WCPG

World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics

Dimensions of Translation

19–23 OCTOBER

Cancún, Mexico

2025 PROGRAM BOOK

ISPG
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PSYCHIATRIC GENETICS

2025 WELCOME LETTER

Welcome to the 2025 World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics!

The International Society of Psychiatric Genetics (ISPG) warmly welcomes you to the 2025 World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics (WCPG) in Cancún, Mexico. We are excited to bring our community together in a country with a stunning history and a vibrant, growing scientific ecosystem. In light of the challenges many in our community are facing, we invite you to find support within the ISPG network and reconnect with the excitement of scientific discovery as we explore the latest advancements in our field.

This year's WCPG theme is "Dimensions of Translation." We hope this theme will be interpreted broadly as translation can occur in many domains from clinical implications to animal models. Importantly, this theme also underscores our commitment to understanding the vast spectrum of psychiatric genetic research across different populations and cultures, in supporting excellence in research throughout the world and ensuring findings in psychiatric genetics benefit everyone.

2025 WCPG Program Chairs

Dr. Henriette "Jetty" Raventos
Dr. Lea Davis
Dr. Andrew McIntosh
Dr. Diego Luiz Rovaris
Dr. Humberto Nicolini

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2025 PROGRAM CHAIRS

Henriette "Jetty" Raventós, M.D., Ph.D.

Henriette Raventós is a professor, medical doctor and human genetics researcher at the University of Costa Rica. Since 1996, she has led a research group investigating genetic susceptibility to neuropsychiatric disorders, including bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and Alzheimer dementia. Her work has been widely published and presented. At present she is the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the ISPG.

Lea Davis, Ph.D.

Lea K. Davis is a professor of AI and Human Health, Genetics and Genomics, Medicine, and Psychiatry at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and an associate faculty member at the New York Genome Center.

2025 PROGRAM CHAIRS

Andrew McIntosh, M.D.

Andrew McIntosh is a Professor of Psychiatry at the Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences, University of Edinburgh and a consultant psychiatrist working in the NHS. He co-chairs the Major Depressive Disorder Working Group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (PGC) and is the director of the newly funded UK Mental Health Platform, an initiative to promote data sharing, collaboration and the involvement of both industry and people with lived experience in research. His research focussed on identifying the causes and consequences of depression using genomic approaches and by linking to large and routinely collected health datasets.

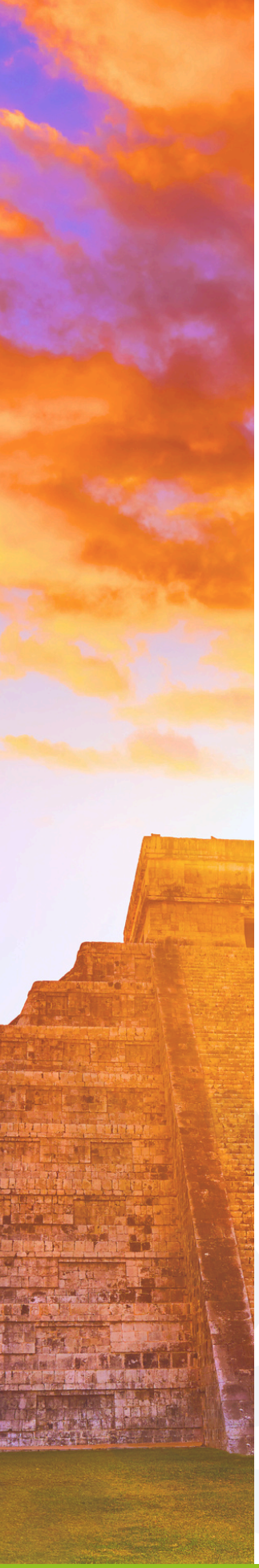
Humberto Nicolini, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Humberto Nicolini is the head of the Lab of Neuropsychiatric, addictions and neurodegenerative disorders at the National Institute of Genomic Medicine in Mexico City. Dr. H Nicolini has ongoing research collaborations with Dr David Glahn, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, and with Dr Eric Storch at Baylor College of Medicine, USA. He is currently Director of the Carracci Medical and Family Studies group, and Head of the Laboratory of Psychiatric and Neurodegenerative Diseases
from the National Institute of Medina Genomics, Ministry of Health and Member of the National Academy of Medicine.

2025 PROGRAM CHAIRS

Diego Luiz Rovaris, M.Sc.

