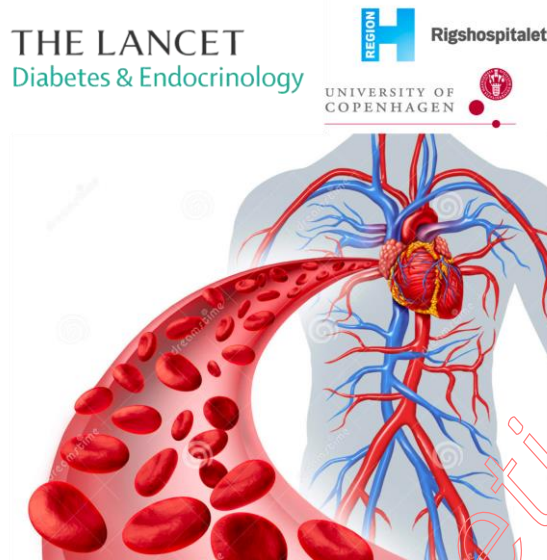


## Genetic Science Spotlight

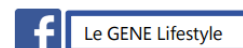
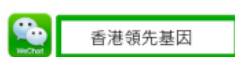
### Copenhagen University Hospital: Gene Identified For Familial High Cholesterol



Familial hypercholesterolemia is a genetic condition that is associated with very high levels of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) or “bad” cholesterol. Research from Copenhagen University Hospital in Denmark reveals the gene which causes inherited high cholesterol in the blood that can lead to premature heart disease, including cardiac attacks, strokes, narrowing heart valves and sudden death. Researchers recruited 46,200 individuals in the study and the findings demonstrated that cholesterol-containing lipoprotein(a) is the cause of one quarter of all diagnoses of familial hypercholesterolemia. High levels of this genetically determined lipoprotein in the blood is already known to cause heart attacks. The researchers found that individuals with familial hypercholesterolemia and high levels of lipoprotein(a) are five times more likely to suffer a heart attack than individual without these two conditions. The research has been published in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology. Worldwide, familial hypercholesterolemia as well as high lipoprotein(a) levels are grossly underdiagnosed and undertreated. These findings will help identify the individuals with the highest risk of suffering a heart attack and hopefully facilitate better preventive treatment for these extremely high risk individuals.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/landia/article/PIIS2213-8587\(16\)30042-0/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/landia/article/PIIS2213-8587(16)30042-0/fulltext)

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