At SISSA an outstanding guest will give his personal account on neurodegenerative diseases

2 April 2013

A special encounter will be held at the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) of Trieste featuring Charles Sabine, journalist and “future” Huntington's chorea patient. Sabine will give the audience his unique personal account and will address the importance of genetic research in fighting neurodegenerative diseases, the type of research carried out at SISSA. The event is organized by the Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Advanced Studies (LISNU) and the PHD course in Structural and Functional Genomics.

Monday April 8th at 11.30am
Lecture Room 128, SISSA
via Bonomea 265, Trieste
Huntington’s disease (also known as chorea) is a very serious neurodegenerative pathology, and an incurable genetic disorder. People suffering from it share a mutation of the Htt gene. Possessing such mutation means being doomed to develop the disease between 40 and 50 years of age. Today the mutation may be detected via genetic testing of the kind Charles Sabine underwent when his brother started showing the signs of the disease. As soon as Sabine found out he was doomed to develop the disorder, he decided he wanted to share his personal experience.

On Monday 8 April, Sabine will hold a public speech at SISSA, where he will be greeted by Giuseppe Legname, a scientist that carries out research at SISSA precisely on the genetics of neurodegenerative diseases.

During his encounter with the public, Sabine will offer a reflection on how life can be for someone who is aware he is condemned to a terrible disease such as the chorea. The event will also offer the opportunity to discuss the use of genetic testing and the importance of research, like the one carried out at SISSA’s neurobiology laboratories, to understand the mechanisms of neurodegenerative diseases.

Sabine’s speech, to be held in English, will be filmed and then posted on SISSA’s YouTube channel.

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*Image:* Charles Sabine and his brother

*Credits:* Charles Sabine

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