

Press release

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Basic information

Name: Veera Manikandan Rajagopal Email: veera@biomed.au.dk Phone: 52635840

Department of: Biomedicine

Main supervisor: Ditte Demontis

Title of dissertation: Disentangling the genetics of cognition through genomewide association studies

Date for defence: 28-05-2019 at (time of day): 1.00 PM Place: The Eduard Biermann Auditorium, Aarhus University (Lakeside Lecture Theatres), Vennelyst Boulevard 8, 8000 Aarhus C.

Press release (Danish)

Hvor meget influerer dine gener på din præstationsevne til dansk eller matematik eksamener i skolen?

Elsker du matematik, men hader dansk? Kan du skyde skylden på dine gener?

Genetik spiller en afgørende rolle i hvor godt man præsterer i dansk eller matematik eksamener på videregående uddannelser i Danmark, således er konklusionen i et nyt ph.d. projekt af Veera Manikandan Rajagopal, som forsvarer sin afhandling den 28/05-2019.

Hvor godt man præsterer i skolen er en stærk indikator for, hvordan det går sidenhen i livet sundhedsmæssigt og socioøkonomisk. Ph.d.-projektet undersøger det genetiske bidrag til skolepræstationen i afgangseksamener for dansk og matematik i 32.125 individer fra iPSYCH, som er en dansk case-kontrol kohorte med mere end 80.000 individer med eller uden en psykiatrisk lidelse. Ph.d.-projektet er unikt på to måder sammenholdt med lignende tidligere studier. Projektet undersøger genetikken bag skolepræstation ikke blot i almindelige individer, men også i individer med alvorlige psykiatriske lidelser, som ADHD. Projektet sammenligner genetikken associeret med præstationer i dansk med genetikken associeret præstationer i matematik og viser at genetikken kan spille en rolle i hvorfor nogle individer udemærker sig i matematik og ikke i dansk or vice versa.

Forsvaret er offentligt og finder sted den 28/05-2019 kl 13.00 i Eduard Biermann Auditoriet, Aarhus Universitet (Søaditoriet), Vennelyst Boulevard 8, 8000 Aarhus C. Titlen på projektet er "Disentangling the genetics of cognition through genomewide association studies". For mere information, kontakt venligst ph.d. student Veera Manikandan Rajagopal, email: veera@biomed.au.dk, Tlf.: +45 52635840.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Associate Professor Simon Glerup - formand for bedømmelsesudvalget og moderator for forsvaret
Department of Biomedicine
Aarhus University

Professor Cathryn Lewis
Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience,
King's College London,
London SE5 8AF. UK.

Assistant Professor Lea K. Davis, PhD
Division of Genetic Medicine Vanderbilt University Medical Center,
Nashville, TN 37232, USA

Associate Professor Ditte Demontis - hovedvejleder, ikke-voterende medlem a bedømmelsudvalget
Department of Biomedicine
Aarhus University

Press release (English)

How much do your genes influence your school performance in Danish and math exams? Do you love math, but hate Danish? Are your genes to blame?

Genetics plays a substantial role in how well one performs in Danish and math exams at the end of compulsory schooling in Denmark, finds a new PhD project by Veera Manikandan Rajagopal, who is defending his dissertation on 28/05-2019.

How well one performs in school is a strong indicator of one fares later in life with respect to health, behaviour and socioeconomics. The PhD project explores the genetic contribution to school performance in Danish and math exit exams in 32,125 individuals from iPSYCH, a Danish case-control cohort of more than 80,000 individuals with and without psychiatric disorders. The PhD project is unique in two ways compared to previous similar studies. The project studies the genetics of school performance in not just normal individuals, but also in individuals with major psychiatric disorders, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The project compares and contrasts the genetics of Danish-performance with the genetics of math-performance and shows that genetics might have a role in why certain individuals excel in math, but not Danish and vice versa.

The defence is public and takes place on 28/05-2019 at 1.00 PM at The Eduard Biermann Auditorium, Aarhus University (Lakeside Lecture Theatres), Vennelyst Boulevard 8, 8000 Aarhus C. The title of the project is "Disentangling the genetics of cognition through genomewide association studies". For more information, please contact PhD student Veera Manikandan Rajagopal, email: veera@biomed.au.dk, Phone +45 52635840.

Assessment committee:

Associate Professor Simon Glerup - chairman of the committee and moderator of the defence
Department of Biomedicine
Aarhus University

Professor Cathryn Lewis
Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience,
King's College London,
London SE5 8AF. UK.

Assistant Professor Lea K. Davis, PhD
Division of Genetic Medicine Vanderbilt University Medical Center,
Nashville, TN 37232, USA

Associate Professor Ditte Demontis - main supervisor, non-voting member of the committee
Department of Biomedicine
Aarhus University

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