

and 9. Only the heterochromatic blocks of chromosome 16 showed a slight variability from cell to cell. At present, scanty data exist about the structure and function of constitutive heterochromatin in the human genome.<sup>1-3</sup> The 20ph+ variant segregated in three generations of the first family and in two generations of the second family. This finding indicates that this new 20ph+ constitutive heteromorphism has no harmful phenotypic effects.

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#### References

- <sup>1</sup> Erdtmann B, Salzano FM, Mattevi MS. Size variability of the Y chromosome distal C-band in Brazilian Indians and Caucasoids. *Ann Hum Biol* 1981;8:415-24.
- <sup>2</sup> Hsu LYF, Benn PA, Tannenbaum HL, Perlis TE, Carlsons D. Chromosomal polymorphisms of 1, 9, 16, and Y in 4 major ethnic groups: a large prenatal study. *Am J Med Genet* 1987;28:95-101.
- <sup>3</sup> Hansmann I. Structural variability of human chromosome 9 in relation to its evolution. *Hum Genet* 1976;31:247-62.

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## Announcements

#### UNDER THE VOLCANO: BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE AND THE THIRD WORLD

This conference, sponsored by The New York Academy of Sciences, will be held on 18 to 20 October 1988 at the Caspary Auditorium, The Rockefeller University, New York. For further information, contact: Conference Department, The New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East 63rd Street, New York, NY 10021, USA. Tel: (212) 838-0230.

#### THE JOINT CONVENTION OF THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CHILD NEUROLOGY CONGRESS AND THE THIRD ASIAN AND OCEANIC CONGRESS OF CHILD NEUROLOGY

This congress will be held on 4 to 10 November 1990 in Chiba, Japan. For further details contact The

Secretariat of the Joint Convention of 5th ICNC and 3rd AOCCN, c/o Simul International Inc, Kowa Building No 9, 8-10, Akasaka 1-chome, Minato-Ku, Tokyo 107, Japan. Tel: (03) 586-8691.

#### THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HUMAN GENETICS

This congress, sponsored by the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG), will be held in Washington DC, USA on 6 to 11 October 1991. For further information contact Dr John J Mulvihill, Secretary-General, ASHG, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20814, USA. Tel: (301) 571-1825.