



Reproductive Technologies, Inc.

THE SPERM BANK OF CALIFORNIA

INTERVIEW NOTES: 5539

Donor 5539 is an intelligent, driven man with a wealth of life experience and a kind, open demeanor that made him really easy to talk to. To the interview, he wore jeans and a beautiful long sleeve, deep red Henley shirt that complemented his brown complexion. He has big, warm brown eyes, and a broad smile with straight white teeth. His shiny black hair was worn slightly long and curly. Beneath his short beard and mustache his dimples were visible when he smiled. When asked if he's ever been told he looks like anyone famous, he said Dev Patel. I'd say this actor is a really nice comparison, especially when it comes to coloring and face shape when looking at his face from straight on. I'd also add that many of this donor's facial features are strikingly similar to Guillermo Ochoa, especially in the eyes, nose, and profile.

Donor 5539 had a pretty idyllic childhood growing up in Colombia with his older brother and parents. He idealized his older brother, who is six years older than he is. He frequently got on his brother's nerves, always following in his footsteps. The family lived for a while with his grandmother in a gated community. This was a particularly fun time in his life, as all of the kids in the neighborhood were free to run around together behind the protection of the surrounding fences. They had amazing hide and seek games, played soccer almost constantly, and managed to create their own ramps for rollerblading with the help of a local welder.

Donor 5539 described his parents as very positive and not pushy at all. He always did well in school, but didn't feel any overt pressure from them to do so. They did spend most of their money to send their sons to the best schools they could, sometimes struggling financially to accomplish this.

Everything changed when donor 5539 was 12 and a violent incident nearly harmed his father, prompting the family to leave the country. They decided to move to Panama. There donor 5539 was struck by culture shock, and struggled to understand a new accent. He adjusted well and eventually began to speak with a Panamanian accent with his friends. At home with the family, he would switch back to his Colombian accent.

When donor 5539 started college in Panama, he really started to explore and learn more about himself. He started meeting people from all over the world and learned to surf and play guitar. He eventually transferred to a school in the U.S. where he pushed himself to perfect his English and spend time getting to know people from different backgrounds. He also got a job as a researcher in order to be less of a financial burden on his parents. He developed a passion for the research he was doing, which eventually shaped some of his career path. He was thrilled when his work led to him to attending international conferences as an undergraduate.

While working on his Ph.D., donor 5539 began to realize that he was too focused on his work, so he started to push himself to read more often and more mindfully from texts outside of his field. These days, he continues this goal of expanding his knowledge beyond his field, and enjoys cooking with his wife. We are so grateful he's decided to be a part of our donor program.

Interviewed by Kenya and Marisa 7/3/18



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DONOR PROFILE: 5539

The past and current personal and family medical history, physical examination, and laboratory test results determine that donor 5539 is eligible and approved for semen donation at THE SPERM BANK OF CALIFORNIA. This profile was prepared in March 2019.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Identity-Release[®] Program: **Yes**
- Month/year of birth: **May 1988**
- Education: **Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, Ph.D., Materials Science**
- Current occupation: **Post-doctoral Researcher**
- Ethnic origin: **Colombian**
- Religion born into: **Catholic**
- Religion practicing: **None**

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Height: **5'11"**
- Weight: **172 lbs**
- Hair color: **Black**
- Hair type: **Wavy, curly**
- Eye color: **Dark brown**
- Complexion: **Light brown**
- Body type: **Medium**
- Blood group/Rh: **A+**
- Baby photo available: **Yes**
- Other distinguishing features: **Dimples**

FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY

KEY: D donor **Ch** child **F** father **M** mother **S** sister **B** brother
Co cousin **A** aunt **U** uncle **MGF** maternal grandfather **MGM** maternal
grandmother **PGF** paternal grandfather **PGM** paternal grandmother

Genital/Reproductive: **MGF: Prostate cancer at 78, treated with chemotherapy, ongoing. PGF: Prostate cancer at 80, treated with chemotherapy, cause of death at 80.**

Heart: **M: High cholesterol at 50, treated with diet change & supplements, resolved. F: High cholesterol at 56, treated with diet change & supplements, resolved. MA2: High cholesterol at 46, treated with supplements, ongoing. MA3: High cholesterol at 48, treated with supplements, ongoing. MA4: High cholesterol at 40, treated with supplements, resolved.**

Muscles/Bones/Joints: **MGM: Osteoporosis at 72, treated with medication, ongoing.**

Respiratory (Lungs): **PHU: Asthma at 6, treated with inhaler as needed, resolved in adulthood.**

Sight/Sound/Smell: **D: Right eye: 20/25, left eye: 20/20.**

Cancer (see above): **MGF: Prostate cancer. PGF: Prostate cancer.**

Other: **D: Gilbert syndrome (benign elevation of bilirubin) at 21, no treatment needed, ongoing.**

