Special Issue

Genetic Conditions Affecting the Skeleton: Congenital, Idiopathic Scoliosis and Arthrogryposis

Message from the Guest Editors

Although uniquely occurring conditions, congenital scoliosis, idiopathic scoliosis, and arthrogryposis share overlapping phenotypic features and potentially etiopathogenic mechanisms. Congenital scoliosis (CS) is defined by the presence of an abnormal spinal curvature due to an underlying vertebral bony malformation (VM). Idiopathic scoliosis (IS) is defined by the presence of an abnormal structural spinal curvature of >/=10 degrees in the sagittal plane in the absence of an underlying VM. Arthrogryposis is defined by the presence of congenital contractures in two or more joints of the appendicular skeleton. Scoliosis with or without vertebral malformations may occur in association with arthrogryposis. Congenital scoliosis, idiopathic scoliosis, vertebral malformation, and arthrogryposis may be caused by mutations in genes which code for connective tissue matrix proteins. The search for genes and pathways is ongoing and may lead to potential therapies. In this issue, we will review what is currently known about genetic contributions associated with these conditions, discuss how genetics has or may contribute to potential therapies, and help to identify prognostic indicators.

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Genes is central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fast-moving 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. Why not consider *Genes* for your next genetics paper?

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