LOGO

Genetics and

<INSERT> Disease:

What’s the Connection?

What Is a Gene and What Are Genetic Mutations?

Genes are the material of heredity, passed down through generations from parents to children. These inherited bits of DNA determine many of the body’s traits — visible features such as eye color as well as invisible ones, like an individual’s risk of disease. While we all have the same types of genes, some people have changes in a gene’s sequence, which are called genetic mutations.

Can I Get Tested for <INSERT> Genetic Mutations?

Genetic testing may be available as part of a research study, or through your doctor’s office or an online service. Which genes are tested and

the costs will vary. If you are interested in genetic testing, speak with your doctor and a genetic counselor, an expert who can provide guidance on the testing process and help you understand what your results mean for you and your family.

Are There Genetic Mutations Related to <INSERT> Disease?

Scientists have identified several genetic mutations that are associated with an increased risk of developing*<INSERT>* disease. Still, only about XX percent of XX cases are directly related to a genetic mutation, and most mutations associated with *<INSERT>*only raise risk a small amount. In other words, no known mutation carries a 100 percent chance of causing Parkinson’s.

How Can I Help Advance <INSERT> Genetic Research?

No matter whether you have *<INSERT>* a family member with *<INSERT>*or a *<INSERT>* associated genetic mutation, you can help push breakthroughs in *<INSERT>* genetics forward. Clinical studies need volunteers, both with and without *<INSERT>* to help researchers learn about the genes linked to *<INSERT>* how they interact with other genes and environmental factors to cause disease, and how they could be targeted to treat disease.

How Can Genetics Help Advance <INSERT> Disease Research?

Genes direct cells’ activities and the production of proteins, which are the body’s worker molecules. But genes also can guide researchers to new understandings of *<INSERT>*and treatments to slow or stop disease progression. Genetic research is like detective work: find a mutation, figure out how it leads to *<INSERT>* and then develop a therapy to correct or offset that change. Such treatments could potentially slow or stop disease progression in all people with *<INSERT>*not just those with genetic mutations.

How Can I Find Clinical Trials and Studies to Help Advance <INSERT> Genetic Research?

Register for *<INSERT>*The *<INSERT>*online clinical matching tool and include your genetic information. Visit [www. *<INSERT>*.org](http://www.foxtrialfinder.org/) to register.