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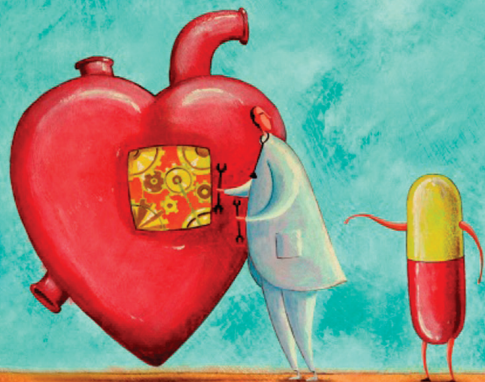
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www.pharmacogenomics.ca



Montreal University Beaulieu-Saucier
Pharmacogenomics Centre

www.genomecanada.ca



GenomeCanada

www.genomequebec.com



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For more information on human genetics, please logon to:

www.humgen.umontreal.ca

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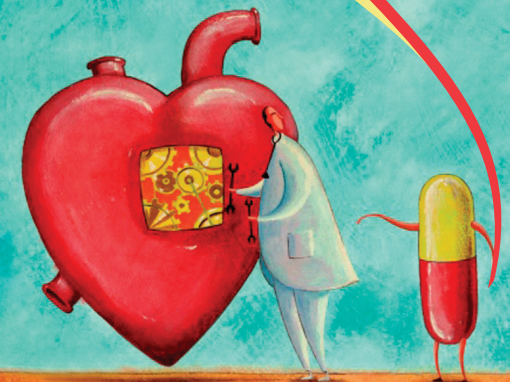


**INSTITUT DE
CARDIOLOGIE
DE MONTRÉAL**

**RESEARCH
PROJECT**

Pharmacogenomics of
**MUSCULAR
PAIN**

related to statins
(cholesterol-lowering medication)



WHAT ARE STATINS?

Statins are a class of medications used to lower blood cholesterol levels (for example Lipitor, Zocor, Crestor, Mevacor, Lescol and Pravachol).

Statins are drugs that are very effective, but in certain cases, they may cause side effects such as muscular pain, that is sometimes severe. A person's genetic makeup could partly explain these adverse reactions that appear in some people taking these medications. The science of pharmacogenomics focuses precisely on this phenomenon.

WHAT ARE PHARMACOGENOMICS?

The objective of pharmacogenomics is to study the interaction between genetics and the response to treatment.

Humans share practically all of the same genetic background (99.9%). This leaves only 0.1% to explain certain observable differences such as eye or skin colour, cholesterol level, etc. Environment and lifestyle may also play a role in many cases.

These genetic differences may explain responses to medications and other treatments. With certain individuals some medications are very effective, while for others, the same medication at the same dose has no effect or may cause a toxic or even fatal secondary effect.

RESEARCH PROJECT

Drs Jean-Claude Tardif and Michael Phillips, cardiologist and geneticist respectively at the Montreal Heart Institute, are leading a large project on muscular pain associated with statin treatment. This project, in which close to 5000 patients will participate, is sponsored by Genome Canada and Genome Quebec. We are looking for people who are experiencing or have experienced in the past, muscular pain associated with their statin treatment. The participants need to provide a blood sample and answer a questionnaire.

We hope that this project will allow us to better understand why certain people do not tolerate their cholesterol treatment and hope that it will contribute to the development of a predictive test for these undesirable side effects.

