



The East Asian Parkinson Disease Genomics Consortium

Most research studies, including those on genetics, are done in populations with European ancestry.¹ There are many reasons behind the focus on these populations, especially socioeconomic; however, the absence of population diversity can lead to an incomplete understanding of disease mechanisms and to the inappropriate translation of research findings to other less-studied populations, whereas studying diverse populations can help to map genetic loci accurately.² The recruitment of cohorts exclusively of European ancestry is also an issue in the study of the genetics of Parkinson's disease.³

The International Parkinson Disease Genomics Consortium (IPDGC) has recognised this imbalance in scientific research and data. Hence, in 2018, the IPDGC proposed that targeted efforts should be made to study under-represented populations of non-European ancestry. Subsequently, the East Asian Parkinson Disease Genomics Consortium (EAPDGC) working group and IPDGC-Africa were formed.⁴

The EAPDGC aims to recruit a cohort of over 5500 patients with Parkinson's disease and 4500 healthy controls in east Asia for genetic studies, and also for future clinical studies, clinical trials, and studies of other diseases related to Parkinson's disease. Our initial emphasis will be on investigating the role of genetic risk factors for Parkinson's disease in people from east Asia, comparing the findings with those from cohorts with European ancestry and other populations (eg, African, south Asian, and Latinx populations), and the genetic factors associated with various phenotypes (eg, age at onset and potential subtypes).

The EAPDGC will enable research development at and between various

sites, through exchanges within the Consortium and with organisations outside the Consortium, including IPDGC and the Global Parkinson's Genetic Program.⁵ The Consortium prioritises translating the findings of its studies to local populations and the distribution of educational materials and research tools in local languages to patients, health workers, and scientists.

The EAPDGC has participating academic and clinical centres (appendix) in Asia-Pacific (ie, Changsha, Chengdu, Hanoi, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Perth, Seoul, Taipei, and Tokyo), the UK (London), and the USA (Bethesda). The Consortium has now recruited over half of the targeted number of participants. Given the recruitment period, we believe that the final size of the cohort will outnumber our initial target. We are actively looking for collaborative Parkinson's disease centres to join our Consortium and will collaborate with other groups that work in neurodegenerative diseases.

We declare no competing interests. The EAPDGC is funded by the Michael J Fox Program Genetic Diversity in Parkinson's Disease 2019 (grant number 17474), the Global Parkinson's Genetic Program, and Aligning Science Across Parkinson's. Members of the EAPDGC are listed in the appendix.

Editorial note: the *Lancet* Group takes a neutral position with respect to territorial claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

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See Online for appendix