Pulmonary fibrosis linked to variants in the *ACD* gene, encoding the telomere protein TPP1

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Pulmonary fibrosis is associated with mutations in the *ACD* gene, encoding the telomere protein TPP1. Potentially disease-causing variants were found in 5% of a cohort of 60 unrelated patients with pulmonary fibrosis who were referred for genetic screening. http://bit.ly/2Mw9Cn0

Cite this article as: Hoffman TW, van der Vis JJ, van der Smagt JJ, *et al*. Pulmonary fibrosis linked to variants in the *ACD* gene, encoding the telomere protein TPP1. *Eur Respir J* 2019; 54: 1900809 [https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.00809-2019].

To the Editor:

Telomeres are repetitive DNA sequences at the ends of chromosomes. Telomeres shorten with every cell division, and thus become increasingly short with age. Stable telomeres are necessary for cellular survival, and critically short or dysfunctional telomeres lead to cellular senescence or apoptosis. Mutations in genes encoding telomere-associated proteins can lead to increased telomere shortening or telomere dysfunction [1]. These mutations can cause various disease manifestations, which are termed telomere syndromes [1].