

Special Event

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### **Genetics 54 –The Human Genome Unplugged**

Advances in Human Genetics in the last 54 years have been breathtaking, from the identification of chromosome number to mapping of the genome. What do these breakthroughs mean for us and for the students of today? Firstly, there is a multitude of ethical, legal and social issues that have arisen and can be readily discussed in the classroom in a structured way. Secondly, genetic technologies are no longer limited to the realm of the biologist. Interdisciplinary work is a feature of several new technologies (including gene mapping, sequencing and microarrays) and therefore should be encouraged in teaching science, to facilitate exchange of ideas and equip students for their unplugged, multidisciplinary future!

A multimedia CD-ROM resource called "Gene Issues" can be used to assist discussions around these complex topics. The resource provides trigger videos, teacher and student notes and ethicist's comments. Copies will be provided free of charge at this session.