Date Published: 17/05/2011

Word count Title: 3

Word count Body: 74

Sentence count: 5

The Sun (England)

May 17, 2011 Tuesday   
Edition 1;   
Ireland

**Depression gene** find  
  
**BYLINE:** FIONA WYNNE  
  
**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 20  
  
**LENGTH:** 80 words

By FIONA WYNNE

SCIENTISTS are homing in on a specific **GENE** which may be responsible for **depression.**

Researchers found "solid evidence" that genetic variations on a particular chromosome could cause the illness.

English boffin Dr Gerome Breen said: "A region called chromosome **3p25-26** is strongly linked to the disorder.

These findings are truly exciting as, possibly for the first time, we have found a genetic locus for **depression.**"

It is hoped the discovery will help in treatments.

Date Published: 16/05/2011

Word count Title: 7

Word count Body: 167

Sentence count: 9

The Daily Telegraph (London)

May 16, 2011 Monday   
Edition 3;   
National Edition

Genetic link to **depression** promises future treatments  
  
**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 8  
  
**LENGTH:** 177 words

A **gene** which is thought to be responsible for **depression** has been tracked down by scientists.

Researchers at King's College London have found "solid evidence" that genetic variations on a particular chromosome could cause the disorder.

It is hoped that the discovery will help in the development of future treatments.

Scientists analysed 839 families suffering from severe and recurrent **depression**.

Dr Gerome Breen, lead author, said: "In a large number of families where two or more members have **depression** we found robust evidence that a region called chromosome **3p25-26** is strongly linked to the disorder.

"These findings are truly exciting as possibly, for the first time, we have found a genetic locus for **depression**.

This breakthrough in understanding the risk for **depression** may get us closer to developing more effective therapies, though patients should not expect to see these available for 10 to15 years."

The findings were independently replicated by a group at Washington University and both papers are being published in the American Journal of Psychiatry.

Date Published: 16/05/2011

Word count Title: 10

Word count Body: 259

Sentence count: 13

DAILY MAIL (London)

May 16, 2011 Monday

FOUND, ROGUE **GENE** THAT COULD MAKE YOU PRONE TO **DEPRESSION**  
  
**BYLINE:** BY SOPHIE BORLAND HEALTH REPORTER  
  
**LENGTH:** 265 words

**DEPRESSION** could be caused by a single rogue **gene**, a groundbreaking study claims.

Scientists have discovered flaws in people's DNA which may make them more likely to suffer from the condition.

Their findings could lead to the development of better treatments for the disorder, which is notoriously difficult to manage.

Researchers from King's College London working with an American team at Washington University Medical School in St Louis, have pinpointed a section of DNA they believe is responsible for **depression**.

This region Ð known as chromosome **3p25-26** Ð contains up to 40 **genes**, and one or more probably causes the condition.

British researchers first suggested **genes** could cause **depression** in 2003, but have so far been unable to pinpoint which **genes** are responsible.

They now plan to carry out more detailed work this year to identify the **genes**.

Up to one in five Britons will suffer from **depression** at some point during their lives.

Although it is often triggered by traumatic events Ð such as grief, redundancy or divorce Ð scientists have long known certain people are more susceptible.

The scientists examined the DNA of more than 900 families with two or more siblings with **depression**.

Their findings, in the American Journal of Psychiatry, show that the depressed siblings had the same genetic variations in the same section of their DNA, suggesting **depression** is inherited from parents.

Author Gerome Breen, of the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College, said the findings will not result in a test for **depression** but understanding the risk will lead to more effective therapies.

Date Published: 16/05/2011

Word count Title: 5

Word count Body: 144

Sentence count: 8

The Express

May 16, 2011 Monday   
U.K. 1st Edition

Feeling low? It's a **gene**  
  
**SECTION:** NEWS; 30  
  
**LENGTH:** 146 words

SCIENTISTS are homing in on a **gene** which may be responsible for **depression**.

Researchers at King's College, London, have found "robust evidence" genetic variations in a chromosome could cause the disorder.

They analysed 839 families in which two or more members suffered.

Lead author Dr Gerome Breen said for the first time researchers had found where the disorder might be caused although any one of 40 **genes** could be involved.

He said: "A region called chromosome **3p25-26** is strongly linked? this may get us closer to more effective therapies though patients should not expect these for 10 to 15 years."

The findings, replicated at Washington University, appear in the American Journal of Psychiatry.

**Depression** affects about one person in five.

Marjorie Wallace of the mental health charity Sane said: "It is very exciting that there seems to be progress finding the g ene involved."

