

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION

Capital Science Lectures

“Mad Cows & *Psi-Chotic* Yeast: Revolutionary New Views in
Human Disease and Genetics”

Presentation by **Susan Lindquist**

Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Professor of Medical Sciences, The University of Chicago

Suggested Reading List

“**Human Frontiers, Environments and Disease**”

by Tony McMichael

This acutely timely book by a leading public health expert discusses the potentially disastrous impact of overpopulation, excessive consumption, environmental change (such as destruction of the rainforest) and other human-engendered problems on the future of humanity. Are human progress and the expansion of human frontiers actually the hidden causes of new diseases such as Mad Cow Disease? Can we cure one problem without causing a new one? This is an excellent treatise on the limits of human understanding and control, and the law of unintended consequences.

Published by Cambridge University Press. (2001) \$23.00 paperback

“**Decoding Darkness**”, by Rudolph E. Tanzi and Ann B. Parson,
and “**Hannah’s Heirs**”, by Daniel A. Pollen

Abnormally shaped proteins have become one of the chief suspects in the search for the causes of neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer’s. The authors of *Decoding Darkness*, neurogeneticist Rudolph E. Tanzi and science writer Ann B. Parson, link the cause of Alzheimer’s Disease to a mutation which alters the shape of amyloid proteins which are found in the brains of healthy people. For a yet to be fully understood reason, Alzheimer’s Disease changes these proteins from a helical (coiled) shape to a “wickedly insoluble” zigzag configuration which resembles a pleated skirt. Rather than eliminating these misfolded proteins, the brains of Alzheimer’s victims literally become “clogged” by them. In *Hannah’s Heirs*, author Daniel A. Pollen tells the story of a unique family which has been afflicted by early onset Alzheimer’s for generations. Recently reissued in a revised paperback edition which tells of the thrilling discovery, in 1995, of “Hannah’s gene” – the inherited factor responsible for most early onset Alzheimer’s cases – *Hannah’s Heirs* also shows the impact of this discovery on the treatment of late onset cases of the disease.

“*Decoding Darkness*”, published by Harper Collins (2001) 16.00 paperback

“*Hannah’s Heirs*” published by Oxford University (1998) \$14.95 paperback

(Reiter’s Scientific & Professional Books suggested reading list continued...)

“Cambridge World History of Human Disease”

Edited by Kenneth Kiple

Combining recent medical discoveries with historical and geographical scholarship, *The Cambridge World History of Human Disease* traces the concept of disease throughout history and in each major world region. It offers the history and geography of each significant human disease--both historical and contemporary--from AIDS to yellow fever, and touches on the variety of approaches that different medical traditions have used to fight disease. Accessible to laypeople and specialists alike, *The Cambridge World History of Human Disease* offers an extraordinary glimpse of what is known about human health as the twenty-first century begins.

Published by Cambridge University Press (1993) \$180.00 hardcover

“Viruses, Plagues, & History”

by Michael B.A. Oldstone

The history of humanity’s response to the great plagues and epidemics of the past is one of both triumph and tragedy. In **Viruses, Plagues, & History**, Michael Oldstone, a Member of the Scripps Research Institute, specializing in viral immunobiology, writes in the spirit of the famous scientific detective story, “Microbe Hunters,” about the heroic, largely successful attempts to eradicate Smallpox, Polio, Yellow Fever and Measles, and about the new threats from diseases such as Ebola, HIV/AIDS and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (Mad Cow Disease). Oldstone also discusses the difficulty of completely eradicating a disease like Smallpox, a point that takes on added importance in the post-September 11th world. Anyone attempting to understand the mysterious nature of “dis-ease” should add this volume to his or her collection.

Published by Oxford University Press (2000) \$15.95 paperback

Suggested reading list provided by

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Washington DC 20006 Fax 202-296-9103
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