THE INSTITUTE OF LIVING

HARTFORD HOSPITAL

The Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center at the Institute of Living was founded in 2001. The Center's mission is to be at the forefront of research in psychiatric disorders, particularly schizophrenia and bipolar (manic-depressive) Illness. The Center features prominent researchers from the IOL, Yale, University of Connecticut, and Johns Hopkins and has extensive collaborations with these institutions in the field of neuropsychiatric research.

The Whitehall Building at the Institute of Living. Renovated in 2002, the building houses the Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center. It is located at the Washington Street entrance of the IOL campus.

The ONRC has a number of studies for people suffering from mental illnesses *as well as* their family members, interested in contributing to research.

For general information, look at our Website- www.NRC-IOL.org

Currently we are recruiting for studies on:

- **Schizophrenia** (with and without relatives)
- **Bipolar Disorder** (with and without relatives).

For these studies, see **WWW.B-SNIP.ORG**

For more information, please contact:

NELLY ABKOWICZ

860-502-9931 or
nabkowicz@harthosp.org

B-SNIP Study Participant Recruiter
Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center
Institute of Living at Hartford Hospital
200 Retreat Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

B-SNIP Study

Be a part of a study on the genetics, brain and cognitive markers of bipolar illness or schizophrenia in persons with the illness and their close relatives (brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, children) with or without the illnesses, age 16-60.

Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center

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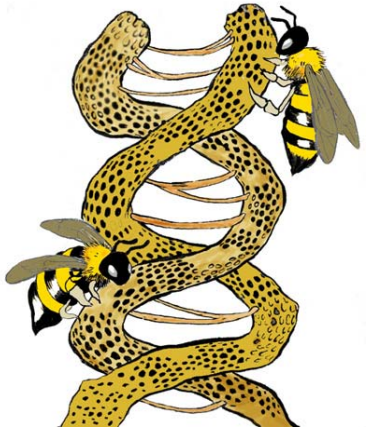


Visit our Website at

www.B-SNIP.org

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

B-SNIP STUDY

Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder have generated extensive research yet still remain poorly understood mental disorders. Although separate illnesses, there can be overlap in symptoms and at a biological level, which is not yet well understood.

Advances in both our understanding of the diseases and in the science we use to explore them have provided valuable improvements in caring for individuals with these illnesses and understanding the diseases.

Prior research findings indicate that at least 60% of the factors that cause schizophrenia and bipolar illness are genetic. Previous attempts to isolate these genes have largely failed due to the complicated nature of these illnesses. Major breakthroughs are now possible, however, using new techniques.

- Over the past several years, researchers have developed a number of powerful methods to compare the genes of people with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder to those of their close relatives.
- Neuroscientists measure brain function by using safe state-of-the-art neuropsychological and neuroimaging technology.
- The application of the biomarker (a physiological or cognitive trait that is commonly found in people with a family history of a disorder even if that person does not have the illness) offers new directions for genetics research. By identifying biological markers that are related to a genetic tendency to develop bipolar disorder or schizophrenia, researchers can begin to understand how genetics translate into clinical presentation.
- These new techniques, used together, will hopefully lead to the identification of the genes associated with altered brain function in schizophrenia and bipolar illness.

Similar techniques are producing break-throughs in the fight against other illness such as Huntington's and Alzheimer's diseases.

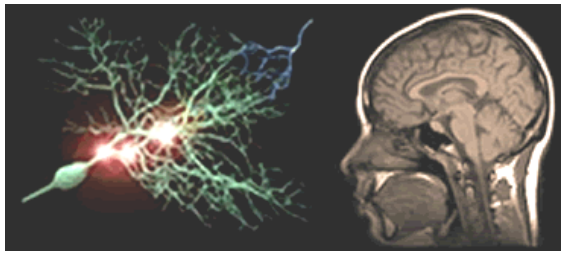
Identifying the genes that cause schizophrenia and bipolar disorder is the first step toward new, more effective treatments and ultimately prevention in people who may be at risk.

FAMILY PARTICIPATION

The Olin Center is seeking the following volunteers:

- Biological brother/sister/mother/father or child of a person with schizophrenia or bipolar illness *together with* the person who has the illness.
- People with no family history

Excluded from the study are people younger than 16 years of age and older than 60, pregnant women, people



with mental retardation, and people with serious medical problems or prolonged drug or alcohol abuse.

PROCEDURES

All procedures are painless and consist of the following:

Clinical Interviews: Conversations with members of the research staff to gather background information.

Neuropsychological Testing: Simple tests of memory and attention.

Neurological Examination: An evaluation of how brain and nerves are working by testing mental, sensory, motor, and reflex function.

Laboratory Tests: A small sample of blood will be analyzed to study the genetic component. (A urine sample may also be required to document that test performance is free from the influence of drugs/alcohol.)

Evoked Potentials: A record of brain activity as the research volunteer reacts to changes in sound and light while relaxed.

Neuroimaging: Several safe, non-invasive, non-radioactive brain MRI scans will be administered. Over two sessions, structural scans map the brain's anatomy during rest and the functional scan (fMRI) maps the brain's activity while performing tasks.

COMPENSATION

Every participant will receive *up to* $320 for completing the study. There is no charge for any test. Whenever possible, we will assist with free transportation and lodging for participants living outside the immediate hospital area.

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