



# Do you know how eye color is inherited?

South Shore Hospital employs genetic counselors who are available to answer your questions regarding genetics. Regarding eye color, what most of us learned about the genetics of eye color is false. Eye color is not associated with one gene inherited in a recessive manner. It is one of the most complex inheritable traits. It is polygenic, meaning it is associated with multiple genes. To date 15 different genes have been identified which impact eye color. Fortunately, most genetic disorders are only associated with one gene and are inherited in a much simpler more understandable manner.



Understanding the basics about genetics has the potential to improve the quality of care we provide to our patients. Most genetic disorders are inherited in one of the following ways:

- Autosomal dominant**
- Autosomal recessive**
- X-linked**
- Multifactorial**
- Chromosomal**

Future issues of “**Gene Splash**” will address genetic questions submitted by South Shore Hospital employees. If you have a general genetic question or a specific one regarding a patient, contact us. The chosen question along with an answer, will be posted throughout the hospital as well as on esplash. Submit your questions to Emily Lazar and Judy Jackson at [Judith\\_Jackson@sshosp.org](mailto:Judith_Jackson@sshosp.org)