Dr. Diego is a Tenured Assistant Professor at the Institute of Biomedical Sciences, University of São Paulo (ICB-USP), Brazil. With over 13 years of experience in Molecular Psychiatry, his research focuses on ADHD and related phenotypes. He leads the Laboratory of Physiological Genomics of Mental Health at ICB-USP, investigating how environmental factors interact with genomics and epigenomics to affect the risk and progression of mental disorders with varying heritability, such as major depressive disorder and ADHD. Dr. Diego is the scientific head of the Brazilian Research Network on Adult ADHD and co-leads the ADHD working group of the Latin American Consortium (LAGC). He is the Principal Investigator of CONNECT-ADHD (comprehensive exploration of the CONNECTion between ADHD and educational attainment in contrasting environments), a project involved in the Ancestral Populations Network of the National Institute of Mental Health. Committed to promoting diversity, Dr. Diego aims to increase the representation of non-European individuals in genomics collaborations in psychiatry and to enhance the participation of scientists from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in relevant scientific forums.



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PLENARY SPEAKERS

Alexander Charney, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Charney's work bridges clinical psychiatry, neuroscience, genomics, and artificial intelligence. He is renowned for developing large-scale, high-impact research programs – including the Mount Sinai Million Health Discoveries Program and the Living Brain Project – that are helping to redefine how complex diseases are studied and treated. His leadership has resulted in major advances in understanding the genetic basis of mental illness and a major focus of his work in psychiatric genomics is translating findings into first-in-human clinical trials, including amongst the first gene therapy trials for schizophrenia. Dr. Charney's vision and drive to translate neuroscience discoveries into clinical impact have established him as rising leader in the field.

Lea Davis, Ph.D.

Lea K. Davis, PhD is a Professor of AI and Human Health, Genetics and Genomics, Medicine, and Psychiatry. She is the Scientific Director of the Sinai Million Health Discoveries Program (SMHDP), one of the largest EHR-linked biobank sequencing projects of its kind. Dr. Davis's research spans many domains of psychiatry and integrates genetics, clinical informatics, and social determinants of health to study health outcomes captured in real world clinical data found in the electronic health record.

Laura Hercher, M.S.

Laura Hercher is a genetic counselor and the Director of Student Research at the Sarah Lawrence College Joan H. Marks Graduate Program in Human Genetics, where her teaching and research focus on ethical, legal and social issues in genomic medicine. As a journalist and commentator, she has written about genetics and society for a wide range of audiences, in publications including Scientific American, the MIT Technology Review, the Nation Magazine and the New York Times. For her leadership in the field, Laura was the 2024 recipient of the Nathalie Weissberger Paul National Achievement Award from the National Society of Genetic Counselors. Currently, she is working on a book examining the implications of current trends in the use of reproductive genetic medicine, tentatively entitled "The Ghettoization of Genetic Disease."

Cathryn Lewis, Ph.D.

Cathryn Lewis is Professor of Genetic Epidemiology and Statistics at King's College London. She serves as Executive Director of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium, where she previously co-chaired the Major Depressive Disorder Working Group. She leads the Wellcome-funded AMBER study, which aims to identify the causal mechanisms of antidepressants through genomic, informatic and cellular approaches. With over 400 publications, her research focuses on characterising the genetic contributions to human health, particularly in the areas of psychiatry, polygenic scores and pharmacogenetics.

Andres Moreno-Estrada, M.D., Ph.D.

Andres Moreno-Estrada is a Mexican scientist specialized in population genetics, human evolution, and medical genomics. He is a Medical Doctor by training (University of Guadalajara, 2002) and pursued a PhD in Evolutionary Genetics in Barcelona (Pompeu Fabra University, 2009), where he was trained in human population genetics and biomedical research. Dr. Moreno completed postdoctoral training at Cornell University (New York) and Stanford University (California) from 2009 to 2012. He later became Research Associate of the Genetics Department at Stanford University until 2014. In 2015, Dr. Moreno returned to Mexico as the Head of the Genomics Core Facility of the National Laboratory of Genomics for Biodiversity (LANGEBIO) and he is currently the Principal Investigator of the Human Population Genomics Lab at the Advanced Genomics Unit of CINVESTAV.

Benjamin Neale, Ph.D.

Benjamin Neale is a core institute member at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, where he is also co-director of the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research. He also serves as associate director of flagship disease projects for the Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Genomic Mechanisms of Disease at the Broad. He is an associate professor in the Analytic and Translational Genetics Unit (ATGU) at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), where he directs the Genomics of Public Health Initiative. He is also an associate professor in medicine at Harvard Medical School (HMS).

