

# **Overview Molecular Newborn Screening**

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New York State Department of Health  
Wadsworth Center**

# A Disorder, Treatment and Diagnostic Test



**Dr. Asbjorn Folling**



**Dr. George Jervis**

**Dr. Willard Centerwall**



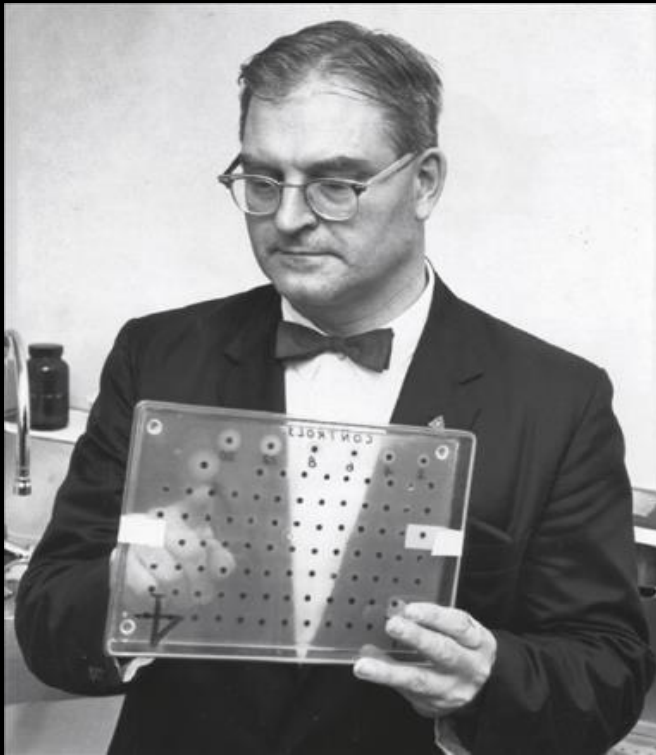
**Dr. Horst Bickel**

The World of PKU [www.pkuworld.org](http://www.pkuworld.org)

SA Centerwall, WR Centerwall (2000) The discovery of Phenylketonuria: The story of a young couple, two retarded children, and a scientist. Pediatrics 105: 89-103.

**Wadsworth Center**  
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

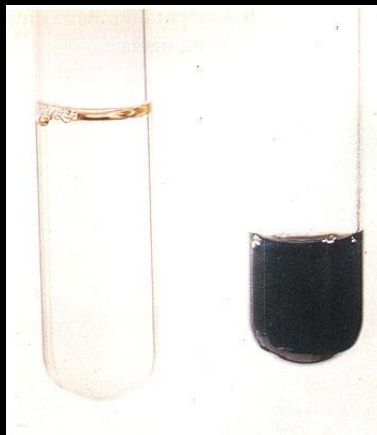
# The Perfect Storm



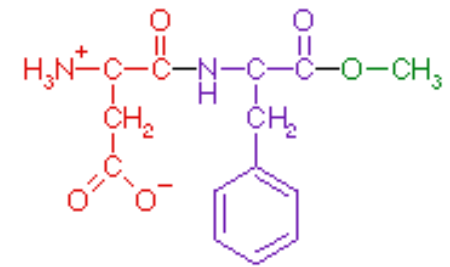
Dr. Robert Guthrie

Pictures Courtesy of Dr. Kenneth Pass

# Phenylketonuria

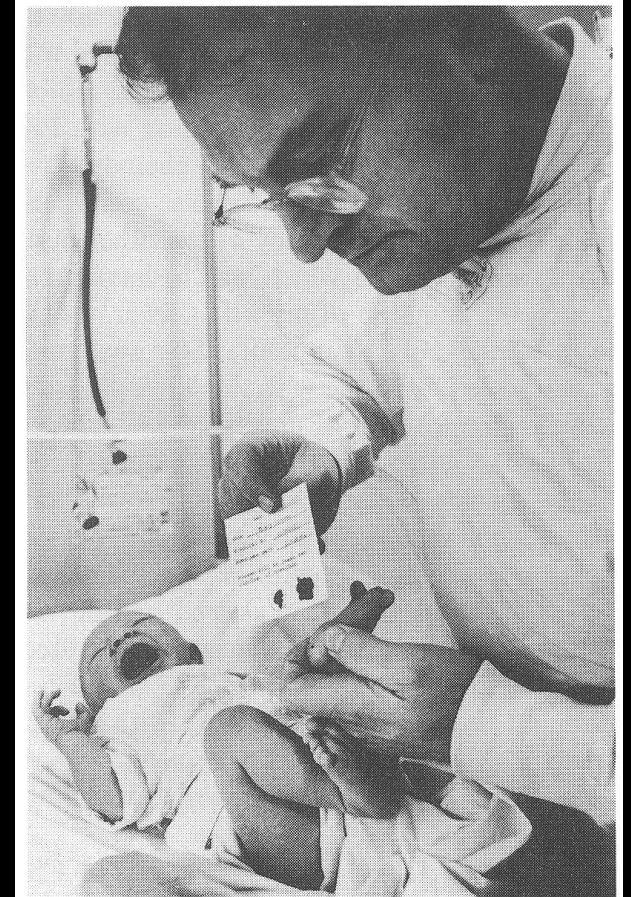
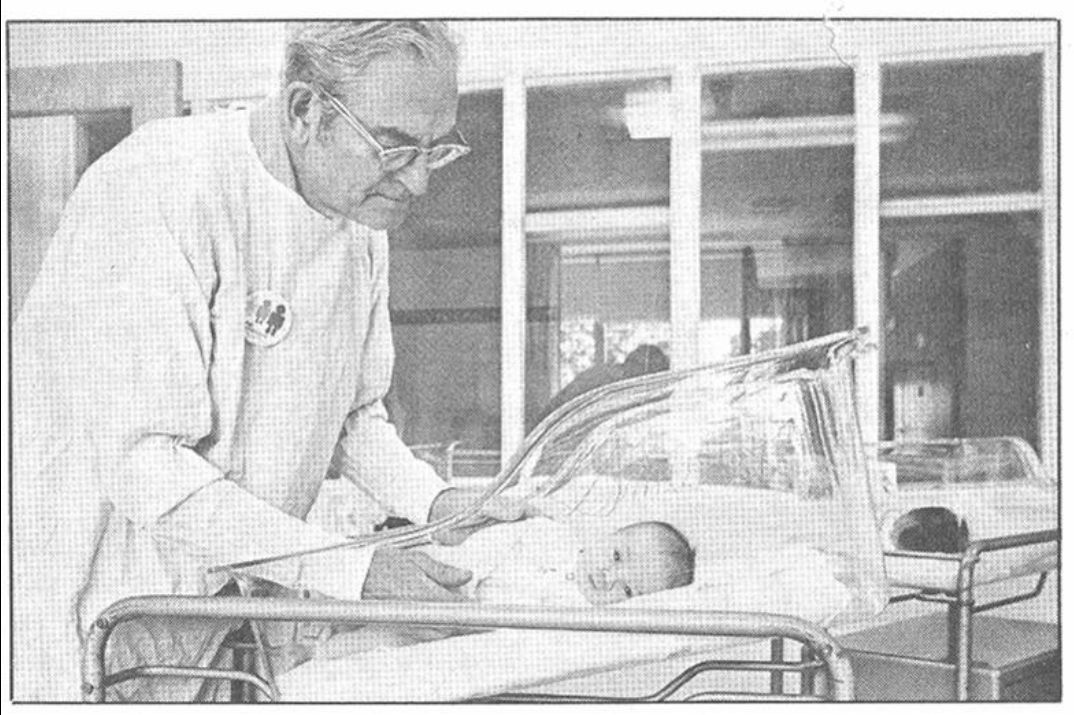


