

Marin Science Seminar presents

# What's in Our Genes?

## *How our genes make us who we are*

with Jane Gitschier, Ph.D. of UCSF



**A one-hour multimedia presentation for High School Students  
and Teens in Marin**

Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011

7:30 – 8:30 pm

Terra Linda High School, Room 207  
320 Albion Way, San Rafael, CA 94903

What makes us male or female? What makes us susceptible to disease? What makes us different from each other? And what makes us different from other animals? Come learn the answer to these questions. It's all in our genes!

Dr. Gitschier's laboratory has broad interests in the field of human genetics, ranging from work on the molecular genetics of hemophilia, through gene discovery for a variety of inherited disorders. Her research has led to a deeper understanding of heavy metal metabolism and has provided more accurate genetic diagnosis and prognosis for families. Currently her lab is engaged in two unusual projects. The first concerns **understanding the genetic basis for absolute pitch perception**, a rare trait in which the pitch of a tone or sound can be named without any reference tone. While AP probably has a large genetic component, exposure to music in early childhood is also key. A second project involves the use of DNA haplotypes to infer ancestry, an endeavor known as **genetic genealogy**.

*Jane Gitschier joined the UCSF Faculty in 1985 following post-doctoral work at Genentech. She is a professor in the schools of Medicine and Pediatrics at UCSF's Institute of Human Genetics. She received her PhD from MIT in Biology in 1981. She was an HHMI Investigator and a Guggenheim Fellow. Her longstanding interest is in human genetics.*

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