

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Chris on Why She Became a Geneticist and the Surprises Along the Way

[Link to video.](#)

[Chris]: So, I got into genetics. When I was younger, I actually have alopecia. So, I have a form of alopecia where I don't have any hair on my arms or legs or any eyebrows. And, I have hair on my head, but not a lot, so I just wear this to look pretty.

So, I got into genetics because I wanted to help people. You know, when you're a teenager, you think things that happen to you are the worst things ever, right? So, and I wanted to help people who had the same thing. And I also, at the time said, well, I'm never gonna have a kid because I don't want to pass this on and et cetera, et cetera.

And then I went into graduate school and got a PhD in human genetics and realized there's a lot worse things than losing your hair. So, you know, there's other things that people really need help with.

So, eventually I obviously grew up, went into human genetics. Just had a child of my own, and then I got divorced and was a single mother.

And so, at turning age 40 a few years ago, you know, at age 40 everything that you hear is maybe you should think about upping your life insurance or changing your insurance before you turn 40, right? Because there's a cliff for that.

So, I decided to do a, a direct-to-consumer genetic testing service.

It's been a great experience. And mainly because, what I didn't expect, was the sense of relief that I got from opening those test results. And you could argue that I knew that



I don't have a family history of Alzheimer's. I don't have a family history of Parkinson's or breast cancer.

But, I'm a scientist. I work with data. There's something amazing about seeing on the screen that I don't have risk alleles for those things.

And we all know it's complex, there's environment, there's risk. That doesn't mean I won't get those things.

But the important thing is just to have that information, for life insurance purposes and, and, and for my own. It, it, it was really a great experience.