Phenylpyruvic acid  
FeCl<sub>3</sub> test



Aspartame

# The Perfect Storm Continues



Pictures Courtesy of Dr. Kenneth Pass

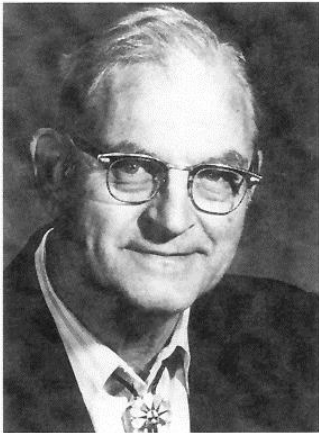
# Jamestown, New York

3/31/95  
to Ken -  
Fair winds!  
Bob

Screening, 1 (1992) 5-15  
© 1992 Elsevier Science Publishers B.V. All rights reserved 0925-6164/92/\$5.00

SCREEN 0005

The origin of newborn screening  
Robert Guthrie



Robert Guthrie

It began with our second child, John. He is mentally retarded. John stimulated me to go into research aimed at preventing mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

In 1957 I had been in cancer research for 12 years. Because of Johnny, my wife Margaret and I had become very active in the local Buffalo Chapter of the New York State Association for Retarded Children. As Vice-President of the Chapter, I was responsible for the program at the monthly meeting. For one of these programs

- Fall 1961 talk for The Association for Retarded Children
- Began to receive newborn filter-paper specimens
- “Thus, screening had its start in Jamestown, New York in 1961”

# PHENYLKETONURIA IN PUBLIC HEALTH LAW

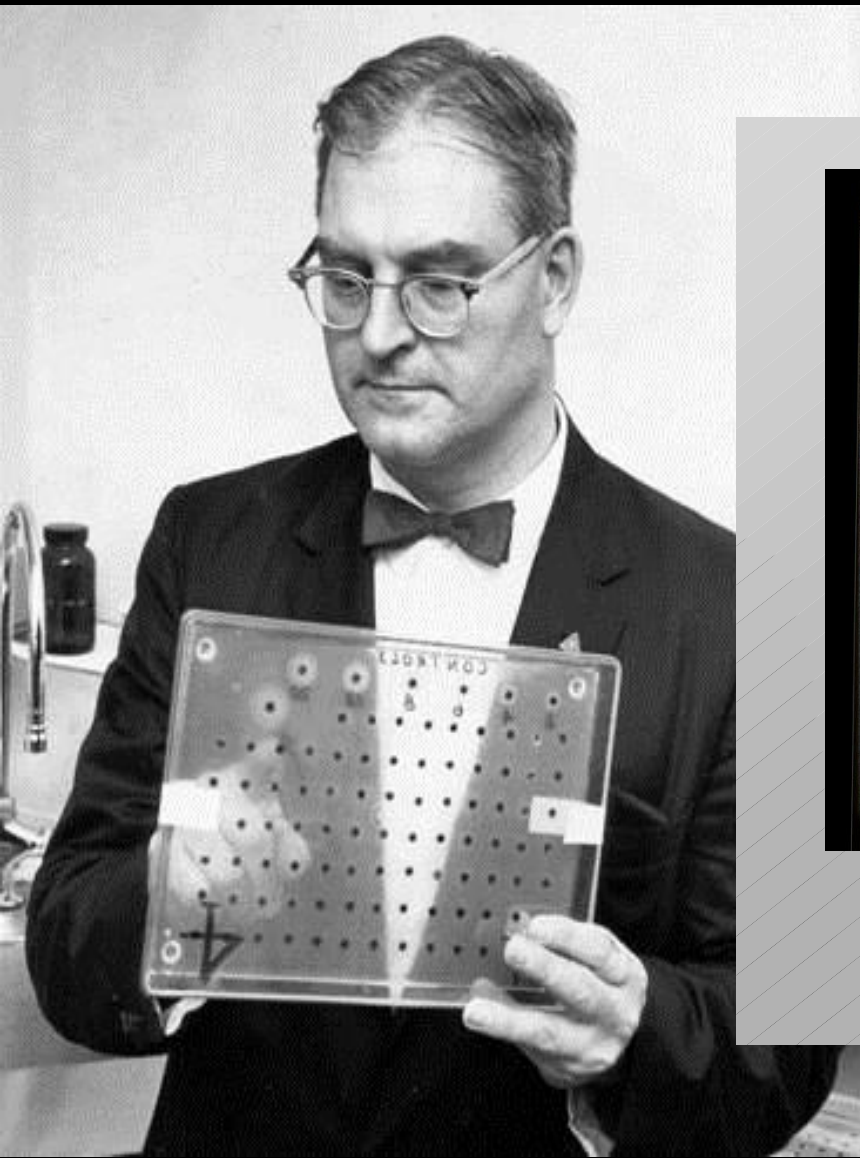
§ 2500 a

" It shall be the duty of (1) the administrative officer or other person in charge of each institution caring for infants twenty-eight days or less of age and (2) the person required ...to register the birth of a child, to cause to have administered to every such infant or child in its or his care a test for phenylketonuria in accordance with rules or regulations prescribed by the commissioner. ...

§ 2. This act shall take effect January first, nineteen hundred sixty-five. "

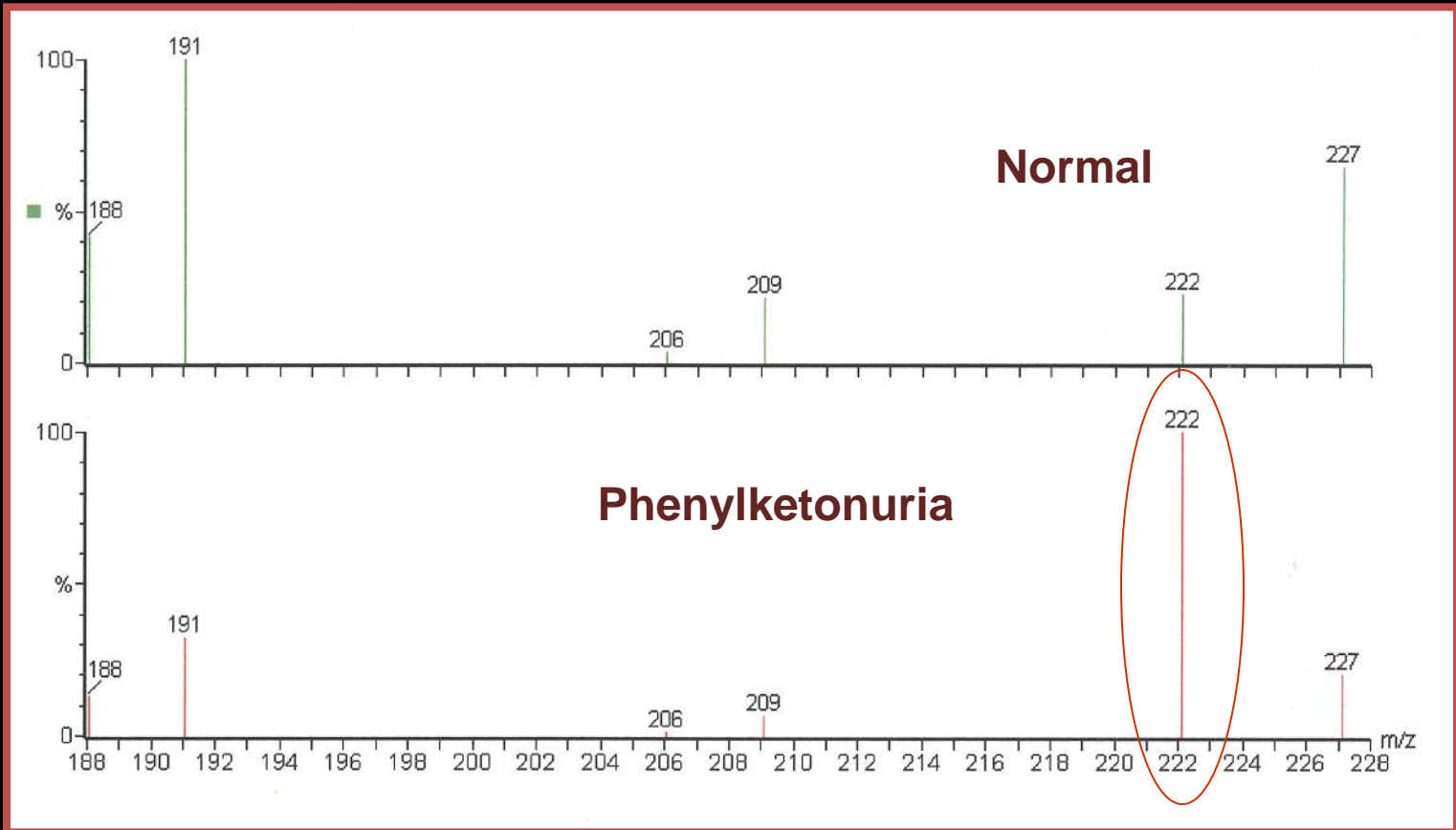
**BUT**  
**Newborn screening**  
**Is more than a "PKU test".**

