**Biography:** Pamela Sklar, MD PhD, ISPG Board of Directors

I have worked as a neuroscientist, human geneticist, and clinical psychiatrist to advance the medical community’s understanding of the role of genes mental illness. My groundbreaking studies of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder produced some of the first statistically convincing gene identifications providing fundamental insights into the genetic architecture and etiology of mental illness. I have focused on DNA and RNA variation, rare and common, trailblazing with studies effectively utilizing the newest high-throughput genomic technologies. I am internationally known for first associating large, recurrent DNA deletions with schizophrenia. Our group discovered the first widely replicated associations using genome-wide association (GWAS) in both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder and has been integrally involved in leadership positions with individual and consortial efforts leading to these findings. Using novel methods developed by my group, we identified molecular evidence for extreme polygenicity in schizophrenia and its overlap with bipolar disorder. This research is prompting a complete re-evaluation of the nosology within the field. I am a founding member of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium, co-chair the Bipolar Disorder Working Group and co-lead the current PsychCHIP efforts. I have been a continuously funded researcher since 2001 with over 165 peer-reviewed publications. In recognition of these contributions, I was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2013, among the highest honors in medicine in the US.

I earned an MD, and PhD in Neuroscience in the laboratory of Solomon Snyder MD, from Johns Hopkins Medical School and completed clinical training in Psychiatry at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital and the New York State Psychiatric Institute in Manhattan and postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Nobel Laureate Richard Axel, MD at Columbia University. Before joining Mount Sinai in 2011, I was a founding member of the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at the Broad Institute of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard Medical School where I served as the Center’s Director of Genetics from 2007 to 2011.

In 2011, I joined the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai as the founding Chief of the Division of Psychiatric Genomics, there I drew on my experience in developing programs in genetics and translational research in the areas of next-generation sequencing, stem cell biology, proof-of-concept drug trials, and large-scale sample collections to build a psychiatric genomics unit. My team—comprised of experts in statistical genetics, stem cell biology, neurocognition, and imaging— is pioneering ways to translate genetic insights into the clinical practice of psychiatry. Much of the current focus of my current work is on defining the functional role of genetic risk variation through multiple genomic strategies. We are generating large-scale gene expression and epigenomic data on human brain specimens through the CommonMind and PsychENCODE consortia.