in which the traits from each parent are averaged together. Later, Mendel's results were rediscovered and criticized by R. A. Fisher and others as being too close to a statistically likely probability. However, his generalizations have held up and Mendel is credited as being the father of genetics. This image is courtesy of Dreamstime. This issue of *ABT* is focused on genetics.

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