

Accelerated Cure Project for MS

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Accelerating research towards a cure for multiple sclerosis

Repository Spotlight – Biogen/UT Southwestern

Researchers at Biogen and University of Texas Southwestern (UTSW) recently studied the whole genome sequence of a cohort of Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO) patients and healthy controls. Results from the study, [published](#) in the May 2018 edition of [Nature Communications](#), identified genetic risk factors for NMO. According to Ben Greenberg at UTSW, “The results identified a low C4 copy number as a genetic risk factor for NMO. This pattern has been associated with SLE previously. Data from this study also helps to understand previous studies that focused on HLA (human leukocyte antigen – cell surface proteins responsible for regulating the immune system) risk factors and suggests that [whole genome sequencing studies](#) can yield unique results when compared to [GWAS \(genome-wide association\) studies](#).” This work was done collaboratively across multiple centers, using ACP Repository samples. This is just one of more than one hundred studies using the ACP Repository as a resource to advance and accelerate research into demyelinating diseases.



UT Southwestern
Medical Center