

PGC NEWSLETTER

September 2026

PGC working groups drive global collaboration to advance the science of psychiatric genomics. Explore the latest progress, priorities, and opportunities across our community.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS THE PGC



WORKING GROUP ACTIVITY

Working groups continue to foster collaboration, share expertise, and coordinate projects that advance psychiatric genetics research.



YEARLY PROGRESS

This year, working groups have advanced analyses, strengthened methodologies, and expanded cross-consortium partnerships.



CURRENT PRIORITIES

Key priorities include improving data harmonization, supporting diverse ancestry studies, and developing resources for the community.



WHAT MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW

Stay informed about upcoming initiatives, ways to get involved, and new resources available through the PGC.



TOGETHER, WE ADVANCE DISCOVERY

Thank you to all members for your continued contributions to the PGC community.

Anxiety Working Group

Leaders

Jack Hettema, Angelika Erhardt, and Manuel Mattheisen

UPDATES

PGC-ANX is proud to announce that our multi-year efforts have produced several impactful manuscripts in 2026. Our composite AnyAnxiety case-control freeze 1 meta-analysis (Strom et al.) was published in the February issue of Nature Genetics (PMID: 41634414). Like the other PGC working groups, these data contributed to the CDG3 paper in Nature. This was followed by our dimensional anxiety symptom GWAS (Skelton et al.) in Nature Human Behavior in June (PMID: 42265330). In addition, our Epigenetics Workgroup published a systematic review of ANX MWAS studies (Domschke et al.) in Translational Psychiatry (PMID: 41851093). The renewal of our NIH R01 has allowed us to expand our efforts to examine the genetics of specific anxiety disorders. Our Panic Disorder GWAS is underway with about 100K cases so far. If you have such data and have not yet contributed, please reach out ASAP to Angelika Erhardt at erhardt@psych.mpg.de. We will soon begin gathering samples for our Social Anxiety Disorder and Generalized Anxiety Disorder projects for which we welcome all interested groups. For more information, please attend our WCPG Concurrent Symposium on Wednesday, September 30 starting at 9:45. Once the time of our in-person working group meeting is posted, we welcome you to join us there. Jack Hettema, Angelika Erhardt, and Manuel Mattheisen for PGC-ANX



Tourette Syndrome/ Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

Leaders

Jim Crowley and Eske Derks

UPDATES

Here we provide a brief update of activities from the PGC TS/OCD Working Group. Regarding OCD, our working group published in 2025 the first well-powered OCD GWAS (“Genome-wide analyses identify 30 loci associated with obsessive–compulsive disorder”, Nature Genetics, 2025). Members of our group have also published important papers in the past year, including an OCD Mendelian randomization study (PMID 41528053) and a methylome-wide association study of OCD (PMID 41956236). Likewise, regarding TS, enlarged GWAS are now available (PMID 39389409; <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.64898/2026.04.09.26350245v1>), and other papers from the past year include a TS CNV meta-analysis (PMID 40894066) and the largest TS structural brain imaging study to date (PMID 42238458). Our working group meets monthly at two different times convenient to researchers across the globe. Each meeting includes a scientific presentation, and we welcome new members! Please reach out to the co-chairs, Jim Crowley (crowley@unc.edu) or Eske Derks (eske.derks@qimrb.edu.au), for more information.



Suicide Working Group

Leaders

Niamh Mullins, Anna Docherty, and Douglas Ruderfor

UPDATES

In the past year, PGC SUI published a phenotyping protocol to define suicidal ideation (SI), non-fatal suicide attempt (SA), suicide death (SD) and appropriate control groups for genetic studies (Colbert et al., Mol Psychiatry, 2025). This covers typical information sources including interviews, self-report questionnaires, electronic health records and ICD codes (validated in Monson et al., Psychiatry Res, 2025), and guidelines for handling co-occurring psychiatric disorders, time-limited measures, inconsistent responses and minimal phenotypes. The latest PGC SUI GWAS is currently available as a preprint and includes 259,747 SI, 64,993 SA, 9,197 SD, and 75,300 suicidal behavior (SA+SD) cases from over 40 studies and four global populations (Colbert et al., medRxiv, 2025). Across suicide outcomes, we identified 77 unique GWAS risk loci, including 59 novel for suicidality, and post-GWAS analyses illuminated relevant biological pathways, tissues and brain cell-types. GWAS summary statistics will be available via the PGC website upon publication. Using these new GWAS results, we conducted a genomic structural equation modeling study to characterize the shared and distinct genetic etiology between these suicide outcomes and related psychiatric disorders (Colbert et al., medRxiv, 2026). This will be presented in a suicide genomics symposium on Saturday 9.45-11.15, alongside our new sex-stratified GWAS of suicide outcomes. Additional projects underway in PGC SUI include CNV GWAS, whole exome/ whole genome sequence meta-analyses and new common variant GWAS, and we welcome new collaborators. WCPG attendees are welcome to join our PGC SUI Workgroup Meeting on Thursday 11.30-12.45 and our Meet the Chairs session on Friday 2.30-3.



