Human Heredity

Consanguinity and Genomics

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Genetic Diversity in European Populations: Evolutionary Evidence and Medical Implications is of special interest to researchers and students in biological and medical sciences and clinicians, who wish to update their knowledge in the field of European genetic diversity for basic research and medical applications.

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Consanguinity and Genomics

When researching the genetics of consanguineous marriages, the medical and scientific community continues to pay attention largely to rare autosomal recessive diseases. But from an overall population and health perspective, consanguinity is a much more extensive and complex topic that is influenced by major social, economic, and demographic factors. Genome analysis is, however, the principal unifying theme in this special topic issue since next-generation sequencing has become increasingly indispensable for profiling populations and diagnosing diseases, and thus is central to investigations into the biological and health outcomes arising as a consequence of consanguinity.

With some 1.1 billion people living in countries, mainly in North and Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and West, Central and South Asia, where 20–50% of marriages are between close kin, consanguinity is a topic of major contemporary significance. Written by experts in the field, this thematically diverse collection of papers provides new and exciting insights into the rationale for and outcomes of consanguineous marriage.