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Genome-wide association studies in Asians confirm the involvement of ATOH7 and TGFBR3, and further identify CARD10 as a novel locus influencing optic disc area


Cover: Ataxin 2 is a polyglutamine (polyQ) disease gene. The polyQ repeat region is encoded by a tract of the trinucleotide CAG. Long CAG repeat expansions in the ataxin 2 gene cause spinocerebellar ataxia type 2 (SCA2). Intermediate-length ataxin 2 polyQ expansions have been recently associated with increased risk for the motor neuron disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, also called Lou Gehrig’s disease). Lee and colleagues extend these findings and report that intermediate-length CAG repeat expansions in the ataxin 2 gene are also associated with increased risk for ALS in European patients. Depicted is a chain of CAGs wrapping around a motor neuron. Cover design by Lili Guo (http://www.lilyscientificart.com/). For further details, see the article by T. Lee et al., 1697–1700.