

# Memo

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To: Scientist

From: Jillian Smith, Chief Executive Officer of NBC 30 Television News

Date: January 2014

Reason: Consulting and producing the new "Science Matters" news segment

Thank you for agreeing to join our team in order to inform the public about current and important science issues of our time as well as responding to viewer questions! As a member of the NBC 30 team, your first responsibility will be to respond to a viewer question pertaining to identical twins, DNA, and traits.

The viewer is an identical twin male. He and his identical twin brother married identical twin sisters. Both couples are now expecting children – both boys! The question sent in via e-mail is as follows:

"My brother and I are identical twins and we married identical twin sisters. We learned through high school biology that identical twins are essentially clones – we share exact copies of DNA. My wife and I are expecting our first child. My brother and his wife are also expecting their first child. Since I am the same genetically as my brother and our wives are genetically the same as each other, will our children end up being identical twins? I am excited to have answers from your knowledgeable staff and I appreciate your help in answering my question. Thank you!"

I have summarized this information into a question, "*If two sets of identical twins get married and each couple has a child, could the resulting children be identical?*" This question is of interest to many members of the general public, especially after a past story aired on the "Today Show", and is relevant to our viewer's life. Please be sure to diligently complete your research and relate your findings in a way that is understandable and engaging for our television audience. Your response should be video presentation that will be aired during the new "Science Matters" segment of the nightly six o'clock news.

I look forward to your expertise assisting our team in spreading science knowledge across the state!

Thank you,

Jill