

Genetic Science Spotlight

University College London and Imperial College London: 111 Genetic Locations Linked to Type 2 Diabetes Uncovered

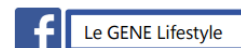
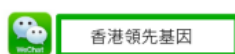
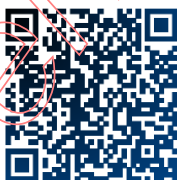
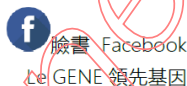


Type 2 diabetes is a growing threat to global health, with one in 10 people either having the disease or predicted to develop it during their lifetime. The risk of developing the disease depends on genetic predisposition as well as environmental factors such as an unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, and obesity.

The scientists from UCL and Imperial College London examined 5800 cases of type 2 diabetes and 9691 healthy controls and found that the 111 new genetic loci involved in developing the disease – 93 of which are found in both African American and European populations, the research was published in The American Journal of Human Genetics. The scientists discovered that the additional 111 loci and previously known 76 loci regulate the expression of at least 266 genes surrounding the genetic location of the disease. This finding provides fundamental basis for scientists to build a more detailed picture of the genetic architecture of type 2 diabetes. A better understanding of precisely how these genes contribute to type 2 diabetes will enable scientists to develop new ways of treating and preventing this condition.

[http://www.cell.com/ajhg/fulltext/S0002-9297\(17\)30151-9](http://www.cell.com/ajhg/fulltext/S0002-9297(17)30151-9)

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