

News, literature, and events in the ethical, social, and legal implications of psychiatric, neurologic, and behavioral genetics.

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Braingenethics Update

No.2 March 2014

braingenethics.cumc.columbia.edu/



In the News

[NIH Rethinks Psychiatry Trials](#)

Mental-health division of the NIH will no longer fund research aiming to relieve symptoms without probing underlying causes.

[Scientists Believe They Have Found Key Gene that Determines Obesity](#)

Geneticists believe they have pinpointed the most important obesity gene that possibly affects the hypothalamus, throwing up a target for drugs to tackle a dangerous and growing epidemic.

In the Literature

[Convergence of Advances in Genomics, Team Science, and Repositories as Drivers of Progress in Psychiatric Genomics](#)

Thomas Lehner, Geetha Senthil, & Anjene M. Addington

This paper hypothesizes that psychiatric genetics has reached an inflection point through a confluence of four key developments.

[Revitalizing Psychiatric Therapeutics](#)

Steven E Hyman

Here is described major obstacles to drug discovery and development including a lack of new molecular targets, shortcomings of current animal

[Genome-Wide Schizophrenia Studies Reveal the Complexity of “A Beautiful Mind”](#)

Disappointing clinical trial results and genetic studies reinforce need for better schizophrenia treatments.

[Genes Maintain Stability of Autism Traits Over Time](#)

Traits that typically accompany autism, such as social impairments and communication difficulties, remain largely consistent as children age, and this stability is primarily due to genetic factors, a new study concludes.

[After Death, Twins’ Brains Reveal Similar Damage](#)

Despite widespread use of a single term, Alzheimer’s disease is actually a diverse collection of diseases, symptoms, and pathological changes. What’s happening in the brain often varies widely from patient to patient, and a trigger for one person may be harmless in another.

[Whole-Genome Growing Pains](#)

Small study suggests that whole-genome sequencing faces several hurdles before it can be used routinely in the clinic.

To contribute a news item, academic article, or event on the ethical, legal, and social implications of psychiatric,

models, and the lack of biomarkers for clinical trials.

[Neuropathologic Assessment of Dementia Markers in Identical and Fraternal Twins](#)

Diego Iacono, Inga Volkman, Inger Nennesmo et al.

Clinicopathologic correlations of older identical and fraternal twins support the relevance of genetic factors in Alzheimer’s Disease, but not their sufficiency to determine the pathology, and consequently the disease, even in monozygotic twins.

[Genome-Wide Significant Localization for Working and Spatial Memory: Identifying Genes for Psychosis Using Models of Cognition](#)

Emma E.M. Knowles, Melanie A. Carless, Marcio A.A. de Almeida et al.

This work aimed to characterize the genetic architecture of cognition using phenotypically detailed models as opposed to relying on general IQ or individual neuropsychological measures. In so doing the authors hoped to identify genes that mediate cognitive ability, which might also contribute to psychosis risk.

[Public Understandings of Addiction: Where do Neurobiological Explanations Fit?](#)

Carla Meurk, Adrian Carter, Wayne Hall, Jayne Lucke

Drawing on 55 qualitative interviews conducted with members of the Australian public residing in the Greater Brisbane area, this paper challenges both the 'expectational discourses' of neuroscientists and the criticisms of its

neurological, and behavioral genetics research please [email us](#).



**Braingenethics CEER Conference
Genetic Testing in Neurologic Disorders
2014: Developments & Dilemmas**

[Full conference schedule.](#)

In the swiftly changing world of genetic testing, neurological disorders pose their own specific risks and dilemmas. This conference brings together the latest developments in genetic testing for neurologic disorders, viewed through the perspectives of physicians, researchers, people at risk, ethicists, and community-based groups.

June 6, 2014 2:00PM-6:00PM
Columbia University Faculty House
64 Morningside Drive NY, NY
Seminar locations:
PH10-405 at CUMC

detractors.

[Increased L1 Retrotransposition in the Neuronal Genome in Schizophrenia](#)

Miki Bundo, Manabu Toyoshima, Yohei Okada et al.

Whether aberrant L1 retrotransposition occurs in mental disorders is unknown. This paper reports high L1 copy number in schizophrenia.

[The Documentation of Consent and Disclosure of Neurogenetic Testing Outside Clinical Genetics](#)

C. Lo, J. Martindale, M. Hadjivassiliou, P. Martin et al.

This study assesses the documentation of consent and disclosure of genetic test results in a large regional clinical neuroscience center..

Events

Braingenethics Seminar:

[Columbia University](#)
[March 31, 2014 4PM](#)

Schahram Akbarian, MD
Departments of Psychiatry & Neuroscience
Mt. Sinai School of Medicine

[Columbia University](#)
[April 8, 2014 4PM](#)

Muin Khoury, MD, PhD
Office of Public Health Genomics
Centers for Disease Control



[Register by emailing here](#)



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