

Andalusian investigators discover the boundaries between genes to prevent diseases such as cancer or sclerosis

LOCATION: Seville

VTR: 1'31''

SUMMARY: A group of investigators at the Andalusian Center for the Development of Biology (CABD), led by the scientist José Luis G. Skarmeta, has achieved an important discovery at international level which is a great step towards the prevention of diseases such as cancer or multiple sclerosis. It's the limit line between genes, which allows determining with precision which gene is affected and permits its further study. It's a big step towards the medicine of the future: preventive medicine, by which we learn about the dangers we're exposed to depending on our genetics and enable us to prevent them with a series of treatments or a process of modifying our lifestyles, which could potentially reduce the danger and so reduce sanitary expenses. This discovery has been made thanks to a study on zebra fish, which are extremely similar to humans at the embryonic stage.

VTR:

Look closely. They're zebra fish... and although it doesn't seem so, we have a lot more in common with them than we could possibly imagine; at least, during the stage at which our organs and tissues are forming, when we're still embryos. The genes all act the same way.

JOSÉ LUIS G. SKARMETA
INVESTIGATOR CABD

"That's why studying zebra fish early on is comparable to studying humans"

Here, at the Andalusian Center for the Development of Biology, there are more than three thousand fish tanks filled with zebra fishes, an animal which has permit them to make an important discovery in genetics: the boundaries between genes.

JOSÉ LUIS G. SKARMETA
INVESTIGATOR CABD

"We now know which genes we need to study in order to learn why when a certain gene fails we're more likely to suffer from sclerosis."

A technique which can not only be applied to multiple sclerosis but in fact for the study of other types of diseases such as cancer. Because knowing which is the affected gene makes possible that...

JOSÉ LUIS G. SKARMETA
INVESTIGATOR CABD

"You could prevent possible diseases by changing certain lifestyle ways and use different types of treatments that could improve our very health, reduce the costs of surgeries, etc."



From this laboratory in Seville they've coordinated an investigation that has had international impact. It has already been published by the prestigious scientific magazine Nature Structural and Molecular Biology. Investigation in the present that will lead us into the medicine of the future.

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