Medical Student Research Program

Title: Genetics of Muscular Dystrophy

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Research Project Description (brief overview of background, hypothesis, methods, role of medical student, funding and relevant publications)

A number of causative genes have been linked to various forms of muscular dystrophy, yet many such patients remain without a genetic diagnosis. Some families have limited access to genetic testing, but others harbor mutations in novel genes. Our hypothesis is that we can identify and characterize novel genes with a combination of traditional genetic approaches and next generation sequencing. Genetic analyses will be supplemented by studies of human tissue and relevant disease models. The laboratory has extended the examination of one novel gene, \textit{MEGF10}, into a separate spinoff project. A medical student’s role would be to help analyze families with unknown genetic causes of muscular dystrophy or to assist with the analysis of \textit{MEGF10}. The level of independence will be commensurate with prior experience, and will increase over time. Funding is provided by the National Institutes of Health.

