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Breakthrough Genomics Launches a Coronavirus Genetic Susceptibility Assessment

BREAKTHROUGH GENOMICS

The team at Breakthrough Genomics is contributing to the fight against the COVID-19 virus by looking further into the human genome and researching what genes and mutations may influence your susceptibility and resistance to the most adverse effects of COVID-19. Using its proprietary Machine Learning algorithm (ENLITERTM), the Breakthrough Genomics team were able to identify at least nine genes and a number of corresponding variants that are the most influential genetic factors in determining how an individual will respond to Coronaviruses and COVID-19. These include genes which influence viral entry, replication, and destruction as well as genes involved in upper respiratory tract infections and innate immune response.

Breakthrough Genomics plans to launch their findings in a research use only NGS Coronavirus Genetic Susceptibility Assessment to its current WGS and WES customers starting next week and are in discussion with other companies interested in using the panel in the US and internationally. Company Founder and CEO, Laura Li, PhD, FACMGG states that “this is really the first step in understanding genetic susceptibility to the COVID-19. We are now actively seeking partners to provide clinical validation of this panel as well as to leverage our technology to discover new genes and variants that may influence the response to the COV1D-19. Understanding the genetics of an individual’s COVID-19 responses may enable us to prevent or tailor treatment once infected.” Adds Dr. Li, “We are proud to be able to utilize our technology for this effort as we know there are millions of people around the world and dozens of large healthcare providers that are impacted and may benefit from these studies.”

Breakthrough Genomics (CLIA-certified, CAP Accredited) is a pioneer in interpreting Whole Genome, Whole Exome, and Gene Panel Tests. Breakthrough Genomics’ AI/ML powered software platform ENLITER™ is the only Clinical Interpretation Solution designed to mimic the workflow of a U.S. Board-Certified Medical Geneticist. Collectively, the company’s founders have over 60 years of experience directing genomics programs for leading institutions including Illumina, UCLA, and Quest Diagnostics.

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