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In Search for the Genetic Basis of Age-Related Complex Traits: From Single-SNP to Interaction Approaches

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Message from the Guest Editors

Large cohort studies have identified a huge number of weak- to moderate-effect loci associated with age-related diseases, therefore leaving a large part of the genetic variance unsolved. A portion of this “missing heritability” may depend on the effect of rare variants, and also on pleiotropic effects and epistatic interactions among genes. This consideration has moved research from single-SNP analysis to SNP–SNP interaction approaches. For various complex phenotypes, such interaction-based approaches have discovered bridges between different pathways and networks, thus offering new important clues on the underlying molecular mechanisms.

The aim of this Special Issue is to take stock of the situation and point to future directions in this field, by offering to the reader i) new analytical methodologies for performing interaction analysis, especially in large genetic datasets, and ii) papers on genetic interactions which shed a light on the molecular basis of age-related diseases.

Contributions by experts in the field in the form of research articles, reviews, and short communications are called for.



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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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