



For Immediate Release

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“Your Genes: Choice or Chance”
Science Matters Program Explores the Ethics of Human Genome Research
Presented by the California Science Center

Los Angeles- The California Science Center's Science Matters speakers program will present “Your Genes: Choice or Chance?” on Saturday, October 25, 2008 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Featured panelists will provide an overview of human genome science and the implications it has for human disease prediction and prevention. The program will examine questions behind human genome science, including the role of our inherited genes versus our personal choices in determining our health outcome. Panelists will also debate what should happen as genetic information becomes more readily available; should we keep genetic information private in making decisions regarding employment, insurance and law? What are the ethical issues associated with manipulating the human genome? The discussion, which is free to the public, will explore the issues and decisions associated with this technology.

Conan Nolan, *NBC4 reporter*, will serve as moderator for the panel discussion, in the Loker Conference room at the California Science Center.

Panelists include: **Pragna Patel, Ph.D.**, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Institute for Genetic Medicine, USC School of Medicine; **Mr. Olophius Perry, Esq.**, District Director, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, L.A. District Office; **James J. Walter, Ph.D.**, Professor of Bioethics and Chair, The Bioethics Institute, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California; and **Stanley F. Nelson, M.D.**, Professor and Vice Chair of Human Genetics and Professor of Psychiatry, Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA.

Program attendees will have a chance to hear the debates on this issue and to ask panelists questions at the end of the program. All those interested in attending may RSVP at 213-744-2420.

About the California Science Center

The California Science Center's mission is as follows: "We aspire to stimulate curiosity and inspire science learning in everyone by creating fun, memorable experiences, because we value science as an indispensable tool for understanding our world, accessibility and inclusiveness, and enriching people's lives."

General Info: Admission is free; to reserve a seat please RSVP at 213-744-2420.

The California Science Center and IMAX Theater are located in historic Exposition Park just west of the Harbor (110) Freeway at 700 Exposition Park Drive, Los Angeles. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. General admission is free. For recorded information, including IMAX show times, call 323.SCIENCE (323.724-3623). IMAX ticket prices range from \$4.75 to \$8.00. For advance ticket purchases, group rates, or to make reservations for any visiting group of 15 or more (*required*), call 213.744-2019. Parking is available in the guest lot at Figueroa and 39th Street at \$6 per car, \$10 for buses or oversized vehicles. Both the Science Center and IMAX Theater are wheelchair accessible. For further information, please visit our website at www.californiasciencecenter.org.

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