DONOR LAB RESULTS

Chlamydia: **Not Detected**
HIV 1 & 2: **Non-Reactive**
Hepatitis B: **Non-Reactive**
Urinalysis: **Normal**

Gonorrhea: **Not Detected**
CMV total antibody: **Negative**
Hepatitis C: **Non-Reactive**
Chem panel: **Normal**

Syphilis: **Non-Reactive**
HTLV 1 & 2: **Non-Reactive**
CBC: **Normal**

GENETIC SCREENING RESULTS: ALL TEST VALUES IN NORMAL RANGE

Genetic screening tests can significantly reduce, but never completely eliminate, the chance that a person is a carrier for a particular disorder.

Cystic Fibrosis: (> 500 mutations) **No mutation detected**
Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA): **Two copies of SMN1 detected (Normal)**
Hemoglobinopathies/Thalassemia: **No abnormal hemoglobin detected (including sickle hemoglobin);
No evidence of thalassemia**

DONOR NARRATIVE: 5539

The content of this narrative has not been altered by TSBC staff. It reflects the original written work of the Donor

Describe your personality.

My personality has been deeply shaped by my career choice. Science has allowed me to keep alive the curious kid inside of me—questioning everything! From the seemingly mundane to the deeper questions in life, I like to explore and find the reasons behind *every* event that calls my attention. Because of this, I am constantly on the move; always reading books, talking to people, travelling, exploring nature, and above all searching for truth. Through these practices, I have fallen in love with the human spirit, and I obtain great pleasure when I learn about the wide variety of beliefs, cultures, and behaviors that societies have developed all around the world. Additionally, my fascination with science and the human culture has led me to learn a great deal of history—and I often enjoy talking about it.

However, not everything has to be so inquisitive and compelling; the silly kid inside of me has also survived this ruthless world, and I would much prefer rolling down a grassy hill or playing hide-and-seek with my niece and nephew, any day, rather than questioning the world's problems or solving complicated thought experiments.

I am often told I smile a lot, and that my energy, drive, and enthusiasm seem to be endless. I have been this way as far back as I can remember, however, I am very aware that these are not normal qualities. Therefore, keeping my drive and enthusiasm fueled is a decision I make every single day.

What are your interests and talents?

Knowledge, self-improvement, and teaching:

Although I am constantly on the lookout for things I don't know, and always seeking to improve my approach to life, the ultimate goal (and the most joyful part of it all) is only achieved when I *teach* what I learned. I have occasionally thought about applying for a professorship, but the flaws in our education system have made me second guess. In the meantime, I habitually volunteer on outreach programs related to science and education. Furthermore, in my personal life, I'm always trying to encourage my loved ones to be the best version of themselves.

Family: My loved ones are always on my mind, and whether it is throwing a birthday party, cooking a special meal, or walking down the park, I always try to make the best out of the experiences I share with them.

Sports:

I have always been very good at endurance sports. As a kid, I used to excel in the school Olympics, often getting to the podium for most activities related to running. As an adult I still practice long distance running, swimming, biking, and I play soccer on Sundays.

Food:

This is another area of self-improvement which is also closely tied with pleasure. My diet (and I don't use this word in any rigorous or restrictive way) is constantly evolving towards healthier, yummiier, and more conscious meals. My significant other and I cook meals together every night, and we often pair them with a glass of good wine or beer in order to unwind and talk about life. I must admit though; she is the master chef—I'm just a cook in her kitchen.

Human progress:

One of the most important goals in my life is to help and improve humanity. Science is (without a doubt) the enterprise that has helped human society make the biggest leaps since the invention of writing. This is why I have devoted my life to it, and I am strongly passionate about the preservation and the advancement of science. It is not an easy or simple task (more on this later), but I try my best every day to contribute what I can through my work and through my desire to educate others.

Music:

When I was a baby, my dad used to tune-in classical music stations and leave them on all day, but I was told that sometimes when I was left alone with my caretaker, she would switch the station to salsa and other more tropical (and less transcendental) genres. Strangely enough, as a teenager I developed a fascination for neither of these kinds of music. Instead, influenced by my brother, I fell in love with a much heavier type of music (*i.e.* rock, heavy metal, and other heavier genres). This inspired me to learn how to play the electric guitar and to grow my hair quite long. For seven years, I was the proud owner of a full head of dreadlocks which often made people drawn to me and made it very easy to spark conversation. Today, I find myself enjoying a wide spectrum of music, and to the delight of my father I lately picked up where he and I left off years ago—I've been listening to (and reading about) classical music. I eventually had to cut my hair short, dreadlocks require a lot of care that I didn't have time for once life got busy.

