

Inclusive Conversations about Genetics: The Personal Genetics Education Project

What is pgEd?



**HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL**

DEPARTMENT OF
Genetics



Cliff Tabin

Goals

- Increased awareness
- Thoughtful discussion
- Informed choices
- Engaged communities



pgEd Initiatives



Genetics & Social Justice teacher workshop,
HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology

Educating through Schools



Engaging Communities in Libraries,
Museums & other Forums



Congressional Briefings
to Engage Lawmakers



Create Ways to Engage Online through
Games, Social Media and Videos



Working with Producers & Writers
in the Television & Film Industry



Partnering with
Communities of Faith



Lesson Plans

- Consumer genetics
- Personalized medicine
- Reproductive genetic testing
- Genetics, jobs, and your rights: GINA
- Athletics and genetics
- Protecting athletes: Sickle cell trait
- DNA, crime, and law enforcement
- Genetics, history, and the American eugenics movement
- Genome editing and CRISPR
- Genes, environment and genetic complexity: Aggression in humans

Coming soon:

- Genome engineering and the world around us
- Informed consent in the genomic age
- Ancestry, race and DNA: health implications
- Sex, genetics and athletics
- Complex measurements: Intersection of genes, environment, and intelligence



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Science Café (Mount Desert Island, ME)

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In cooperation with the offices of: the late Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter, Senator Elizabeth Warren, and Congressman Bill Foster

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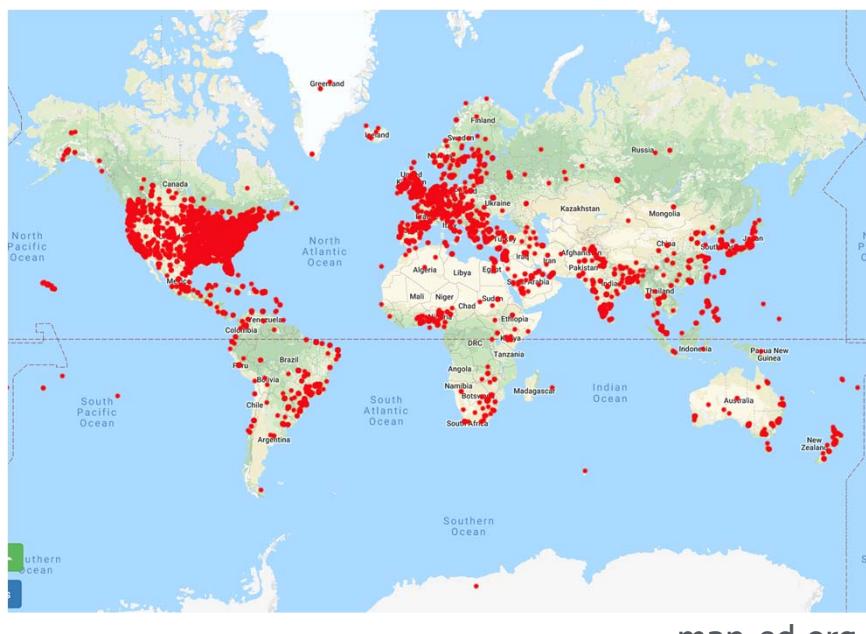
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Anyamovie.com (2019)

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Minority Coalition for Precision Medicine (Baltimore, MD)

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Lessons Learned

- Not everyone is excited about science
- Make it relevant – why should people care when there are so many other (bigger) problems?
- Make it understandable



Genetics is Personal

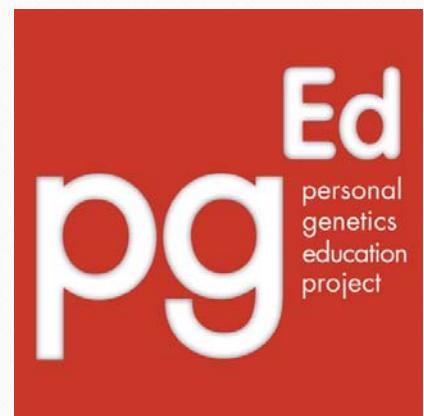
- Personalized medicine
- Individual rights (law enforcement, employment, insurance)
- Ancestry testing
- Reproductive technology/testing/choices



Challenges

- Increase scientific literacy
- Reach beyond the “low-hanging fruit”
- Remember to listen
- Communicating the nuance of science in a soundbite world





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