FROM GENETIC VARIANTS TO BIOLOGICAL PATHWAYS IN NEUROPSYCHIATRIC TRAITS

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From genetic variants to biological pathways in neuropsychiatric traits

Neuropsychiatric disorders place an enormous burden on patients, their family and society. Unfortunately, no major breakthroughs in the treatment of these disorders occurred during the last few decades, which reflects the complexity of the underlying biological mechanisms that induce these disorders. The identification of genetic factors is an initial key step for unraveling the biology of neuropsychiatric disorders and related traits, because they will point to specific biological pathways and cellular mechanisms that may be affected. This thesis contains a collection of genetic studies that apply multiple analytic approaches with the aim to identify genetic variants, genes and biological pathways underlying several neuropsychiatric disorders and related traits.