

Walter Gilbert Quotes

*Genes, Virtue, People, Viruses, Trying, Community, Looks, Bacteria, Answers,
Asks, Animal, Related, Religious, Projects, Work, World, Years, Belief, Basic
Research, Views*

Why do we do basic research? To learn about ourselves.

~Walter Gilbert

It's easier to change what you do than people think it is. If you don't change, your field changes around you.

~Walter Gilbert

Biology will relate every human gene to the genes of other animals and bacteria, to this great chain of being.

~Walter Gilbert

The virtues of science are skepticism and independence of thought.

~Walter Gilbert

The interaction of the variation in our genes is what's responsible for lots of our attributes and vigor.

~Walter Gilbert

We haven't been able yet to determine in terms of genes what makes a human being a human and not another mammal.

~Walter Gilbert

Three billion bases of DNA sequence can be put on a single compact disc and one will be able to pull a CD out of one's pocket and say, 'Here is a human being; it's me!'

~Walter Gilbert

The community as a whole doesn't listen patiently to critics who adopt alternative viewpoints. Although the great lesson of history is that knowledge develops through the conflict of viewpoints.

~Walter Gilbert

Early on, it's good to develop the ability to write. Learning to write is a useful exercise, even if what you're writing about is not that relevant.

~Walter Gilbert

The human's place in the universe will be set in the scheme of evolution, the product of our biological inheritance.

~Walter Gilbert

We are embedded in a biological world and related to the organisms around us.

~Walter Gilbert

Biology will tell you a lot of things, but there are many that it can not explain and you need to look at physics instead.

~Walter Gilbert

We know specific genes are turned on in specific cells, but we don't know to what extent this happens.

~Walter Gilbert

In 15 years we'll have all the sequence, a list of the genes everyone has in common and those that differ among people. We know only something like a tenth of 1 percent of the sequence at the moment.

~Walter Gilbert

By asking a novel question that you don't know the answer to, you discover whether you can formulate a way of finding the answer, and you stretch your own mind, and very often you learn something new.

~Walter Gilbert

Science doesn't in the slightest depend on trust. It depends completely on the belief that you can demonstrate something for yourself.

~Walter Gilbert

The best project is one that asks a novel question.

~Walter Gilbert

Today we try to identify a gene and then study its properties.

~Walter Gilbert

Error is far more common than fraud which probably comprises 1 percent or a tenth of a percent of the literature.

~Walter Gilbert

I have the same sense of the power and virtue of knowledge that some people get from a religious background.

~Walter Gilbert

Everyone wants a hand in the outcome, a piece of the knowledge.

~Walter Gilbert

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