

In our modern world of scientific studies involving human beings—from the large scale drug testing common in end stage pharmaceutical development to annual survey data collected by sociologists—rarely do we see scientists experiment on themselves. In centuries past, however, it was not so uncommon to see scientists treating themselves like guinea pigs and, moreover, some crucial scientific discoveries were made by scientists who did so. 在我们涉及人类的科学研究的现代世界中 - 从最终阶段药物开发中常见的大规模药物测试到社会学家收集的年度调查数据 - 我们很少看到科学家们自己进行实验。然而，在过去的几个世纪中，看到科学家像豚鼠一样对待自己并不常见，此外，科学家们也做了一些重要的科学发现。

One such scientific product of self experimentation was the discovery of the anesthetic benefits of [nitrous oxide](http://indianapublicmedia.org/amomentofscience/laughing-matter/), made in 1799 by the British chemist Humphry Davy. Investigating the medical benefits of inhaled gases, Davy performed extensive experiments on himself. He inhaled a variety of lethal gases from [carbon monoxide](http://indianapublicmedia.org/amomentofscience/pregnant-women-avoid-spending-time-traffic/)to carbonic acid before stumbling onto nitrous oxide and nearly killing himself in the process.自我实验的一个这样的科学产品是发现[氧化亚氮](http://indianapublicmedia.org/amomentofscience/laughing-matter/)的麻醉作用，由英国化学家汉弗莱戴维于1799年制造。调查吸入气体的医疗益处，戴维对自己进行了大量实验。他吸入各种致命气体，从[一氧化碳](http://indianapublicmedia.org/amomentofscience/pregnant-women-avoid-spending-time-traffic/)到碳酸，然后绊倒在一氧化二氮上，几乎在此过程中自杀。

Davy never actually made the leap to considering it as an [anesthetic for surgical procedures](http://indianapublicmedia.org/amomentofscience/knocking-out-redheads/) as it’s used extensively today. This was made some forty years after his discovery. But Davy’s investigation laid the groundwork for its incorporation into modern medicine. 戴维从未真正实现过将其视为[外科手术麻醉剂](http://indianapublicmedia.org/amomentofscience/knocking-out-redheads/)的飞跃，因为它在今天被广泛使用。这是在他被发现四十年后制造的。但戴维的调查为其融入现代医学奠定了基础。

### With little public money in research, scientists in Davey’s time were often wealthy socialites, polar opposite in character to today’s common stereotype of the scientist cloistered in a lab. 研究中的公共资金很少，戴维时代的科学家往往是富有的社交名流，与今天在实验室中隐藏的科学家的刻板印象相反。When Davy discovered the pleasant effects of nitrous oxide he did what a socialite would do with such a discovery: he began sharing it with his buddies and holding huffing parties that remained popular in Britain for years after his initial discovery.

当戴维发现一氧化二氮的令人愉快的效果时，他做了社交名媛对这样一个发现所做的事情：他开始与他的朋友分享它并举行在他最初发现之后在英国流行多年的愤怒派对。