Photography:

This is another activity that has made me fall in love with nature and humanity. Capturing moments in a picture has the power of creating much more transcendental memories, and it has the ability of making mundane events seem much more interesting. When I travel, I always take an extra backpack for my photography gear, and no matter how bad the weather, or how low the light, there is always a good picture waiting to be taken.

What are some of your goals and ambitions in life? Where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years?

We live in a time where science and democracy are being undermined by some of our elected officials and by certain corporations. Both as a scientist and as a citizen, I feel the need to get involved in helping these two important entities take the reins of society and drive us towards prosperity and peace. My main goal in life is to reach out to the public and show people that the best hope we have to solve some of the most pressing issues in society is to use a scientific approach. I can't stress enough how vital science has been to the prosperity

of human beings in the last 400 years, and we are only getting started. Hunger, crime, disease, natural disasters, and traffic accidents are only a few examples of issues that can be solved if research initiatives are funded by our governments, encouraged by our educational institutions, and promoted by our corporations. But it all starts with educating the individual. So I strive to educate others towards a more conscious and democratic society.

How would you describe your skills and interests in the following areas?

Math: As a scientist it is a requirement to be mathematically fluent, and although math was never a passion of mine, it is an important skill to have. I am quite adept in math.

Mechanical: I have an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering, and I think I chose it because as a kid (to the dismay of my parents) I would often disassemble my toys in an attempt to learn how they worked. Fortunately my career has allowed me to disassemble much bigger toys these days—without getting in trouble. At home, I also take the role of the mechanic, the plumber, the electrician, and the fixer of pretty much anything that has screws in it.

Athletic: As mentioned above, I am a *very* active person. Each year, I make it a challenge to dedicate it fully to a new sport. In the past seven years I've picked up running, swimming, rock climbing, biking, soccer, golfing, and playing squash. Some of these I've kept, others I've move on from, but I enjoy keeping my body (and mind) in check by trying new things every year. The next one on my list is tennis.

Musical, Artistic, Creative: I am by no means as good of an artist as my significant other, but she and I are constantly exploring our artistic sides. Whether it is making our Halloween costumes from scratch, decorating the house, or making gifts for our loved ones, we always strive for uniqueness—and according to our friends and family our results are quite good.

Language (what languages besides English do you speak?): Spanish is my native tongue, and I try to exercise it as much as I can through reading, writing, and by having meaningful conversations with my Spanish-speaking family.

I once learned to speak Portuguese (before I visited Brazil for the Soccer World Cup) using a very effective program called Pimsleur—founded by the linguist Paul Pimsleur. To my friend’s surprise (and mine!), when we got to Rio de Janeiro I was able to easily spark conversations with the locals—and even got told I had a very “native” accent. I also picked up a book from the hostel’s bookshelf and was happy to see that I could read and understand nearly 100% of it. Unfortunately, as it happens when one doesn’t practice languages, I lost almost all of my Portuguese already. What a shame.

Writing: As I am sure you have already guessed, I enjoy writing quite a bit. It is something I practice often and I hope one day I can write a book. Although given my standards for books (see below), I don’t think anything I can write will be worthy of my scrutiny.

Literature: I am a very special kind of reader. I wouldn’t say that I am a voracious reader because a voracious reader often doesn’t digest. I pick my books carefully and often read them twice (I learn much more on the second read). I normally prefer non-fiction (mostly science and history), but I don’t mind picking up a classic novel every once in a while. I also tend to stay away from new books; I think that in order for a book to prove itself worthy of reading it needs to survive a few decades while remaining relevant.

Science: Well... what can I say...

Please list a few of your favorite:

Movies: Contact, Fight Club, The Matrix, Pulp Fiction, The Pan’s Labyrinth, Gladiator, Interstellar, Amélie, Snatch, Good Will Hunting, The Princess Bride, Little Miss Sunshine, Up, X-Men: Days of Future Past, and Toy Story among others. Also, although not a movie, Game of Thrones.

Books/Authors: Cosmos by Carl Sagan, Merchants of Doubt by Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, Washington – A life by Ron Chernow, 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey, The Selfish Gene by Richard Dawkins, Demon Haunted World by Carl Sagan, 1984 by George Orwell, Brave New World by Aldous Huxley, The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien, and Cien años de Soledad by Gabriel Garcia Marquez among others

Albums/Musicians/Performances: I will try to mention one of my favorite songs from each music genre I listen to: While my Guitar Gently Weeps by the Beatles, The Four Seasons-Summer by Antonio Vivaldi, Agua by Jarabe de Palo, Space Oddity by David Bowie, Girl With One Eye by Florence And The Machine, Antologia by Shakira, Johnny B. Goode by Chuck Berry, Plastico by Willie Colon & Ruben Blades, Master of Puppets by Metallica, Les Beautés du Diable by Francois Dompierre, and Road Trippin' by Red Hot Chili Peppers.

