

Tomorrow Belongs to Me

Artist Jacqueline Donachie worked with geneticist Dr Darren Monckton to undertake a series of filmed interviews with key scientists whose work had helped to prove the theory of 'anticipation' in relation to certain inherited genetic disorders. This extract features **Stephanie Sherman of the University of Hawaii, Honolulu.**

SS: We didn't listen to the families in the beginning about the normal transmitting males. So we were very stuck on the idea of the X-linked inheritance pattern. So when we asked about the mother – “Do you have any other relatives in your family that have developmental delay or retardation?” And they would say: “Well on my father's side there's a child that, you know, I have a cousin on my father's side,” and we would say: “No, no, no, no, this is an X-linked disorder, tell me about your mother's side.” Because we know it only goes through the women and it's expressed in the sons of the women. And they'd say: “Well no really, on my father's side I have quite a few.” And we would say: “No, no, no.” So really until we started seeing this pattern over and over again that there was truly these males that were not expressing a gene that we knew was a mutation on their X chromosome we began to slowly listen to the families and in fact hang our heads low and go back to those families and say: “OK, now please tell me about your father's side.”

[End of transcript]