

DAAD-Programm „Hochschuldialog mit der islamischen Welt“**Projektprofil****Titel des Projekts:**

GeneFINDER

Name der deutschen Hochschule(n):

Technische Universität München

Projektverantwortliche(r):

Prof. Dr. Günter U. Höglinger

Partnerland/-länder:

Ägypten

Partnerhochschule(n)

Mansoura University in al-Mansura, Ägypten

Kurzbeschreibung / Projektziele:

Identifying genetic mutations responsible for neurodegenerative diseases has shown to be highly effective for deciphering novel molecular pathways involved in disease pathogenesis. In Egypt, although quite common, inherited neurodegenerative diseases, such as Parkinson's diseases (PD), Alzheimer's disease (AD) or essential tremor (ET) have never been systematically investigated before. With the present proposal, we aim to study the frequency of known mutations of familial PD, AD, ET and other neurodegenerative diseases in Egypt and to identify new causative gene mutations. Index patients with a familial neurodegenerative disease well as their non-affected family members will be recruited through the clinical centers participating in the »Egyptian Network of Neurodegenerative Diseases (ENND)«, a network comprising 14 Egyptian universities coordinated by a collaboration between the Technical University Munich (TUM) and Mansoura University [www.ennd.org]. Participants will be interviewed about disease history, followed by a standardized neurological examination to verify the presence of the neurodegenerative disease. DNA of participants will be subjected to genetic analyses to detect responsible gene mutations. The basis for the present project is a teamwork between different clinicians, researchers and students from Germany and Egypt offering the opportunity for intercultural dialogues. German and Egyptian neurologists will communicate efficiently with patients from different areas of Egypt who have been recruited through the ENND centers, located all over Egypt. Several occasions will help both sides to get in touch e.g. mutual visits from German professors to Egypt and Egyptian researchers to Germany where both sides get deeper knowledge of healthcare and research systems of the other country. Also, summer schools will be organized to form a platform for discussions between German and Egyptian scientists and students. Finally, the physician-patient interaction between German neurologists and Egyptian patients will open a dialogue between both countries.