**It is a comprehensive,**  
**free, public health system**  
**provided to identify**  
**infants at risk for**  
**devastating conditions**





# MS/MS Phenylketonuria



# Chronology of NBS

- **1957** Diaper Test for PKU in California
- **1958** Phenistix Used in Europe
- **1963** Guthrie and Susi – Bacterial Inhibition Assay
- **1964** Universal Screening in Massachusetts
- **1978** Radioimmunoassay Introduced
- **1994** MS / MS Used
- **1994** Molecular in Washington (2002 in NY)



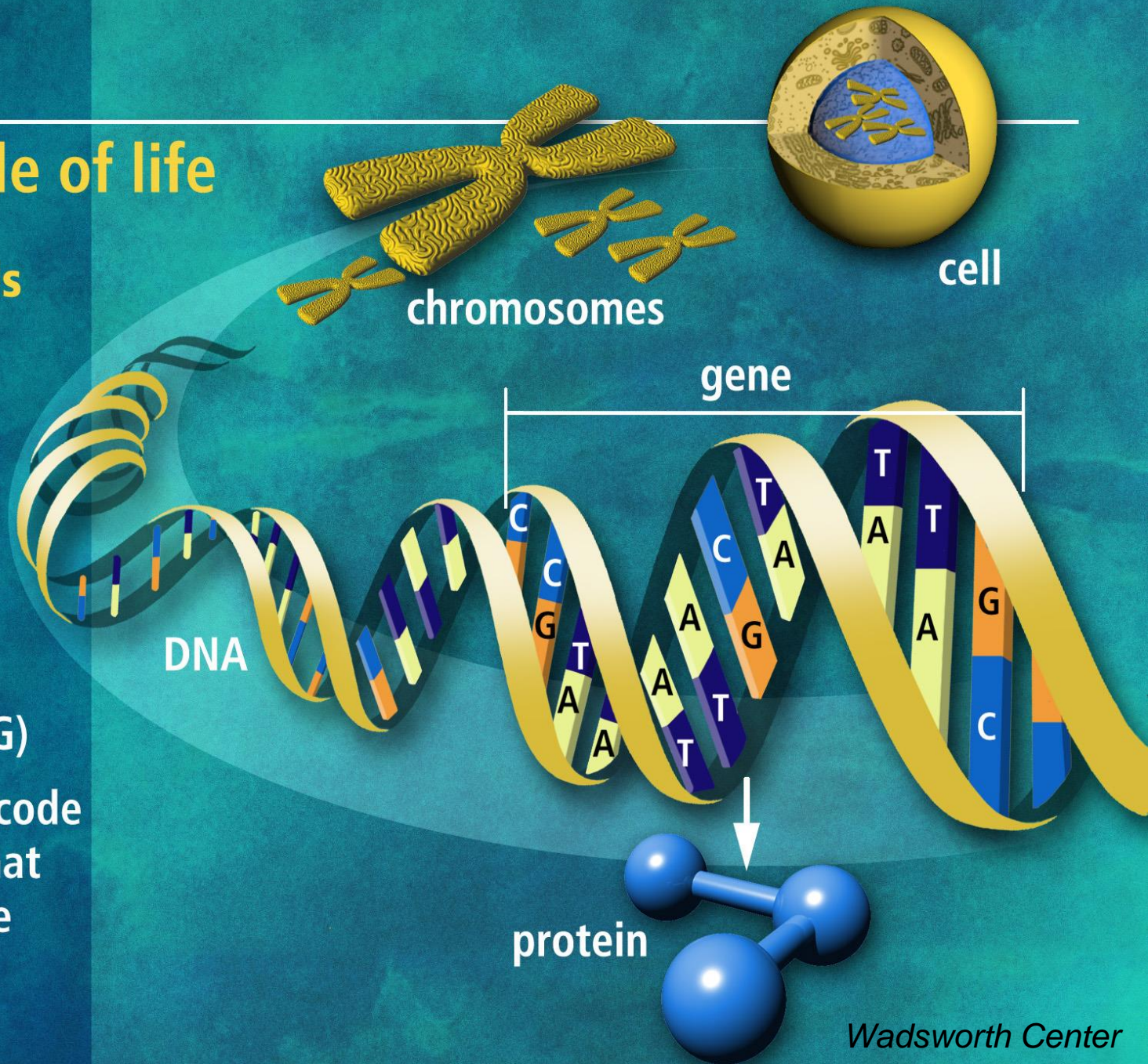
# DNA

## the molecule of life

### Trillions of cells

#### Each cell:

- 46 human chromosomes
- 2 m of DNA
- 3 billion DNA subunits (the bases: A, T, C, G)
- 80,000 genes code for proteins that perform all life functions



# Human Genome Project

---

- **Proposed by Victor McKusick in 1968**  
*(when did newborn screening start)????*
- **DOE and NIH, 15 years, 30 billion dollars**
- **James Watson original head then Francis Collins**
- **International effort**
- **ELSI budget**

# Human Genome Project

---

## Five Main Objectives:

- 1. Generate genetic and physical maps**
- 2. Develop new DNA technologies**
- 3. Accurately sequence the human genome**
- 4. Develop informatics**
- 5. Sequence model organisms**

# Human Genome Project

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## Accurate Sequence Data:

