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Human Heredity

Genetic Diversity in European Populations: Evolutionary Evidence and Medical Implications

Guest Editors
Alicia Sanchez-Mazas, Geneva
Guido Barbujani, Ferrara

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Editors
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This publication pulls together work from more than a dozen leading obesity, energetics, and nutrition researchers working on genetic and genomic aspects of obesity. Their contributions present the latest findings from randomized controlled trials and other ongoing investigations, and direct our focus toward future genetics and epigenetic targets in our struggle with the obesity epidemic in the USA and across the globe. The topics considered range from ancestral admixture to assortative mating, from functional analysis to genome-wide association studies, and from satiety to brain anatomy. This compilation of reviews and methodological developments will help the reader to achieve a broader appreciation of the complexities of this field as well as a deeper understanding of its latest advances and important next steps.

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The benefit of coalescent theory in the framework of genetic association studies
Sebastian Zöllner, Michigan, USA

Causal association structures in -omics data: how far can we get with statistical modeling?
Krista Fischer, Tartu, Estonia

Microbiome-genome interactions and human disease: an introduction and latest methodological developments
Knut Rudi, Ås, Norway

Enrichment designs for the development of personalized medicine
Martin Posch, Vienna, Austria

The relevance of epigenomics for personalized medicine
Christoph Bock, Vienna, Austria

Associated meetings

August 23rd – August 27th

Genetic Analysis Workshop (GAW19)

35th Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB)

Mini Symposium

Genomics-based Personalized Medicine

Clinical background
Martin Filipits, Vienna, Austria

QC in OMICS studies
Bertram Müller-Myhsok, Munich, Germany

Risk prediction models in families
Joan Bailey-Wilson, Baltimore, USA

Study designs for predictive biomarkers
Andreas Ziegler, Lübeck, Germany

Educational Session

Pharmacogenomics

Pharmacogenomics: past, present and future
Brooke Fridley, Kansas City, USA

Assessing the genetic basis of drug response
John Witte, San Francisco, USA

Clinical utility in pharmacogenomics: getting beyond individual variants
Nancy Cox, Chicago, USA

Smoking behavior and lung cancer risk related to nicotinic acetylcholine receptor variants and metabolic variants
Chris Amos, Hanover, USA

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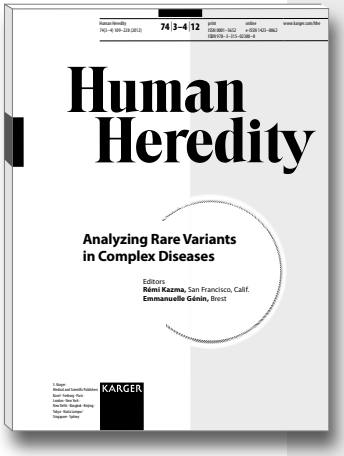

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This special issue discusses the possible strategies and statistical methods that can be used to evidence the role of rare genetic variants in complex traits. Some papers review the latest developments made in this field while others propose some novel and original methods to find these variants and detect gene-environment interactions. Bringing together the experiences and thoughts of recognized world experts in the field, this is a must-read issue for anyone who wants to embark on a next-generation sequencing project.

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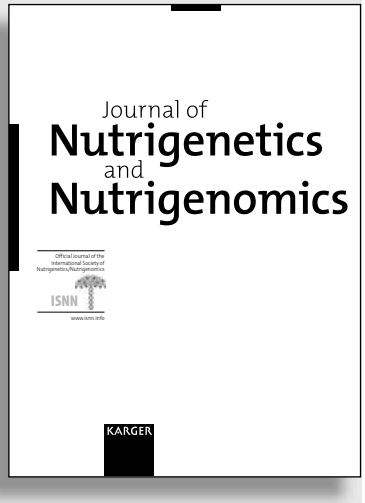

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The emerging field of nutrigenetics and nutrigenomics is rapidly gaining importance, and this new international journal has been established to meet the needs of the investigators for a high-quality platform for their research. Endorsed by the recently founded 'International Society of Nutrigenetics/Nutrigenomics' (ISNN), the *Journal of Nutrigenetics and Nutrigenomics* welcomes contributions not only investigating the role of genetic variation in response to diet and that of nutrients in the regulation of gene expression, but is also open for articles covering all aspects of gene-environment interactions in the determination of health and disease. Original papers and reviews cover the genetic basis for the variable responses to diet and lifestyle factors in chronic conditions (e.g. cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, cancer), methods to assess gene-environment interactions and other related relevant topics, with research drawing from both human and animal studies.

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Genetic Diversity in European Populations: Evolutionary Evidence and Medical Implications

Although it is the continent with the lowest genomic diversity, Europe embraces a significant degree of variation, shaped by complex demographic events and locus-specific selective factors linked to environmental conditions. The European genetic diversity observed today has also important clinical and epidemiological implications. Different questions related to these topics are addressed in this special topic issue of eight excellent papers written by specialized European teams. The papers document the remarkable progress achieved in the last years in exploring human genomic diversity, both in past and present populations, in reconstructing complex scenarios of European peopling history using sophisticated data analyses and computer simulations, in identifying signatures of adaptive selection in milk digestion- and immune-related genes, and in applying this knowledge to crucial health issues, from tissue transplantation to disease associations.

Genetic Diversity in European Populations: Evolutionary Evidence and Medical Implications is of special interest to researchers and students in biological and medical sciences and clinicians, who wish to update their knowledge in the field of European genetic diversity for basic research and medical applications.

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