What are a few of your reasons for becoming a sperm donor?

Would you be surprised if I said that my answer has to do with science and history? Well, DNA is quite amazing! This fascinating data transmission system has enabled life on earth to produce a seemingly endless variety of intricate organisms and boundless beauty. It is quite mind-blowing! The more I learn about evolution and nature, the more I realize that my genes don't really belong to me. I am the result of an incredibly long line of ancestors where each one of them has contributed a small fraction to what makes up my genetic code today. I owe it to them to use this genetic information to the best of its capacity and to pass it on successfully. Furthermore, the pressure (or should I say responsibility) is even greater given the outstanding quality of this set of genes I've been given. It's like having a good idea, or a good product—in this case I have not made it myself, it was simply given to me—but it is quite good, and it would be selfish of me not to share it with as many people as I can.

On a less transcendental but equally important side, it fills me with joy to think that my donation can give a family the chance and the happiness to have a child. I am a huge supporter of the LGBTQ community and consider myself a feminist. Any movement that helps society move towards a more egalitarian and conscious state has my support, and I think sperm-banks are part of such movements.

You have joined the Identity-Release® Program. What appeals to you about this program?

I am quite sure that whoever goes through the incredible effort of this process will provide excellent care to their child, and I have no doubt that they will raise such child to be a wonderful human being regardless of genetic material. Once this little person has grown, and has developed their own world-view, it would fill me with joy if they are curious enough to ask: who is it that they share 50% of their genetic material with? Late teens, and early twenties are important formative years. At that age, it is very easy to get lost in activity without developing a sense of fulfillment. Such fulfillment is something that a significant fraction of us never achieve, but it can come from many sources: a loved one, a career choice, reading, travelling, or sometimes simply by learning a little bit about our past. If there is a time during the life of this future human where he or she realizes that learning about their genetic lineage would bring some of the fulfillment that we all desperately want, I would gladly respond to a letter, go for a cup of coffee, provide a little guidance, or whatever they feel like doing.

Is there anything else you would like to share with participating families and offspring?

I sincerely wish you the best! Whether you choose me as a donor or not, I am certain you will give lots of love to this little one you are going to bring into this world. I do believe that one of the best ways towards a better future includes tenderly loving our children and providing them with as much positive human interaction as possible. Good luck!



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HEALTH PROBLEMS DONOR 5539

FAMILY MEMBER	HEALTH PROBLEM	TREATMENT/RESOLUTION
Donor	Gilbert syndrome <i>Benign mild elevation of bilirubin</i>	Age at onset/diagnosis: 21 Treatment: None needed Outcome: Ongoing
Mother	High cholesterol	Age at onset/diagnosis: 50 Treatment: Diet change, supplements Outcome: Resolved
Father	High cholesterol	Age at onset/diagnosis: 56 Treatment: Diet change, supplements Outcome: Resolved
Maternal Grandfather	Prostate cancer	Age at onset/diagnosis: 78 Treatment: Chemotherapy Outcome: Ongoing
Maternal Grandmother	Osteoporosis	Age at onset/diagnosis: 72 Treatment: Medication Outcome: Ongoing
Paternal Grandfather	Prostate cancer	Age at onset/diagnosis: 80 Treatment: Chemotherapy Outcome: Cause of death at age 80
Maternal Aunt #2	High cholesterol	Age at onset/diagnosis: 46 Treatment: Supplements Outcome: Ongoing
Maternal Aunt #3	High cholesterol	Age at onset/diagnosis: 48 Treatment: Supplements Outcome: Ongoing

Maternal Aunt #4	High cholesterol	Age at onset/diagnosis: 40 Treatment: Supplements Outcome: Ongoing
Paternal Half-Uncle	Asthma	Age at onset/diagnosis: 6 Treatment: Inhaler as needed Outcome: Resolved in adulthood

The above family medical history information has been self-reported by the donor. We work with each donor to obtain as complete and accurate information as possible, but we are unable to completely rule out the existence of other health information that is not known, or that remains unreported to us.

As a board certified genetic counselor, I have reviewed this donor's family medical history for identifiable patterns of inheritance that may place the donor or his biological offspring at increased risk for certain health problems. ("Increased risk" is risk that is greater than the risk in the general population).

Upon review of the available family medical history information from this donor, there may be an increased risk above background for high cholesterol, however, lifestyle factors place a large role. Donor's cholesterol is within normal range. Otherwise, the risk for similar health problems occurring in offspring is not expected to exceed the risk in the general population.

Cynthia Kane, M.S., C.G.C.
Genetic Counselor