Henriette Raventós, M.D., Ph.D.

Henriette Raventos is a professor, medical doctor and human genetics researcher at the University of Costa Rica. Since 1996, she has led a research group investigating genetic susceptibility to neuropsychiatric disorders, including bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and Alzheimer dementia. Her work has been widely published and presented. At present she is the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the ISPG.

Sandra Sanchez-Roige, Ph.D.

Sandra Sanchez-Roige is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California San Diego and at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Her work integrates human genetic data, electronic health records, and cross-species models to identify causal mechanisms and therapeutic targets for substance use disorders and related conditions. She co-chairs the PsycheMERGE and Latin American Genomics Consortium Substance Use Disorder Workgroups, and is an active member of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium and the Externalizing Consortium. Her work is supported by the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program and NIH NIDA/NIAAA/NIMH, including a DP1 Avenir Award, and has received several early-career awards.

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Eduardo Tarazona

Eduardo Tarazona Santos is Full Professor of Human Genetics at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, one of the largest public Universities in Brazil. He leads the Laboratory of Human Genetics Diversity, focusing on the study of the genetics of Latin American populations, and the genetic basis of rare and common diseases in these populations.

Peter Visscher, Ph.D.

Peter M. Visscher FRS is a Dutch-Australian-British geneticist and professor of Quantitative Genetics at the University of Oxford and the University of Queensland. The focus of his research is to better understand the causes and consequences of human trait variation. Visscher and colleagues have developed statistical methods and analysis software tools to estimate and dissect genetic variation for complex traits, including common disorders, and successfully applied these to a range of diseases, including psychiatric disorders. He was among the first to promote, model and apply the use of whole-genome genetic data to make personalized predictions of complex traits, and has contributed to the development of advanced statistical methods to make such predictions. Visscher is married to Naomi Wray, who is Professor of Psychiatric Genetics at the University of Oxford.

MING TSUANG
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

DR. JOHN RICE

Dr. John Rice is Professor of Mathematics in Psychiatry at Washington University in St. Louis.

Current research interests include method development in genetic epidemiology and the collection and analysis of family and population data on the affective disorders, schizophrenia, smoking, alcoholism and other substance-use disorders. This includes the collection and analysis of GWAS and sequence data as well as methodological development related to these approaches.

He has headed the data management portion of the Collaborative Study on the Genetics of Alcoholism (COGA), a six-site study to collect family, genetic linkage data and GWAS data as well the data management of the genotypic data for an NCI genetics study of Nicotine Dependence. He participated in the Gene Environment Initiative (GEI) on addiction and in the GAIN studies of Bipolar Disorder and Schizophrenia.

He has had grants and contracts for the NIDA and NIMH genetic repositories and reflects his commitment to data sharing as an important avenue for rapid progress. His lab has a long history of methodologic contributions in the area of quantitative methods for genetic analysis, and has extensive experience with multi-site collaborative studies on the genetics of mental disorders.

Dr. Rice has over 350 publications in peer reviewed journals.

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THEODORE REICH
EARLY CAREER AWARD

DR. TIAN GE

Tian Ge, PhD, is an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School, a core faculty member at MGH Center for Genomic Medicine, Director of Data Science at MGH Center for Precision Psychiatry, and an Associate Member of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.

His research focuses on developing statistical, computational, and machine learning methods to explore the genetic underpinnings of brain structure, function, and mental disorders, and to improve individualized prediction of disease risk and progression.

Dr. Ge received a PhD in applied mathematics from Fudan University, a second PhD in computer science from the University of Warwick, and completed his postdoctoral training at Massachusetts General Hospital with Drs. Jordan Smoller and Mert Sabuncu.

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THEODORE REICH
EARLY CAREER AWARD

DR. HAILIANG HUANG

Hailiang is an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. He is also an Institute Member of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, and Associate Director of Human Genetics at the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research.

Hailiang's research focuses on the genetics of psychiatric disorders. He has developed novel statistical and computational methods, performed state-of-art analyses, and led international recruitments and collaborations to elucidate the genetic mechanisms underlying psychiatric disorders.

Hailiang earned his Ph.D. from the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, supervised by Dr. Joel Bader, and completed his postdoctoral training with Dr. Mark Daly at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Broad Institute.

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GERSHON
PAPER OF THE YEAR AWARD

DR. MARK ADAMS

Dr. Mark Adams is a Senior Research Fellow in the Institute for Neuroscience and Cardiovascular Research at The University of Edinburgh and Senior Bioinformatician for Generation Scotland.

