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Authors: Michel Lebel, Raymond J. Monnat Jr.

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Werner syndrome (*WRN*) gene variants and their association with altered function and age-associated diseases

Michel Lebel^{a*} and Raymond J. Monnat Jr.^b

^a Centre de recherche du CHU de Québec, Pavillon CHUL Université Laval, Faculté de Médecine, Québec City, Québec, G1V 4G2, Canada.

^b Departments of Pathology and Genome Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA

*Corresponding author:

Michel Lebel, Ph.D.

Centre de recherche du CHU de Québec, Pavillon CHUL
2705 Laurier Boulevard, Québec City, Québec, G1V 4G2, Canada

E-mail address: michel.lebel@crchudequebec.ulaval.ca

Highlights

- Focus on five prevalent *WRN* gene nonsynonymous single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)
- Summary of reported SNP-phenotype association studies for these SNP variants
- Critical review of SNP associations with age-related diseases
- Discussion of role of ethnic origin, age, and environmental exposure as association modifiers
- Discussion of potential mechanistic bases for *WRN* SNP-phenotype associations

ABSTRACT

Werner syndrome (WS) is a heritable autosomal recessive human disorder characterized by the premature onset of several age-associated pathologies including cancer. The protein defective in WS patients, *WRN*, is encoded by a member of the human *RECQ* gene family that contains both

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