Cystic Fibrosis

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disease that is caused by the genetic mutation that changes the protein that regulates the movement of salt in and out of cells. The result of this is a sticky thick mucus in the respiratory, digestive, and reproductive systems, they also produce an increased amount of salt in their sweat. This disease is an inherited trait that is passed down the generations; the gene is recessive so both parents will have to have the gene for the child to have the mutation, if the child only has one of the genes it will become a carrier for the disease and their child could have the disease if their partner is also a carrier. The cystic fibrosis gene is mostly common in white people with a Northern European ancestry. This topic is interesting to me because this gene runs in my family; my cousin Hailey has cystic fibrosis. This 23andme test helped find out more about myself and my family. It also gives me an idea if I'm a carrier for this genetic mutation; this is why genetic testing is important to me. You can find out more about your history and the possibility to have or pass on a mutation of your genes.

Once the mother gets tested if her child will have the disease she can then go through genetic therapy and learn how she can help and prepare for the child’s condition. The genetic counselor will also help you and once the child is old enough to cope with the disease since it is terminal and most people don't live past the age of 30-40 yrs of age. Most who have the disease go through rigorous treatments and daily medications along with a special diet. With the hope of genetics advancing the thought of one day being able to take the cystic fibrosis gene out and replace it with the healthy one is amazing.