He has an AB in Theoretical Biology from Cornell University; and an MSc in Quantitative Genetics & Genome Analysis and a PhD in Psychology from The University of Edinburgh.

Previously, he was a post-doctoral research associate in behavioural ecology at The University of Sheffield and a data scientist in the Division of Psychiatry at The University of Edinburgh. Dr Adams's research has encompassed the evolution of individual differences, personality in non-human primates, cooperative behavior in birds, and the genetics of mood disorders.

His current focus is on incorporating information on variation in diagnostic ascertainment and in disorder heterogeneity into genetic discovery, and he is an expert in developing reproducible workflows for biomedical data analysis.

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RICHARD TODD
AWARD

ANDERS BØRGLUM

Anders Børglum is Professor of Medical Genetics and Chair of Personalized Medicine Research at Department of Biomedicine, Aarhus University (AU). He is also Director of Center for Genomics and Personalized Medicine, Leader of Aarhus Genome-data Center and Chair of the Personalized Medicine Network, AU.

His research focuses on identifying genes that confer risk or resilience to psychiatric disorders, functional characterization of the identified genes and translating the genetic insights to advance precision medicine in psychiatry. The research involves large-scale genomics studies of tens or hundreds of thousands of individuals, analyzing comprehensive multidimensional health and biological omics data.

Anders Børglum was the first Scientific Director and main applicant of the initial iPSYCH proposal on integrative psychiatric research. iPSYCH has established one of the largest psychiatric genetic projects in the world with a database comprising genetic data on practically all individuals diagnosed with 6 major psychiatric disorders born in Denmark since 1981, cross-linked with comprehensive health-related data from the Danish registers.

In addition to his roles at AU, Anders Børglum is deeply engaged in the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (PGC), serving as Chair of the PGC Autism Group, member of the PGC Coordinating Committee and active in several PGC disorder groups.

Anders Børglum has led or co-led large genome-wide studies of major psychiatric disorders, including childhood disorders such as autism, ADHD, disruptive behavior disorders, identifying the first risk variants for these disorders. He and his team have contributed to numerous other studies of mental disorders. The papers provide novel understanding of etiologies, biological underpinnings and the remarkable genetic overlap across disorders and further the field towards precision medicine in psychiatry.

TRAVEL AWARD WINNERS

Sarasadat Aghabozorgafjeh | Transcriptomic Pathway Alterations Underlying Sex-Differentiated Age of Onset in Bipolar Disorder and Schizophrenia

Laísa Camerini | Genetic Susceptibility to Hair Cortisol Concentration and Its Role on Interacting With Early-Life Adversity in a 15-Year Longitudinal Study From the 2004 Pelotas (Brazil) Birth Cohort

Haidy Giratallah | Genetically Faster CYP2A6-Mediated Nicotine Metabolism Increases Smoking-Related Disease Risk: A Phenome-Wide Association Study in the All of Us Research Program

Djenifer B. Kappel | Genetic Liability to Physical Health Conditions and Comorbidities in Individuals With Severe Mental Illness

Yousef Khan | Transdiagnostic and Disorder-Level GWAS Enhance Precision of Substance Use and Psychiatric Genetic Risk Profiles in African- And European-Ancestry-Like Individuals

Benson Ku | Cluster Profiles of Distressing Psychotic-Like Experiences Among Children and Associations With Genetic Risk, Prenatal Cannabis Exposure, and Social-Environmental Characteristics

Mannan Luo | Evidence for Genetic Nurture Effects on Substance Use

Jessica McAfee | Massively Parallel Reporter Assay investigates shared Genetic Variants of Eight Psychiatric Disorders

Shota Mizuno | The Role of Topologically Associating Domains in Defining the Pathogenic Relevance of De Novo Non-Coding Variants on Autism Spectrum Disorder Risk

Rafaella Ormond | Mapping the Genetic Architecture of Smoking Behavior in Latin American Populations

Pravesh Parekh | FEMA-Long: A Framework for Longitudinal Genome-Wide Association Studies to Discover Time-Dependent Genetic Effects

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TRAVEL AWARD WINNERS

Jennie Pouget | Mapping Cell Type–Specific Epigenetic Regulation in Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex (DLPFC) to Uncover Molecular Mechanisms in Psychiatric Disorders

Marta Puga | Advancing on the Genetics of Severe Mental Disorders in El Hierro, an Isolated Canary Island

