Special Issue

Genetics of Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Message from the Guest Editors

Neurodevelopmental disorders (NDs) are a group of conditions with onset in the developmental period, often in the pre-school years, and are characterized by developmental deficits that produce impairments of personal, social, academic, or occupational functioning. These conditions often co-occur and include intellectual disability, ADHD, OCD, Tourette syndrome, tic disorders, autism spectrum disorder, etc. Although several environmental causes have been recognized, this Special Issue concentrates on the genetic etiology of NDs. Research in the last 20 years has identified a few chromosomal regions, genes, and polymorphisms associated with the development of NDs. In some cases, these genetic variations are rare, often arise de novo, and have a strong effect, but in most cases, a large number of common variants, individually with a minor effect, contribute to the overall phenotype. Some of the underlying pathological mechanisms are well understood, but for most, additional research is needed to pinpoint the biological link between a genetic variant and the associated neuronal deficits.

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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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