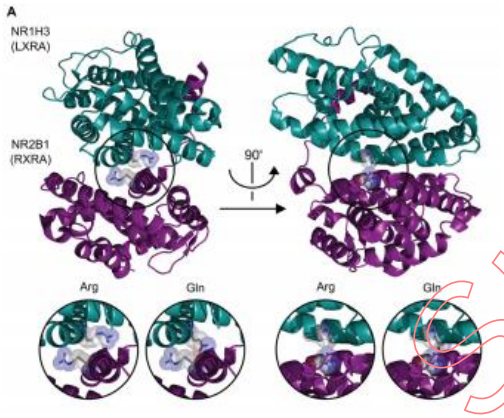
Genetic Science Spotlight

University of British Columbia and Vancouver Coastal Health Discovered Genetic Cause of Multiple Sclerosis



Previous studies have been suggesting the influence of genetics in Multiple Sclerosis (MS) but no evidence of it being directly inherited until lately. A recent publication in the journal Neuron by University of British Columbia and Vancouver Coastal Health in Canada has brought to light that MS can result from a single genetic mutation on a gene called *NR1H3*, which produces a protein that acts as an 'on-off switch' for other genes. The researchers investigated 4,400 MS cases and their 8,600 blood relatives as part of a 20-year project. The mutation in *NR1H3* gene was found in people with a rapidly progressive type of MS. People with a family history of MS could be screened for *NR1H3* mutation, and if they carry the mutation, they could be the candidates for early diagnostic imaging long before symptoms appear; or they could opt to increase their intake of Vitamin D to delay the onset of MS. Furthermore, the findings could provide an opportunity for further research to uncover therapies that either target the *NR1H3* gene or that counteract the mutation's disease-causing effects.

Contact LeGENE professionals for genetic test of *NR1H3.*

http://www.cell.com/neuron/abstract/S0896-6273(16)30126-X

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