

Genetic Science Spotlight

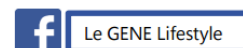
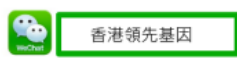
Penn State University Discovers Novel Asthma Biomarkers



Asthma is an enormous public health problem affecting over 300 million people worldwide and the figures continue to grow larger, in part because scientists don't fully understand how it is caused. There are currently no definitive diagnostic tests for asthma. Researchers at Penn State University found a subset of miRNAs (30 miRNAs) that are unique to asthma in the blood and can indicate whether patients have asthma or another similar condition, with 91 percent accuracy. Some of the miRNAs play roles in inflammation and therefore are directly involved in the development of asthma. The study results were published in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. In addition to the diagnostic potential of the miRNAs findings, researchers may be able to develop drugs to target both asthma and allergies-related molecules, leading to new asthma diagnostic test and asthma-targeted treatment in the coming years.

[http://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749\(16\)00300-6/abstract](http://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(16)00300-6/abstract)

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