Melody Rivera-Hernández | Prolonged Fentanyl Exposure and Withdrawal Drive Distinct Gene Expression Profiles in a Human Neuronal Model of Opioid Use

Anniina Tervi | The Bidirectional Risk and Shared Genetic Background Between Anxiety Disorders and General Medical Conditions

Megana Thamilselvan | Dissecting Schizophrenia Risk Across Brain Regions: Insights From Functionally Informed Polygenic Scores Derived from Psychiatric Traits and Alcohol Use

Jodi Thomas | Not All Minds Think Alike: Exploring Depression and Cognition through a Sex-Stratified Lens

Hayley Thorpe | "Slicing-and-Dicing" the All of Us Research Program to Interrogate the Polygenic Relationship Between Cannabis Use and Schizophrenia

Ofure Ubah | Investigating Risk Variants of the SLC6A15 Gene by Use of Enhancer Screening Assay and Cellular MODELS

Laura Vilar Ribó | Sex-Specific Genetic Architecture and Comorbidities of Alcohol Use Behaviors

Sarah Williams | Investigating Non-Coding Autism De Novo Variants in Human Stem Cell-Derived Neurons

Camille Williams | Cross-Ancestry Genetic Insights Into Externalizing Behaviors, Health, and Social Outcomes

ECIP POSTER FINALISTS

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FINALISTS

Uri Bright | Differences and Similarities between the Genetic Architecture of Lifetime Substance Use across Different Substances

Nicholas Green | From Genetic Risk to Mechanism: Identifying Genes Underlying Addiction Risk Across Substances via Cell Type-Specific Transcriptome-Wide Association Analysis

Robert Havkin | Genetic and Phenotypic Characterization of Autism with Individual/Parental History of Co-Occurring Schizophrenia or Bipolar Disorder

Lianyun Huang | Disentangling the genetic heterogeneity of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD)

Clara Köhler | Resilience and Its Impact on Epigenetic Aging: Insights from Cumulative Environmental Risk Analysis

Alex Kwong | Transancestry Genome-Wide Association Study of Adolescent-Onset Depression

Ang Li | Benchmarking Methods Integrating GWAS and Single-Cell Transcriptomic Data for Mapping Trait-Cell Type Associations

Shota Mizuno | The Role of Topologically Associating Domains in Defining the Pathogenic Relevance of de novo Non-Coding Variants on Autism Spectrum Disorder Risk

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ECIP POSTER *FINALISTS*

Shane O'Connell | Deriving Mendelian Randomization-Based Causal Networks of Brain Imaging Phenotypes and Bipolar Disorder

Pravesh Parekh | FEMA-Long: a framework for longitudinal genome-wide association studies to discover time-dependent genetic effects

Steven Prado Jara | Allele Frequency Variation of Association Signals for Psychiatric Disorders in Latin American Populations

Simran Sandhu | Spotlighting Women's Health: Exploring the Biological Liability to Migraine and Anxiety in Women

Ofure Ubah | Investigating Risk Variants of the SLC6A15 Gene by Use of Enhancer Screening Assay and Cellular MODELS.

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Eva Beins | The Influence of Genetic Risk for Depression and Glucocorticoid Stress on Transcriptome and Secretome Profiles of Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell-Derived Microglia

Nicole Bussola | Mapping Immune Crosstalk Between Blood and Brain at Single-Cell Resolution

Suzannah De Almeida | Cross-Ancestral Gene-Target Prioritization for Opioid Use Disorder

Ley Lacbawan | Effects of Mood Stabilizing Drugs in Cell Villages of Human iPSC-derived Cortical Neurons

Hyunah Lee | Long-Read Whole Genome Sequencing of 4,000 Individuals with Eating Disorders: Early Insights from the NIHR BioResource Initiative

Lerato Majara | Genome Wide Association Study of Psychosis Identifies African Enriched Variants in PTPRD and TMEM150C

Anil Ori | The White Norm in Human Genetic Research

Miryam Schattner | Phenotypic Signatures at the Extremes of Polygenic Scores for Psychiatric disorders: A Glad Study

Megan Skelton | Genome-Wide Insights into Anxiety Using a Dimensional Symptom Severity Approach

Priyadarshini Thirunavukkarasu | Long-Read Sequencing Analysis of Structural Variants in Large Multigenerational Families with Bipolar Disorder

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Sintia Belangero | A Meta-Analysis of Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders: Bridging the Gap and Learning with Latin American Cohorts

Nicolas Ciochetti | Ancestry-Aware Genome Wide Association Study of Attention - Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in a Latin American Population