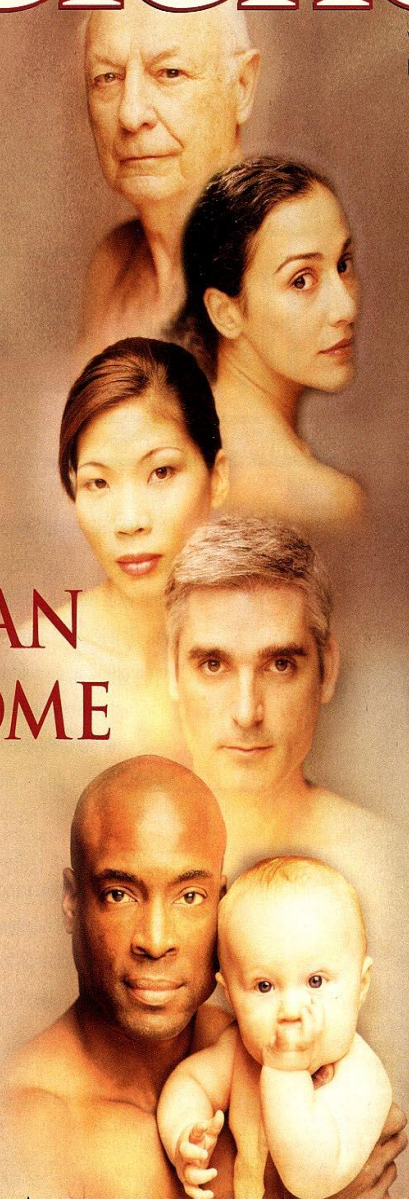
- 3,000,000,000 bases; haploid
- Rough draft / 90%, summer 2000, 2/01  
"finished"
- Highly accurate (1 error in 100,000 bases) no gaps or ambiguities by 2003
- First chromosome 22 reported 12/99  
chromosome 21 reported 5/00
- Projected finish 2003, original 2005

# Science

16 February 2001

Vol. 291 No. 5507  
Pages 1145-1434 \$9

## THE HUMAN GENOME



 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

15 February 2001

# nature

\$10.00

[www.nature.com](http://www.nature.com)

## the human genome

**Nuclear fission**  
Five-dimensional  
energy landscapes

**Seafloor spreading**  
The view from under  
the Arctic ice

**Career prospects**  
Sequence creates new  
opportunities

**naturejobs**  
genomics special

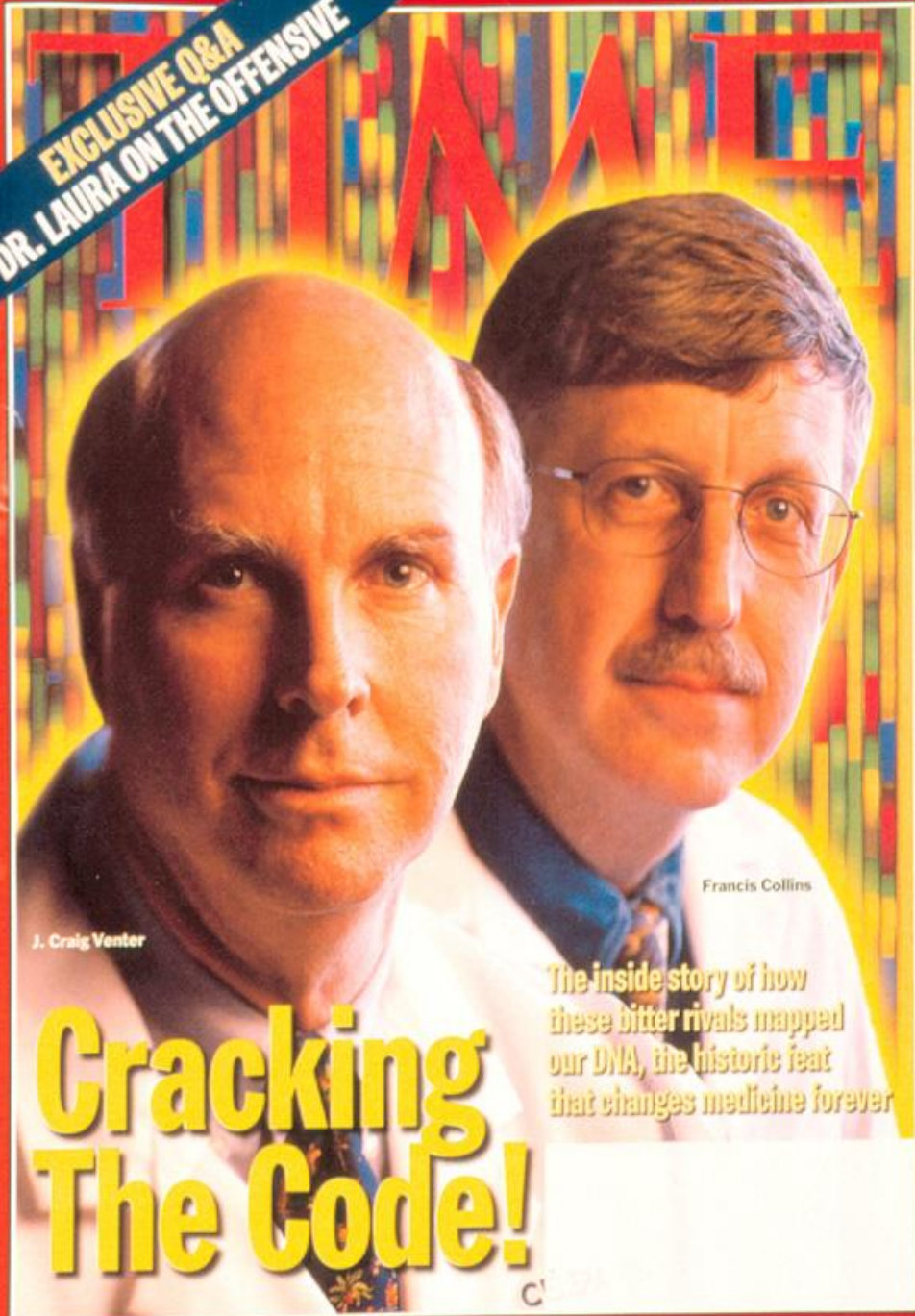
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J. Craig Venter

Francis Collins

# Cracking The Code!

The inside story of how these bitter rivals mapped our DNA, the historic feat that changes medicine forever

## Venter & Collins

## Private vs. Public

## 1000 Genomes Project



# Genetic Disorders

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- **Caused by mutations in genes or chromosomes**
- **Mutations may occur on:**
  - **An autosome (autosomal)**
  - **A sex chromosome (X-linked or Y-linked)**
  - **Multiple genes**
- **Disease expression may be impacted by environmental factors**

# Single Gene Disorders

- **Caused by mutations in one gene**
- **Generally follow Mendelian inheritance patterns**
  - **Dominant vs. Recessive**
  - **Expression may be impacted by genomic imprinting or penetrance**
- **Includes most inborn errors of metabolism**

*Most “single gene disorders” are probably influenced by multiple genes / DNA*

# Classes of Single Gene Disorders

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## ➤ Autosomal Dominant

- One copy of a mutated allele results in affected individual
  - aka: AA or Aa
  - Heterozygous and homozygous individuals are affected
  - e.g. achondroplasia, Huntington disease

## ➤ Autosomal Recessive

- Both copies of the gene must be mutated to be affected
  - aka: aa
  - Only homozygous individuals are affected.
  - e.g. Sickle cell anemia, cystic fibrosis, galactosemia

# Classes of Single Gene Disorders

## ➤ X-linked Recessive

- Males affected if X chromosome is mutated
- Females affected only if both X chromosomes are mutated; e.g. Duchenne muscular dystrophy & hemophilia and **ALD**

