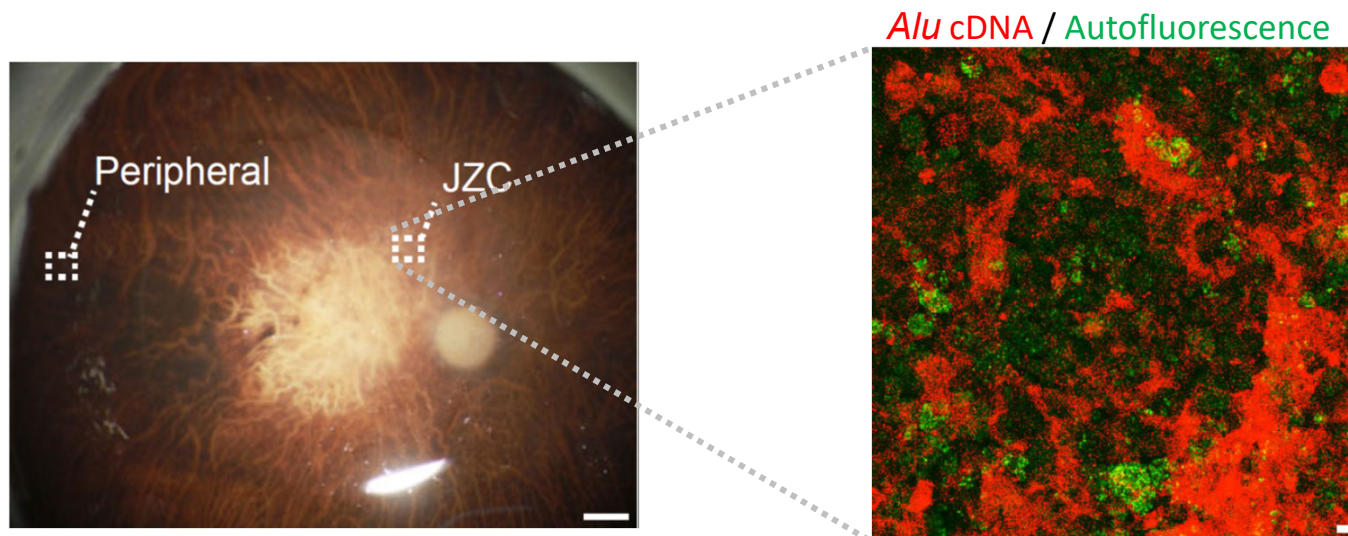


From Laboratory of Advanced Vision Science  
From Laboratory of Ophthalmology

**Alu complementary DNA is enriched in atrophic macular degeneration and triggers retinal pigmented epithelium toxicity via cytosolic innate immunity**



*Alu* RNA accumulates in human eyes with geographic atrophy, an untreatable advanced form of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), and promotes retinal pigmented epithelium (RPE) degeneration via inflammasome activation. Long interspersed nuclear element-1 (L1)-mediated reverse transcription (RT) of *Alu* RNA into *Alu* complementary DNA (cDNA) is highly enriched in the RPE of human geographic atrophy eyes and caused toxicity of RPE degeneration.

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