

Research Seminar Series

Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Thursday May 13, 2010, 12:00pm

Genetics of Glucose Control and Complications of Type 1 Diabetes

Andrew Paterson, MD

Senior Scientist, Hospital for Sick Children; Canada Research Chair in Genetics of Complex Diseases and Associate Professor, Biostatistics Division, Dalla Lana School of Public Health



Seminar Description:

It has generally been assumed that how well people with type 1 diabetes are able to control their blood glucose is influenced primarily by diet, exercise, glucose monitoring and adjustments in insulin dose. However, recent studies indicate that genetic factors also play a role. We aimed to identify some of the genetic factors using longitudinal data from a landmark clinical trial in diabetes – the Diabetes Control and Complications Trial. We identified multiple novel genetic variations that are associated with differences in glucose control, and show that these same variations are associated with some of the complications of diabetes, including the risk of hypoglycemia (low blood glucose) and retinopathy. We will discuss our insights from this study that influence the design of future studies to identify additional genetic variants influencing glycemia.

Guest Speaker Biography:

Andrew Paterson is a Senior Scientist in the Program in Genetics and Genome Biology at the Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute and holds a Canada Research Chair in Genetics of Complex Diseases. He has an appointment in Biostatistics in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health.

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