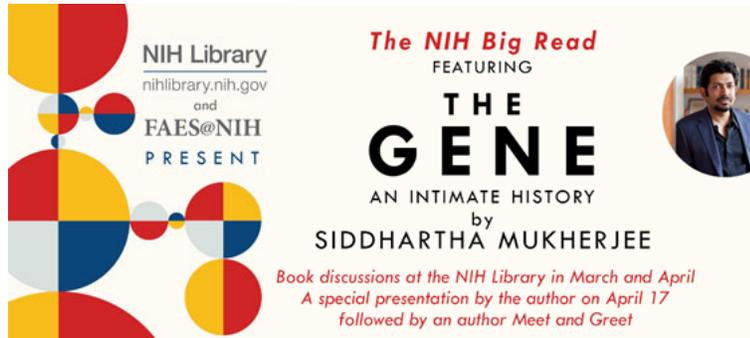




The “NIH Big Read” was developed in partnership by The NIH Library and the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES). The Big Read aims to foster collaboration and community across NIH through discussing a book over several months, culminating in an author event held at NIH. The program features a series of book discussions held at NIH about a single book, available for purchase through the FAES Bookstore in Building 10, and culminates in an interview with the author.



The inaugural NIH Big Read book selection was “The Gene: An Intimate History” (2016) by Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee, the Pulitzer Prize-winning, best-selling author of “The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer” (2010).

In 2018, science journalist Ed Yong’s book “I Contain Multitudes: The Microbes Within Us and a Grander View of Life” was selected. FAES sponsored a book signing with the author on the FAES Terrace in Building 10 following his conversation with then Director, Dr. Francis Collins.



Dr. Francis Collins speaks with author Helen Thomson during the 2019 NIH Big Read

Helen Thomson’s book about rare neurological disorders, “Unthinkable: An Extraordinary Journey Through the World’s Strangest Brains” was the last title to be discussed at in-person events on the NIH campus due to the health and safety closures that resulted in 2020 following the COVID-19 Pandemic.

FAES is working with the National Library of Medicine to launch a series of virtual discussions and author events for 2022 to resume the highly popular NIH Big Read.