

SUTER SCIENCE SEMINARS 2020-21

Genetics of Mental Illness: Unique Insights from Studies of Amish and Mennonite Communities

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4:15 - 5:15 p.m.

Mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder, depression, and schizophrenia are common disorders that run in families and exact a substantial burden on health, happiness, and longevity. This seminar will review major advances in our understanding of the genetics of mental illness over the last 10 years, highlighting the unique insights that have arisen from studies in Amish and Mennonite communities.

Francis McMahon, MD, serves as Chief of the Human Genetics Branch within the Intramural Research Program at the National Institute of Mental Health. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. His research is aimed at discovering and characterizing genes involved in mood and anxiety disorders, so that better methods of diagnosis and treatment can be developed. He is past President of the International Society of Psychiatric Genetics, where he chairs the committee charged with formulating recommendations for clinical genetic testing in psychiatry. His work has been recognized by many honors and awards, including the Colvin Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Mood Disorders Research.



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