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Welcome to the April PreventionGenetics Newsletter. In this issue we will introduce our newest Clinical Molecular Geneticist, Khemissa Bejaoui, PhD and detail some of her work.



### **Introducing Khemissa Bejaoui, PhD**

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At PreventionGenetics, each of our Clinical DNA Tests is assigned to the portfolio of one of our clinical geneticists. Through careful scholarship our

geneticists become familiar with the clinical features of each of the disorders and expert on the genetics. This gives our clients a knowledgeable person with whom they can discuss their individual cases.

Khemissa Bejaoui is the most recent addition to our team of clinical geneticists. Dr. Bejaoui received her Ph.D. at the University of Paris XI in France. She worked for several years in the Day Neuromuscular Laboratory of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. There, she worked with Dr. RH Brown Jr. on the identification of genes involved in several neuromuscular diseases, including Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy, and a Hereditary Sensory Neuropathy. She continued this research at the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation as an independent investigator before joining PreventionGenetics. Dr. Bejaoui brings a wealth of human genetics experience and insight to our laboratory.

### **Molecular Genetic Tests for Retinal Degenerative Diseases**

Dr. Bejaoui's portfolio of clinical DNA tests already includes tests for ALS and a number of childhood developmental disorders such as Noonan and

CHARGE Syndromes. Her primary goal is to develop clinical tests for all genes known to cause Retinal Degenerative Diseases (RDDs). PreventionGenetics currently offers tests for a number of genes implicated in Leber Congenital Amaurosis (LCA) and Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) including *RHO*, *PRPH2*, *RP1*, *CRX*, *PRPF3*, *PRPF8*, *PRPF31*, *IMPDH1*, *NR2E3*, *RDH12*, *CRB1*, and *RPE65*. Tests for several other RDD genes are under active development and will be available soon.

Several forms of RDDs lead to blindness. However, visual function may be rescued by gene therapy. One projection is that in 10 years ~ 90 % of all the LCA genes will be known and at least 50% of children with LCA will be receiving gene replacement therapy (Koenekoop et al. Expert Rev Ophthalmol 4:397-415, 2008). Similarly, being able to determine the genetic cause of RP in nearly all affected individuals is of immediate value for disease management and for making reproductive decisions and is a necessary precursor to gene and mutation-specific therapies (Daiger et al. Arch Ophthalmol 125:151-158, 2007).

At PreventionGenetics, we strive to be an important part of the solution to inherited blindness.

### **DNA Banking Service**

[DNA Banking at PreventionGenetics](#) has just gotten easier. We can send you a collection kit with prepaid return shipping at no cost to you or your patients. Our DNA Banking services include return shipping, DNA extraction and quantification, and permanent storage without annual fees. Family discounts are available upon request. For more information contact our Director of DNA Banking, Ann Solatycki at 715-387-0484 ext. 120, or email her at [ann.solatycki@preventiongenetics.com](mailto:ann.solatycki@preventiongenetics.com).

Provide the very best care for your patients.  
Quality, low prices, and excellent service. You get

all three with PreventionGenetics.

In addition to our industry leading low pricing for clinical DNA testing, we offer volume based discounts. For more information, contact Chuck Dokken by phone at 715-387-0484 x 107 or email at [chuck.dokken@preventiongenetics.com](mailto:chuck.dokken@preventiongenetics.com).