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Atlantic Medical Genetic and Genomics Initiative (AMGGI)

Status	Current
Competition	III
Sector	Health
Genome Centre	Genome Atlantic
Project Leaders	Mark Samuels & Terry-Lynn Young

Project Description

The Atlantic Medical Genetic and Genomics Initiative (AMGGI) project is a Canadian research initiative to identify new genes that have a major impact on health. AMGGI will utilize the Atlantic region's unique population structure and history, as well as the high quality of the health care system to provide a streamlined discovery process. The project will generate tangible socio-economic benefits by improving health care and disease management for individuals, families and communities in Atlantic Canada burdened by devastating single gene disorders.

Dr. Mark Samuels, Associate Professor in medicine at the Université de Montréal and Dr. Terry-Lynn Young, a molecular geneticist at Memorial University of Newfoundland, are the project leaders of AMGGI. AMGGI draws together a multidisciplinary team of experts in clinical ascertainment, gene discovery, genetic diagnostics, genetic counselling, health economics and human ethics. The research team will investigate Atlantic Canada's population structure and history, identify genes and genetic mutations that cause single gene disorders, and interact closely with health-care providers in order to determine the impact of genetic information on human health. Given the issues that arise when monogenic disorders are identified, this project will study the well-being and value systems of patients and families, as well as the value systems of physicians and genetic counsellors.

An important component of AMGGI will be to study the potential impacts of genetic discovery on the provision of health care services. Anticipated outcomes of AMGGI include medical breakthroughs based on novel gene discovery, the transfer of new knowledge to health care providers, health policy recommendations regarding the impact of genetic information on society, and improved clinical management of affected patients.