

Experts meet at UI to discuss Congenital Muscular Dystrophy

Summary

More than 30 international muscular dystrophy experts recently gathered at the University of Iowa for the Congenital Muscular Dystrophy Workshop. The three-day conference, held July 17-19, brought together clinicians and basic science researchers with an interest in CMDs to assess the current state of knowledge in the field and to foster future collaborative research efforts. Congenital muscular dystrophies are a group of disabling, inherited, neuromuscular disorders that cause muscle weakness. The severity and progression of the conditions varies for different CMD subtypes. Some CMDs also involve mental retardation and abnormal development of the brain and eyes.

During the workshop, plans were made to share clinical data for a natural history study. Participants also drafted algorithms aimed at optimizing diagnostic testing.

The workshop was organized by UI muscular dystrophy researchers Steve Moore, M.D., Ph.D., UI professor of pathology; Kevin Campbell, Ph.D., UI professor and head of molecular physiology and biophysics and an HHMI investigator, who holds the Roy J. Carver Chair of Physiology and Biophysics; and Katherine Mathews, M.D., professor of pediatrics and neurology. Campbell and Moore co-direct the Sen. Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Cooperative Research Center at the UI.

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http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/CCOM/news/releases/congenital_muscular_dystrophy.html