Sex-Linkage & Pedigrees



# Sex Linkage

- •A person's sex is determined by the presence of sex chromosomes
- •Humans have 44 "autosomes" and 2 "sex" chromosomes
- •Males are heterozygous XY
- •Females are homozygous XX
- •Presence of Y indicates maleness rather than the absence of X
- •A gene on the X of a male has no matching allele on the Y



# Sex Linkage Explained Further



- Traits found on the X chromosome are commonly referred to as X-linked or Sex-Linked Each allele of each sex chromosome is written as a superscript <u>Examples of X-Linked</u> <u>Genes</u>:
  - Hemophilia
  - Muscular dystrophy
  - Red/green colourblindness
  - Early patterned baldness

#### Take a Look...



#### X-linked recessive, affected father



U.S. National Library of Medicine

## Hemophilia: A Royal Curse

#### Blood clotting

- Normal blood clotting is dominant to hemophilia
- The gene for blood clotting in on the X chromosome



## Hemophilia Discovered

- Let <sup>H</sup>X = the hemophilia on the X chromosome
- Let Y represent the Y chromosome
- Cross a heterozygous female with a normal blood clotting male
- <sup>H</sup>XX cross <sup>H</sup>XY
- The Y factor
- Males CANNOT pass on an Xlinked trait to a son because he MUST pass on the Y to him



# **Vision Test**

- 8% of men, 0.04% of women
- Three genes give us our colour vision
  Blue, Red, and Green
- Blue is found on an autosome
- Red and green are found on the X chromosome

- 1. Normal Color Vision:
  A: 29, B: 45, C: --, D: 26
- 2. Red-Green Color-Blind: A: 70, B: --, C: 5, D: --
- 3. Red Color-blind: A: 70, B: --, C: 5, D: 6
- 4. Green Color-Blind:
  A: 70, B: --, C: 5, D: 2



#### **Red/Green Colour Blindness**

- Defective red allele
  - If the red defective allele is passed but green allele is normal
  - the person can't tell the difference between red and green
- Defective green allele
  - Same effect if the green defective allele is passed on and the red is normal



# **Pedigree Charts**

- Pedigree charts show a record of the family of an individual
- They can be used to study the transmission of a hereditary condition
- They are particularly useful when there are large families and a good family record over several generations.

A mating with five children, two daughters and three sons. The middle son is affected by the condition.





# **Organizing Pedigree Charts**

- A pedigree chart of a family showing 20 individuals
- Individuals in each generation are identified by Roman numerals numbered from the left
- Therefore the affected individuals are II3, IV2 and IV3

