HG19 Section 2
Nature, Nurture: Is It Genes or Upbringing That Defines Us?

Week 5: Thursday, 2/9/06

Reading Points for Chapter 4: The Madness of Causes

How could one determine the causes of schizophrenia? Are synaptic abnormalities causes or symptoms of schizophrenia?

What could be some of the possible reasons for false positive results in efforts to map genes for schizophrenia?

Twin studies compare concordance rates among monozygotic (identical) twins to concordance rates among dizygotic (fraternal) twins. What are the assumptions behind these studies?

Explain: The strength of gene expression isn’t necessarily inherited.

Are the mutations in genes that lead to schizophrenia selected because they increase chances of survival? (Do these mutations increase Darwinian fitness?) Is schizophrenia just too much of a good thing?

How can something that happens prenatally be a risk factor for an adult onset disease?