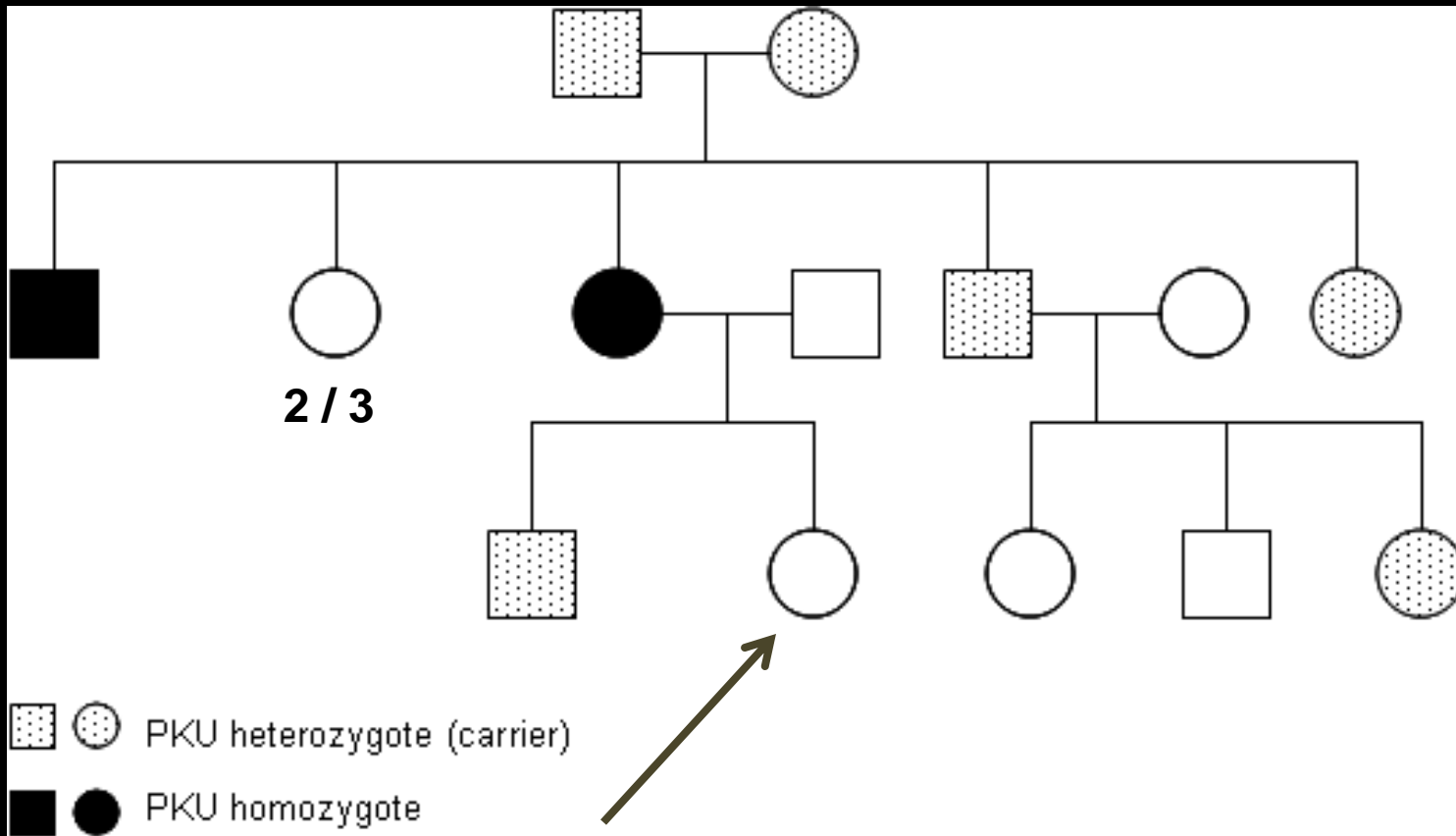
## ➤ X-linked Dominant

- Individuals with 1 mutant copy of X chromosome are affected; e.g. Rett syndrome

