Repository Spotlight - Dr. Farren Briggs, Case Western University

To date over 120 genetic variants and a handful of environmental and modifiable lifestyle factors have been identified as increasing an individual’s risk for MS. Unfortunately, factors influencing the timing of onset, the types of symptoms experienced at onset, and the progression of MS are not well known. Dr. Briggs is studying genetic variations and modifiable lifestyle factors (i.e. smoking, obesity, low vitamin D levels, Epstein Barr Virus) affecting age of onset, symptoms patterns at onset, and MS disability. Dr. Briggs’ study is one of more than a hundred studies using ACP Repository samples, to date. Dr. Briggs’ research may identify new biological mechanisms underlying disease presentation and progression in MS.