

Expert in Human Genetic Variation Joins the Institute for Genome Sciences at the University of Maryland School of Medicine

Baltimore, Maryland

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Scott E. Devine, a leading researcher in human genetic variation, has joined the Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS), a genomic research center at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM). Dr. Devine has also been appointed Associate Professor of Medicine at UMSOM.

Devine is a well-recognized researcher of transposable genetic elements, sometimes referred to as 'jumping genes' that move from one place to another in the human genome. He also studies small insertions and deletions (INDELs), which are even more abundant in personal human genomes. Both forms of genetic variation can alter human genes, which, in turn, can alter human traits and cause diseases. These naturally occurring differences help explain variations in disease susceptibility and individual responses to medical treatments.

Devine is currently developing a DNA chip that can measure thousands of INDEL variants in personal genomes. Such technologies will help to usher in a new era of predictive health that uses genetic variation data to predict human traits and diseases. In the future, medical treatments will be customized to work with the specific genetic variation pattern that is found in each individual.

Devine came to the Institute for Genome Sciences from Emory University School of Medicine, where he was assistant professor of biochemistry. He received his doctorate in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of Maryland Baltimore, and his postdoctoral training at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

"Identifying specific patterns of human genetic variation is integral to our expanding research in understanding and predicting the future health of individuals and Dr. Devine is a leader in this dynamic research field," said Claire Fraser-Liggett, PhD, Director of the Institute for Genome Sciences. "We are excited to have him join our Institute."

"The opportunity to join a genome center that is located at an academic institution on a medical campus was a rare and exciting opportunity," said Scott Devine, PhD. "Having done my Ph.D. and postdoctoral work here, it's wonderful to be part of this genomic expansion in Baltimore."

For more information about Dr. Devine and his research, see http://www.igs.umaryland.edu/people_faculty.php.

About IGS

The Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS) at the University of Maryland School of Medicine is an international research center dedicated to advancing the use of genomics to improve healthcare. Led by Dr. Claire Fraser-Liggett, a preeminent genome scientist and microbiologist, IGS is located in a 10-acre BioPark on the University of Baltimore's campus in downtown Baltimore. IGS scientists integrate genomics, bioinformatics and metagenomics into biomedical research. For more information, see www.igs.umaryland.edu.