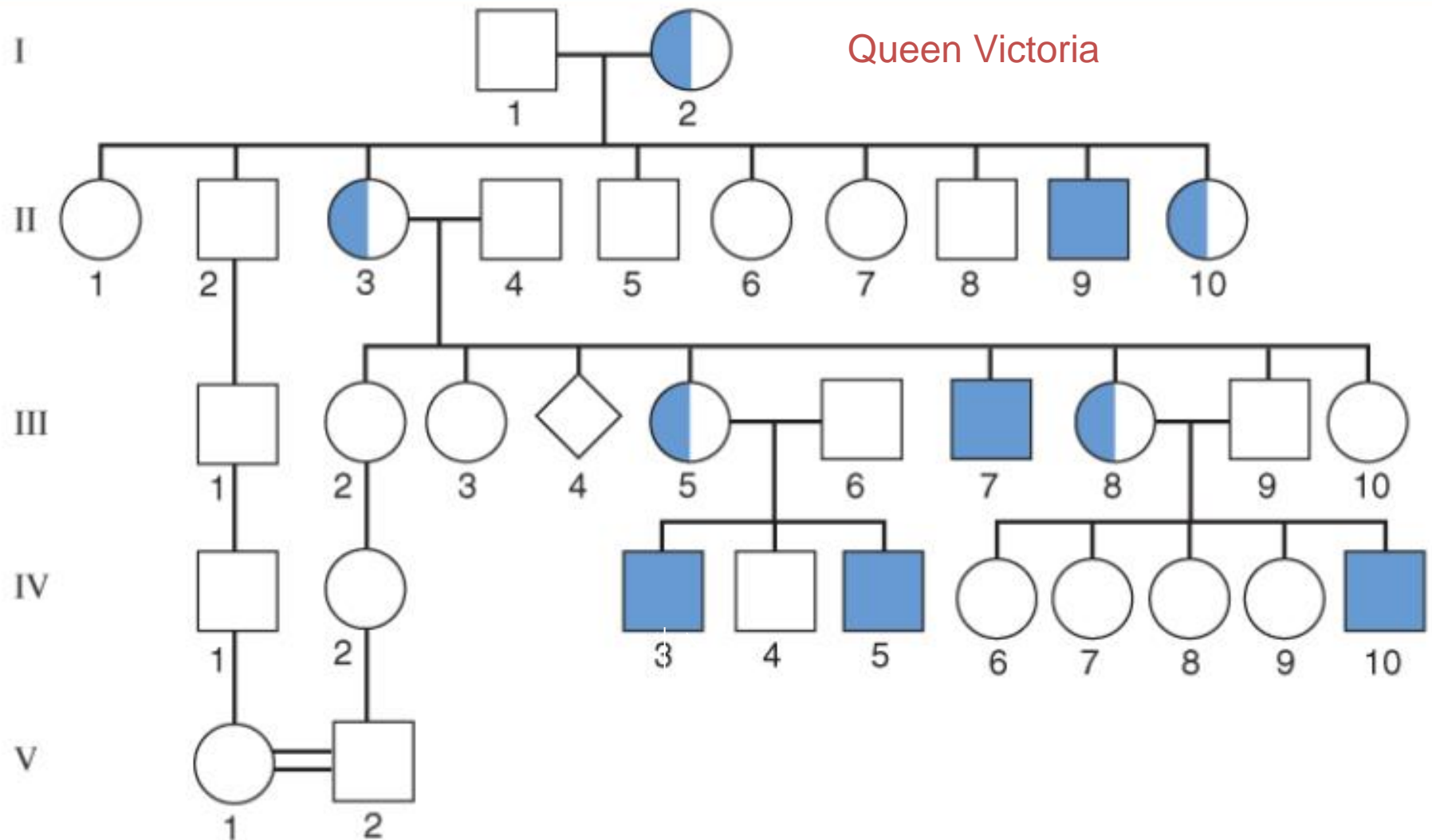
## ➤ Y-linked

- Individuals with a mutated Y chromosome are affected
- Rare

# Autosomal Recessive Inheritance



# X-Linked Recessive Inheritance







# **Molecular Testing for Genetic Diseases**

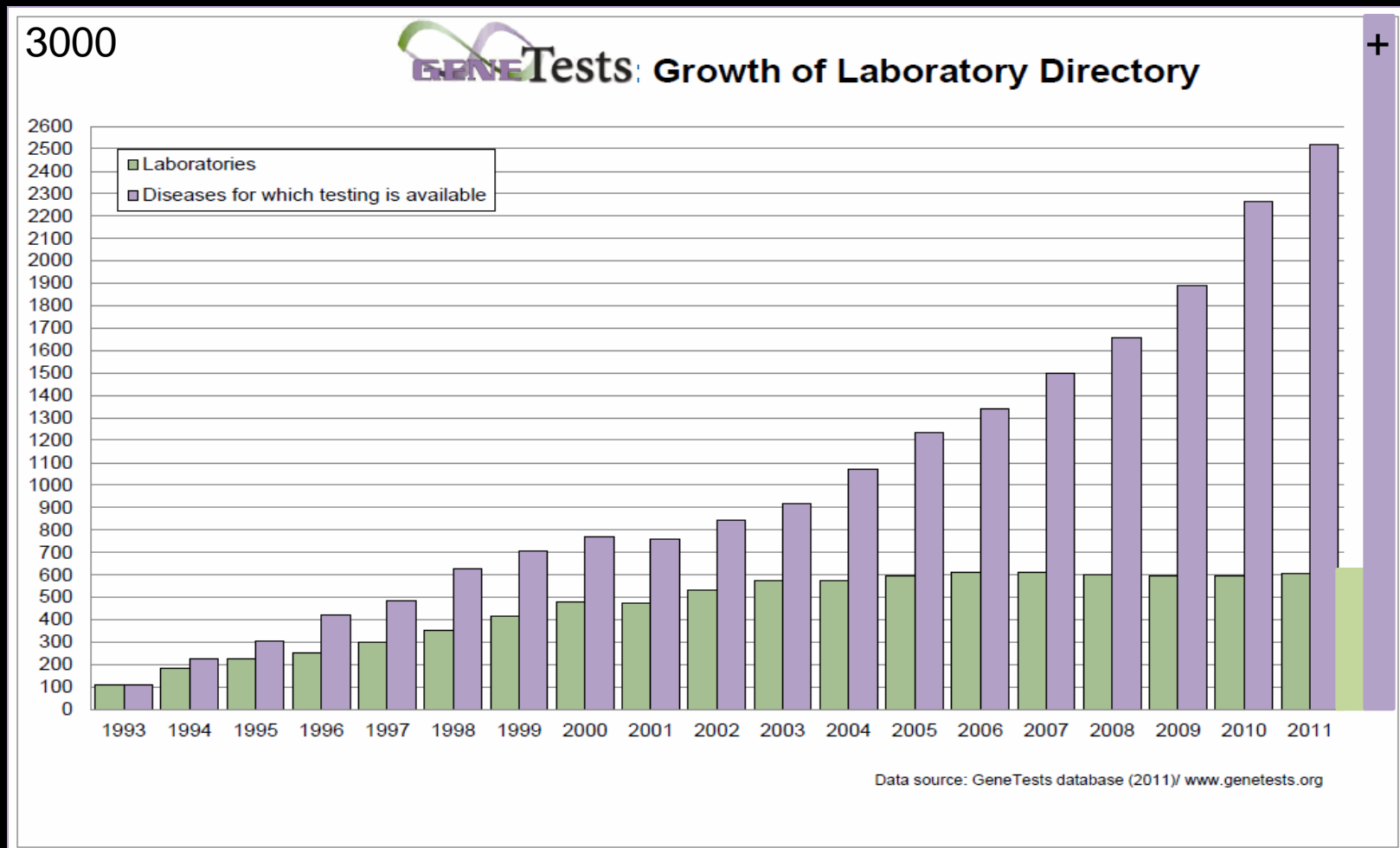
- **Enabled by gene mapping to identify location of genes on chromosomes AND ability to differentiate between harmful and neutral mutations**
- **Identification of disease-causing mutations for:**
  - **Diagnosis**
  - **Predictive testing**
  - **Carrier detection**
  - **Prenatal screening**
  - **Preimplantation testing**
  - **Pharmacogenetics**

# Availability of Genetic Tests

## GeneTESTS: Availability of Genetic Tests

>600	Laboratories offering in-house molecular genetic testing, specialized cytogenetic testing, and biochemical testing for inherited disorders
>3000	Diseases

# Availability of Genetic Tests



# Distinction Between Mutations and SNPs

## *Mutations:*

Changes in the DNA, which are 'rare'; can be private; newer

## *SNPs/Polymorphisms:*

Changes in the DNA occurring at a higher frequency, usually greater than 1%; may start as mutations and reach a higher frequency; older changes.

Both are inherited and can be used to track DNA changes

*cSNPs* are in the coding region

*synonymous:* no change to the amino acid (silent)

*non-synonymous:* change to the amino acid

*Non-coding SNPs:*

promoter, splice sites, stability,  
other regulatory changes

# TYPES OF MUTATIONS

## •Normal

CCG GGA AGC AAU  
Pro Gly Ser Asn

## •Missense

CCG GCA AGC AAU  
Pro Val Ser Asn

## •Nonsense

CCG UGA AGC AAU  
Pro STOP

## •Frameshift (insertion)

CCG AGG AAG CAA  
Pro Arg Lys Gln

## •Frameshift (deletion)

CCG GAA GCA AUG  
Pro Glu Asp Met

## •Trinucleotide

CAG CAG CAG CAG  
Gln Gln Gln Gln

*Mutations can be helpful – camouflage; selection*

*Mutations can be silent – markers, forensics, mapping, population studies*

*Mutations can be harmful – sickle cell, PKU, CF and other diseases*



# History of Molecular Testing in Newborn Screening

## ❖ 1994

- Washington – hemoglobin confirmatory testing (Hb S, C, E by RFLP)
- Wisconsin – CFTR mutation analysis for  $\Delta F508$

## ❖ 1998

- New England – 2 GALT mutations (Q & N) by RFLP

## ❖ 1999

- New England – MCADD (c.985A>G) by RFLP



# History of NBS Molecular Testing

## ➤ 2005

-- Wisconsin – MSUD (p.Y438N)

## ➤ 2006

-- New York – Krabbe disease (3 polymorphisms & 5 mutations; full gene DNA sequence analysis)

## ➤ 2008

-- Wisconsin – SCID – TREC analysis

➤ *1<sup>st</sup> use of molecular test as a primary full population screen*

## ➤ 2010

-- 37 NBSPs in US use molecular testing for CF

# Things for Programs to Consider

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- ❖ Which tests will have a molecular component?
- ❖ DNA extraction methods; (cost/labor)
- ❖ Degree of automation; vendors and contracts
- ❖ Manipulation (single tube? 96-well? 384-well?)
- ❖ # Instruments, data collection, interpretation
- ❖ Staff training (lab and follow-up)

# Uses of Molecular Tests in NBS

- **Primary Screening Test**
  - TREC analysis for detection of SCID; SMA
- **Second-Tier Test**
  - DNA test results provide supplemental information to assist with diagnosis
    - Often provided in separate report
    - $\beta$ -globin and GALT mutation analysis
  - **Genotypic information is required for interpretation of the screen result**
    - Cystic fibrosis mutation analysis

# NBS Molecular Tests in US

- ❖ **Primary screen -- SCID**
- ❖ **Second-tier screen**
  - Hemoglobinopathies
  - Galactosemia
  - Cystic fibrosis
  - MCAD and other FAOs (VLCAD?)
  - Phenylketonuria
  - Krabbe disease; Pompe disease
  - Maple syrup urine disease
  - Adrenoleukodystrophy (FYI)

# Does Molecular Testing Add Value??



OR



- ❖ Increase in sensitivity of a primary test, effect on specificity?
- ❖ Identification of carriers; teaching moments
  - ❖ Predictions regarding phenotype
  - ❖ Clinicians' perception, diagnostic tool



# When / Why Use a Molecular Test?

- ❖ **To increase sensitivity without compromising specificity**
  - Lower IRT cutoff to avoid missing CF cases
- ❖ **To increase specificity of a complex assay**
  - Allow differentiation of hemoglobinopathies & thalassemias (e.g. Hb S/b-thalassemia)

# When / Why Use a Molecular Test?

- ❖ **When the primary analyte is transient**
  - The primary analyte is present for only a limited time after birth and analysis of a second specimen could result in a false negative. (e.g. VLCAD / CPT2)
- ❖ **To speed diagnosis in order to avoid serious medical consequences**
  - GALT enzyme activity is decreased by heat & humidity, increase in false positive screens
  - Genotyping helps sort out the true positives for faster diagnosis.



