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Witte Museum Announces Expert Speakers
Body Blueprints: Genetics Presentation Series
In conjunction with *Genome: The Secret of How Life Works*

SAN ANTONIO—Join the **Witte Museum** for a series of three intriguing talks, **Body Blueprints: Genetics Presentation Series**, by some of the most highly respected genetic scientists. All presentations are **6-8 p.m.** and are free for museum members, \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

Held in conjunction with the Witte's current exhibit, *Genome: The Secret of How Life Works*, this provocative series begins **April 8** with **Dr. Michael Escamilla**, Director of the South Texas Medical Genetics Research Group, presenting *The Genetics of Madness: What Have We Learned About Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, and the Human Mind?* A wealth of information is carried in our genes which partially determine psychological characteristics and the Human Genome Project has opened a new dimension to the understanding of illnesses like bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and depression. Dr. Escamilla will review efforts of genetics researchers to identify the biological causes of these illnesses, the implications for how we think of mental illness and how the Human Genome Project can help us learn more about the genetic foundations of human creativity, resilience and vulnerability to psychological suffering.

On **April 30** join **Dr. John Blangero**, Director of the AT&T Genomics Computing Center at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, for an introduction to how geneticists utilize sequence variation in humans to localize and identify genes involved in common diseases. *Identifying Genes: From Sequence Variation to Personalized Medicine* will explore how such discoveries can lead to the identification of causal genetic factors in disease risk, a more rapid and cost efficient identification of novel drug targets and opportunities for tailoring specific medical treatment based on an individual's genetic profile—which can lead to a truly “personalized” medicine.

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The final presentation in the series is on **May 14** by **Dr. Jannine Cody**, Director of the Chromosome 18 Clinical Research Center at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, the only center in the world of its kind. More than 50% of people with development disabilities have a chromosome abnormality, the most common being Down syndrome. *Chromosome 18 Disorders: Conquering Complex Conditions* will address the biology of these abnormalities and because it is biology—how they can be understood and intervened, ultimately changing the course of people’s lives.

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