Date Published: 16/05/2011

Word count Title: 10

Word count Body: 211

Sentence count: 10

The Independent

Independent.co.uk

May 16, 2011 Monday 12:00 AM GMT

Hope for **depression** sufferers as study links illness to **genes**  
  
**BYLINE:** By Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor  
  
**SECTION:** HEALTH NEWS  
  
**LENGTH:** 211 words

Scientists have for the first time established a genetic cause for **depression** narrowing it down to a specific chromosone.

The discovery was made by an international team of researchers led by King's College London who studied 800 families where two or more members had severe **depression**.

They found clear evidence that chromosome **3p25-26** was strongly linked to the disorder.

The paper is published in The American Journal of Psychiatry.

"This is a first step but it's a big step," said Professor Lefkos Middleton, one of the researchers.

The next step will be to find the **gene** or **genes** responsible, understand their role and function and whether drugs can be used to correct it, he said.

Gerome Breen, lead author of the study and lecturer at King's College, London, the Institute of Psychiatry, said: "These findings are truly exciting as for the first time we have found a genetic locus for **depression**."

It was likely that the chromosomal region identified contributed only "a couple of per cent" to the risk of developing **depression**.

But the discovery was significant because it was likely to lead to further genetic regions which could unlock the secrets of **depression**, which is forecast to become the disorder with the highest disease burden in the world by 2020.

Date Published: 16/05/2011

Word count Title: 6

Word count Body: 126

Sentence count: 7

The Mirror

May 16, 2011 Monday   
3 Star Edition

'PROOF' **GENE** COULD CAUSE **DEPRESSION**;   
HEALTH  
  
**BYLINE:** MIKE SWAIN  
  
**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 16  
  
**LENGTH:** 130 words

SEVERE **depression** may be due to a specific **gene**.

Researchers found "solid evidence" that a particular chromosome could cause the disorder.

It is now hoped the discovery will improve future treatments.

Lead author Dr Gerome Breen, at the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London, said: "In many families we found robust evidence that **depression** is linked to a region called chromosome **3p25-26.**

"This is truly exciting as we have found a genetic locus for the disease."

The work, studying 839 families with a history of the illness, was independently replicated at Washington University and both studies are being published in the American Journal of Psychiatry.

Mental health charity Sane said: "It is very exciting but we are still some distance from identifying the 'culprit' **gene**."

# REUTERS Scientists find genetic link to depression

By Kate Kelland (Editing by Alison Williams)

**LONDON** | Mon May 16, 2011 9:42am BST

Scientists say they have discovered the first solid evidence that variations in some peoples' genes may cause depression -- one of the world's most common and costly mental illnesses.

And in a rare occurrence in genetic research, a British-led international team's finding of a DNA region linked to depression has been replicated by another team from the United States who were studying an entirely separate group of people.

"What's remarkable is that both groups found exactly the same region in two separate studies," Pamela Madden, who led the U.S. team at Washington University, said in a statement.

The researchers said they hoped the findings would bring scientists closer to developing more effective treatments for patients with depression, since currently available medicines for depression only work in around half of patients.

"These findings ... will help us track down specific genes that are altered in people with this disease," said Gerome Breen of King's College London's Institute of Psychiatry, who led the other research group.

The researchers said they believed many genes were involved in depression.

These findings are unlikely to benefit patients immediately, with any new drugs developed from them likely to take another 10 to 15 years.

However, they will help scientists understand what may be happening at the genetic and molecular levels in people with depression.

The first study analysed more 800 families with recurrent depression, while the second examined depression and heavy smoking in a series of families from Australia and Finland.

Both studies were published in the American Journal of Psychiatry on Monday and both teams reported a strong link between depression and genetic variations in a region called chromosome 3p25-26.

"Normally in genetic studies of depression, replication of findings is very difficult and frequently takes years to emerge, if ever," said Breen, who gave a briefing in London about the work.

Major depression affects about 20 percent of people at some point in their lives. Severe and recurring depression affects up to 4 percent of people and is notoriously hard to treat.

The World Health Organisation has forecast that depression will rival heart disease as the health disorder with the highest disease burden in the world by 2020.

According to a 2006 study, depression is responsible for 100 million lost working days a year in England and Wales alone at a cost of 9 billion pounds.

Studies of families with depression have indicated that the disorder has a genetic link and scientists think around 40 percent of the risk of developing it is contributed by genes, with the rest down to environmental and other external factors.

"We are just beginning to make our way through the maze of influences on depression and this is an important step towards understanding what may be happening at the genetic and molecular levels," Michele Pergadia, who worked on Washington University study, said in a statement about the findings.

Breen's team is now conducting detailed gene sequencing studies in 40 of the families involved in the first study to try to find specific genes and variations that show a link.