# When / Why Use a Molecular Test?



❖ When there are significant founder mutations in a population

- Due to high frequency (1 in 176 live births) of MSUD in Mennonite population in WI, mutation analysis for p.Y438N serves as primary screen for MSUD for Mennonites.
- CPT1a in Alaskan Inuit (p.P479L) & Hutterite populations (p.G710E)

# When / Why Use a Molecular Test?

- ❖ **When diagnostic testing is slow and/or invasive**
  - Traditional confirmatory testing for VLCAD & CPT1a involves skin biopsy (invasive to collect and slow to grow)
- ❖ **When no other test exists for the analyte**
  - ❖ **SCID, SMA, FRAX**

# Things for Programs to Consider By Contract

---

- ❖ Which tests will have a molecular component?
- ❖ Specimen transport
- ❖ Screening or confirmatory?
- ❖ Timing and prioritization for contract lab
- ❖ Systems integration
- ❖ Follow-up integration

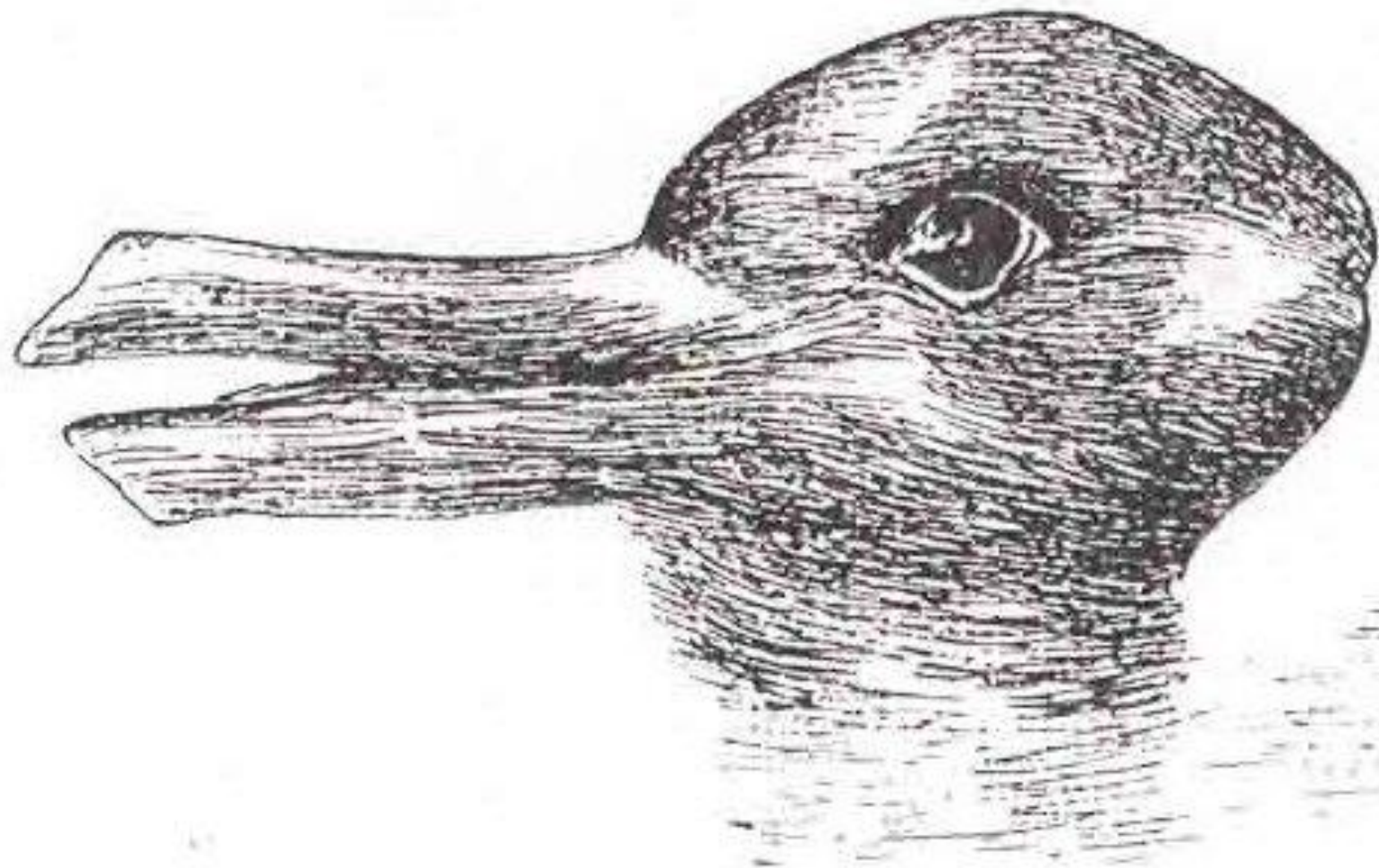
# Things for Programs to Consider In-House 1

- ❖ Volume / quality of specimens
- ❖ Cost (\$\$\$) per sample
- ❖ “Simple test” mentality
- ❖ Public health infrastructure
  - Equipment
  - Space
- ❖ ELSI
- ❖ Have test, no Tx

# Things for Programs to Consider In-House 2

---

- ❖ **Capacity – Throughput -- Automation?**
- ❖ **IVD v. ASR / LDT;**
- ❖ **Expertise / Interpretation**
- ❖ **Methods / Manipulation – single tube? 96-well or 384-well plates**
- ❖ **Control Materials**
- ❖ **Integration into Program / LIMs / Follow-up / TAT**



