**Pedigrees**

Pedigrees show the appearance of a phenotype through several generations of a family. In doing so, Pedigrees `map’ the pattern of a trait through a family. Pedigrees are an investigative tool of geneticists. The pedigrees allow us to determine if a trait is caused by a dominant or recessive allele or if it is autosomal or allosomal (sex-linked – the alleles are on the 23rd pair of chromosomes).

Symbols used in pedigrees:

* female or - `affected’ individual
* male - mating / marriage

The pedigree below shows a disease caused by a receive allele. Can you identify the genetypes (two alleles) of each person in the pedigree?

Two parents – Dad has the disease

Three children – 2 boys, 1 girl, one boy has the disease

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