

## Gene behind weight gain in pregnancy identified

Scientists have identified a gene that is believed to cause pregnant women to put on weight. Mice that had the gene MC3R deactivated gained less weight than expected during pregnancy and gained more during a simulation of the human menopause. They also lost more weight when fasting and gained more when eating a high-fat diet. The team at the University of Michigan and Vanderbilt University believes that MC3R helps to set the boundaries within which the brain tries to keep weight, offering a potential target for weight loss drugs. The findings were published in *Science Advances*.

Times 23.8.2018