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Dr. J. S. Jensen
Steno Memorial Hospital
Niels Steensensvej 2
DK-2820 Gentofte
Denmark

Family cell lines available for diabetes research

Dear Sir,

We have read with great interest the letter by Lernmark et al. and commend the National Disease Research Interchange and Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International for their initiative in establishing a bank of human cell lines for the study of molecular genetics of Type 1 (insulin-dependent) diabetes mellitus.

Your readers may be interested to know that the British Diabetic Association has undertaken a parallel and complementary initiative independently to establish a similar repository (The BDA Alec & Beryl Warren Repository). We have collected cells from 100 multiplex families of whom at least two siblings have Type 1 diabetes. Our intention is to make this resource available to molecular geneticists worldwide. Before replication of these cell lines and/or extracting DNA, it would be helpful to have expressions of interest from scientists who would wish to have access to such a resource.

Further information including a preliminary catalogue of the first 45 families, HLA typed and ready for replication, is available from Dr. M. Murphy, British Diabetic Association, 10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BD, UK: Telephone 071-323 1531, FAX No. 071-637 3644.

Yours sincerely,
S.L. Howell and M. Murphy

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Dr. M. Murphy
British Diabetic Association
10 Queen Anne Street
London W1M 0BD
UK