This is the transcript of a lecture, and it appears to be introducing the speakers and setting the stage for the evening's discussion. Here are some key topics mentioned:

1. Dr. Sherry Renn: The co-director of the course, a professor of surgery, expert in oncologic surgery, and chief of surgery at the VA hospital affiliated with Stanford Medical School.
2. Education: Dr. Renn is recognized for her work in education, having won various teaching awards and serving as director of the medical senate.
3. American College of Surgeons: Dr. Renn is a governor of this organization, which suggests she has a high level of expertise and recognition in the field of surgery.
4. Associate Dean in Academic Affairs: This indicates that Dr. Renn holds a leadership position within the academic institution.

5. Jill Helms: The speaker for next week's session, who will be discussing stem cell biology and regenerative medicine.
6. Molecular basis of life: The topic to be discussed tonight, which has undergone significant changes over the past 40-50 years with fundamental work taking place at Stanford University.
7. Arthur Cornberg: A Nobel Prize winner whose seminal investigations in DNA and transcription began when the school was founded in 1959.
8. Roger Cornberg: Arthur's son, who also won a Nobel Prize to continue his father's work on DNA and transcription.
9. Physics: The background of Professor Gilchew, who started out as an extraordinary student at Princeton University, then got his PhD in physics from MIT, before switching to medicine.
10. Harvard Medical School: Where Professor Gilchew completed his MD degree after initially studying physics.
11. Mass General Hospital: A distinguished hospital where Professor Gilchew trained in internal medicine.
12. Oncology: The area of medicine that Professor Gilchew chose to specialize in after completing his fellowship at Stanford.
13. DNA repair: The specific area of research that Professor Gilchew is working on, focusing on damage related to ionizing radiation and ultraviolet light.

These topics set the stage for a discussion about the molecular basis of life, with a focus on DNA repair and its implications for medicine.