

THE MAD SCIENTIST'S CLUB: SCIENTIST PROFILE

RESEARCHES MUTANT GENES

MARY CLAIRE-KING

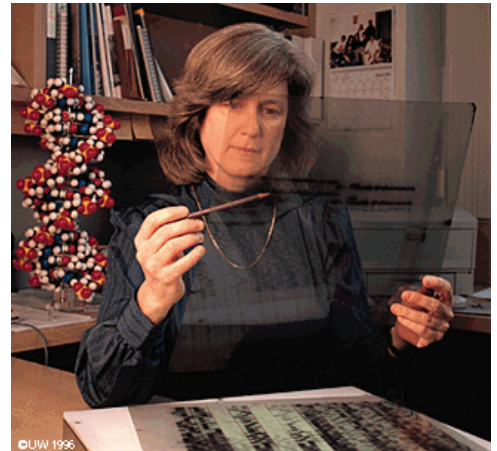
PROFESSOR OF MEDICAL GENETICS AND THE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON IN SEATTLE

She studies mutant genes that can cause people to get sick.

Job Description:

Mary studies human genes. She looks for mutant genes that can cause people to get sick, like HIV, lupus, inherited deafness, and breast cancer. She is best known for 3 things. . .

- Identifying breast cancer genes
- Demonstrating that chimpanzees are 99 percent genetically identical
- Using her knowledge of genes to identify victims of human rights abuses



Biography:

When Mary was young, she liked to play the flute, bike with her friend, Debbie, and walk on the beach. She lived in Florida near the ocean, and collected things like shells, small vases, stamps, coins, and local reed flutes. Her favorite things to study were math and music.

Her special way of learning was to sit with her dad, who was an invalid and home all of the time. They would invent math puzzles based on the baseball games they watched together on TV. Mary was a serious student who learned by reading books, writing and journaling, watching television, and taking classes. There were no personal computers when she was young.

Many, many times, she wanted to quit, but she kept on trying.

Her advice to young scientists is:

“Find a nice puzzle that’s fun and keep at it.”

For more information about Mary’s work, click on:

<http://www.uchsc.edu/sm/mstp/aspen98/king.html>