



Media Statement

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New genes linked to world's leading cause of irreversible blindness

Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide, affecting more than 65 million people.

Prof David Mackey, genetic researcher and Managing Director of the Lions Eye Institute, is a member of the consortium that have identified three new gene mutations associated with an increased susceptibility to primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG); the most common form of the disease. Their findings were published this week in Nature Genetics.

The researchers performed a meta-analysis of genome-wide association studies from the United States, Europe, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. They found that people with the mutations in one or more of these three genes had an increased risk of developing POAG. The results also identify new pathways underlying POAG susceptibility, which in turn could offer new opportunities for preventative therapies.

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