# Potential Future Applications of Molecular Testing in NBS

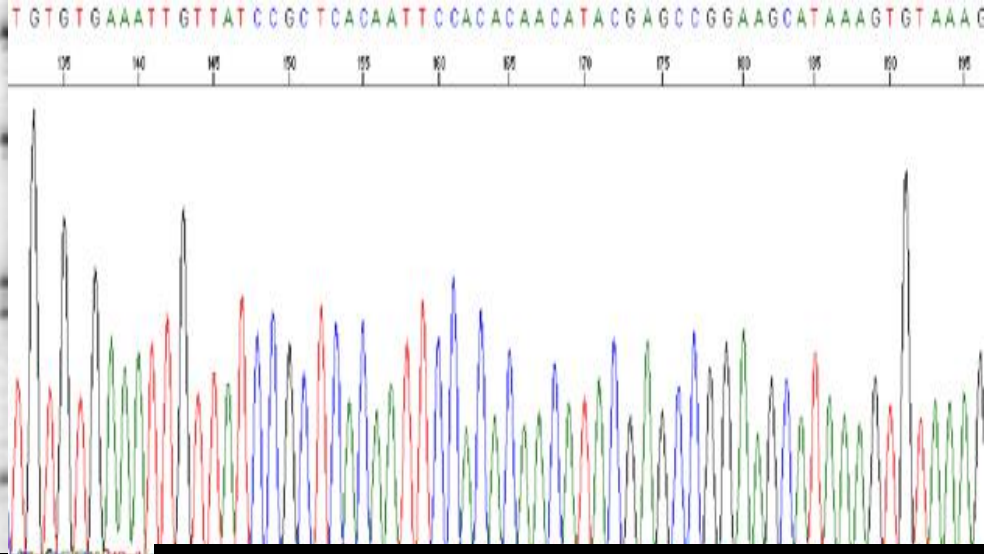
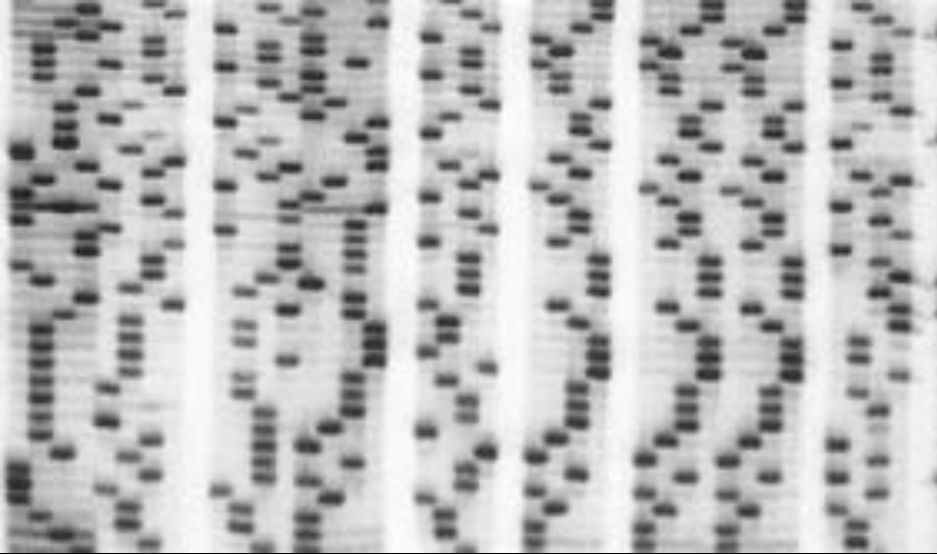
## ❖ Expansion to other existing or potential NBS disorders

- Congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH)
- Biotinidase deficiency
- Ornithine transcarbamylase deficiency (OTC)
- Cytomegalovirus
- Fragile X syndrome
- Spinal muscular atrophy
- Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)
- Other lysosomal storage disorders (LSD)

# Potential Future Applications of Molecular Testing in NBS

- ❖ **Genome-wide association studies**
- ❖ **Susceptibility testing (heart disease, cancer, obesity, diabetes)**
- ❖ **Next generation sequencing - exome, genome and transcriptome**
- ❖ **Pharmacogenetics and NBS**
  - **Drugs in clinical trials to treat specific CF causing mutations (VX-770/G551D and VX-890 / DF508)**
  - **Ataluren (formerly PTC124) is an investigational drug that reads through nonsense or STOP mutations**





Mix deoxynucleotides with  
ddA, ddT, ddC\*, ddG  
4 lanes per person/fragment  
~200 readable bases

Mix deoxynucleotides with  
ddA, ddT, ddC\*, ddG  
1 scan per person/fragment  
~800 readable bases

Chop up the human genome  
Make a library of fragments  
Sequence billions of bases  
Multiplexing multiple people  
Millions of 'reads'



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## Perils of Newborn Screening

Doctors may be testing infants for too many diseases


By Ariel Bleicher

The first symptoms often appear a month or two after birth. The babies' muscles stiffen. They lose their hearing and vision, stop sleeping and scream in [pain](#). Some develop seizures. By the time many parents learn that their children have Krabbe disease—a rare genetic disorder that degrades nerve cells—it is too late for the only viable treatment, a transfusion of umbilical cord blood [stem cells](#) from healthy donors. Children with full-blown Krabbe who do not receive medical treatment, as well as many who do get treated, usually die by age two.

In some cases, doctors can prevent this grim outcome by screening infants at birth for genetic harbingers of disease. Right now such tests are mandatory in only a few

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# Challenges of Sequencing

- ❑ **Major Challenge:** Determining whether any given variant is pathogenic
- ❑ **ACMG defined 5 categories to classify variants:**
  - Known pathogenic
  - Likely to be pathogenic
  - Unknown significance
  - Likely to be benign
  - Benign
- ❑ **Knowledge accruing daily, however the medical impact of most variants is unknown**



# Evolution of Krabbe Disease Screening

- ❖ Pan-ethnic
- ❖ Frequency 1:100,000 worldwide
- ❖ Gene described in 1993
- ❖ Prenatal screening 80's by enzyme, molecular 90's
- ❖ New York 8/7/06; 2+ million screened; MO 2.5 years
- ❖ Legislation/lobbying (NM, IL, NJ, MD, PA, TN, MI.....)

# State of NBS for Krabbe Disease

- Full gen
- ~30 nov
- screening
- Common
- Variants
- One mut
- Two mut
- Two mut
- Parental



ected in

ce  
ty

types

# Krabbe Today Mimics CF Yesterday



# Improvement of the Literature



Collect data, clinical followup

# Learning Points

- ❖ **Newborn screening has accepted new technology and evolved over time**
- ❖ **Molecular NBS began in 1994 and continues to include more testing**
- ❖ **Almost all NBS invokes genetics and thus the family**
- ❖ **Programs need to address utility and laboratory needs for molecular NBS**
- ❖ **Molecular testing will continue to enter NBS algorithms and sequencing poses challenges for Programs to consider**



Always pay it forward and  
never forget to pay it back. It's  
how you got here and it defines  
where you're going...

@briansolis

**Thanks to Suzanne Cordovado,  
Ph.D. and Co., Susan Tanksley, Ph.D.  
and  
Rachel Lee, Ph.D.  
for slides**

**Thank  
You**

*Mahalo*

**Kiitos**

*Tach*

**Toda**

**Grazie**

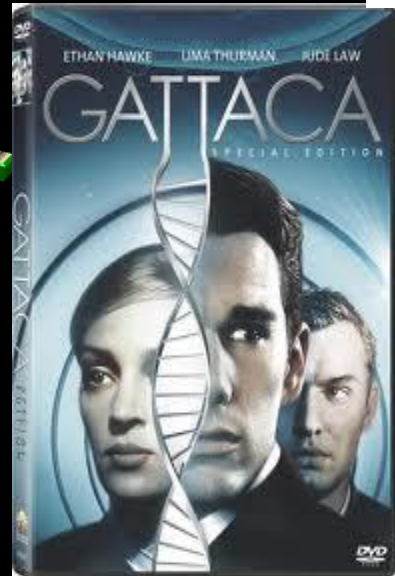
*Obrigado*

**Thanks**

**Takk**

**Merci**

**Gracias**



Anne Brown worries that someone could gain access to the DNA sample from her daughter Isabel with Isabel's name attached.

# State of NBS for Krabbe Disease

---

- Full gene sequence required
- ~30 novel variants have been detected in screening
- Common complex genotypes
- Variants of unknown significance
- One mutation, no enzyme activity
- Two mutations, asymptomatic
- Two mutations, different phenotypes
- Parental anxiety

# Krabbe Today Mimics CF Yesterday

- No population / carrier screening
- Molecular data from symptomatic, infantile
- No common panel, except 30Kb deletion
- No natural history from a screened population
- Information will drive treatment
- Information will develop evidence base
- Policy will follow
- Will we ever get to the 'common' mutation panel??