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Parkinson's Disease: Genetics and Pathogenesis

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Message from the Guest Editors

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a neurodegenerative disease, and the molecular mechanisms that lead to neurodegeneration is elusive.

It is becoming increasingly clear that genetic factors contribute to its complex pathogenesis. With the identification of disease-causing genes, many genes clearly linked to inherited forms of Parkinsonism have been identified. The polymorphic variants in these genes contribute to sporadic PD, the knowledge has revealed pathways of neurodegeneration that may be shared between inherited and sporadic PD. The mitochondrial dysfunction plays a central role in early-onset autosomal recessive PD forms. By contrast, alpha-synuclein accumulation in Lewy bodies defines a spectrum of disorders like PD dementia. However, the pathological role of Lewy bodies remains uncertain. Strengthening these discoveries and finding other convergence points by identifying new genes responsible for Mendelian forms of PD and exploring their functions and relationships is the main challenge for the next decade.

In this issue, emerging lessons on PD pathogenesis from clinical, pathological, and genetic studies towards a unified concept of the disorder will be provided.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Genes are central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fastmoving field. There is a need for good quality, open access journals in this area, and the *Genes* team aims to provide expert manuscript handling, serious peer review, and rapid publication across the whole discipline of genetics. Starting in 2010, the journal is now well established and recognised.

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