Pedro Destro | Interaction Between Substance Use and SNVs in the Emergence of Psychiatric Disorders

Rafaella Ormond | Mapping the Genetic Architecture of Smoking Behavior in Latin American Populations

Kristien van der Walt | Shared Genetic Variants between Objectively-Measured Movement and Brain Disorders Probe Sensorimotor Mechanisms

Beatriz Villena-Rueda | Toward a Single-Cell Atlas of Traumatic Brain Injury: Investigating Cell-Type-Specific Mechanisms Relevant to Psychiatric Disorders

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AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PSYCHIATRIC GENETICS
World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics
2026 WCPG
30 September - 3 October 2026
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Glasgow, Scotland
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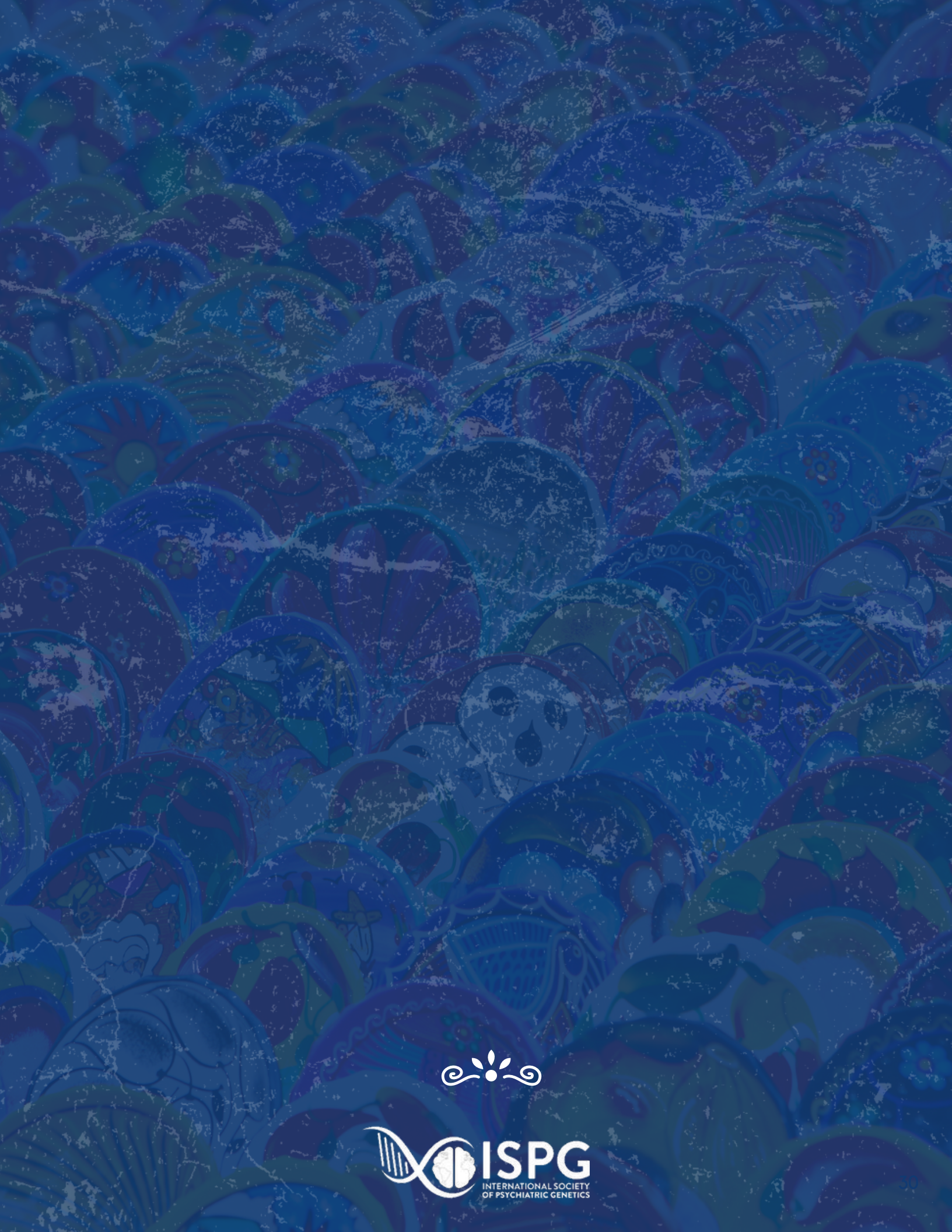
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