



CAUSES | BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Project: SOX4 regulation of beta cell genesis and function

Through donor support, Dr. Francis Lynn, Associate Professor with the Department of Surgery and School of Biomedical Engineering at the University of British Columbia, is bringing us one step closer to understanding how genetics can contribute to diabetes.

In healthy individuals, blood sugars are controlled by a hormone called insulin, which lowers blood sugar levels. For people with type 2 diabetes, they can no longer produce or use enough insulin to control their blood sugars, which can lead to health complications such as nerve damage, sight loss, heart disease, kidney failure, anxiety, amputations, and even death.

Dr. Francis Lynn is using cutting-edge technologies to create human stem cells that carry the genetic differences predisposing people to type 2 diabetes. He and his team will then study how these differences cause insulin resistance and diabetes, and uncover new ways to treat and prevent the disease.