Attention Deficit Hyper-Active Disorder

Leaders

Barbara Franke and Joanna Martin

UPDATES

The PGC ADHD Working Group has published several findings throughout the year, including an analysis showing that an ADHD diagnosis in more recent years is associated with a lower genetic risk for ADHD and other psychiatric conditions compared to a diagnosis in the past (PMID: 42268594). Furthermore, we published a large analysis of rare variant contributions to ADHD, identifying three associated genes (PMID: 41224997). Our Working Group is currently finalizing its newest freeze, more than doubling the number of cases and identified genomic loci for ADHD. Papers are also being prepared on the genetic contribution to traits of hyperactivity/impulsivity and inattention as well as on epigenetic (DNA-methylation-based) associations with ADHD. We will be holding our Working Group meeting at WCPG on Friday, October 2, at 11.30 am local time – the meeting is open for all.



Data Receiving Committee

Leaders

Danielle Posthuma, Stephan Ripke, and Niamh Mullins

UPDATES

The PGC Data Receiving Committee (DRC) and Data Access Committee (DAC) continue to support the intake of individual-level genetic and phenotypic data and GWAS summary statistics and the expanding use of PGC data for secondary analyses across the consortium. GWAS summary statistics released in the past year via the PGC website include Anxiety Disorder (anx2026) and Borderline Personality Disorder (bpd2025). Individual-level genetic data from 11 disorder workgroups are available on the Snellius server for Secondary Analysis Proposals. Recent releases include individual-level hg38 1KG-imputed data for schizophrenia. The growing availability of detailed clinical information alongside genetic data is enabling researchers to investigate psychiatric heterogeneity well beyond traditional case/control frameworks. To date, the PGC has approved more than 800 requests for access to individual-level data on Snellius, reflecting the continued growth and global reach of the PGC data resource. Researchers interested in conducting secondary analyses can review the proposal process and apply through the PGC Data Access Portal. Approved analysts are reminded to review the Analyst Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which outlines responsibilities around data security, confidentiality, and appropriate use of data on Snellius. Researchers interested in contributing new datasets to PGC workgroups can find information at <https://pgc.unc.edu/about-us/join-pgc/>. As the PGC continues to expand and update its data resources, the DRC and DAC remain committed to facilitating timely, responsible access to these datasets while ensuring appropriate oversight and data security.

Latin American Genomics Consortium

Leaders

Elizabeth Atkinson, Janitza Montalvo-Ortiz and Paola Giusti Rodriguez

UPDATES

Our group has continued to grow and now includes over 200 members and fifteen disorder- and topic-specific workgroups. In the past year, we had multiple publications by the full consortium and several workgroups, including a review focused on functional genomics studies (Porrás, L. et al, 2026, Am J Med Genet B Neuropsychiatr Genet), which highlighted the need to expand the implementation of these methods across Latin America. The LAGC-ADHD workgroup published a commentary in Nature Mental Health on the need for global cooperation to advance ADHD research (da Silva, B.S., Bau, C.H.D., Nicolini, H. et al., 2026). This was followed by a systematic review by the LAGC-Suicide workgroup on genomic studies of suicidal thoughts and behaviors in Latin American populations (Cabrera-Mendoza B., et al, 2026, Biological Psychiatry). We also submitted our first meta-analysis GWAS of alcohol consumption across over 600,000 samples of individuals of Latin American populations is under, across both Latin American and US-based cohorts. Several LAGC workgroups have ongoing disorder- and trait-specific meta-analyses that should be submitted over the next year.



Cross-Disorder Working Group

Leaders

Andrew Grotzinger, Wouter Peyrot, and Kenneth Kendler

UPDATES

This past year the PGC Cross-Disorder Group (CDG) published their third flagship paper in Nature entitled, “Mapping the genetic landscape across 14 psychiatric disorders.” These analyses utilized summary statistics from the PGC disorder groups to triangulate across methods to evaluate the shared and divergent psychiatric risk. Results identified five genomic factors indexing high levels of genetic overlap across subsets of disorders. Based on the disorders that define them, we called these factors the compulsive, schizophrenia/bipolar, neurodevelopmental, internalizing, and substance use factors. On average, the factors explained 2/3rds of the common genetic variation, indicating transdiagnostic signal is pervasive. At the same time, there were potentially meaningful genetic distinctions observed across the factors. This included enriched signal in glial cells for the internalizing factor as compared to excitatory neurons for the schizophrenia/bipolar factor. GWAS summary statistics for the five factors are available for download on the PGC website. In 2026, the CDG entered a new phase of leadership, with Andrew Grotzinger and Wouter Peyrot joining Kenneth Kendler as co-chairs. Wouter and Andrew are stepping in to replace Jordan Smoller, who served as a founding co-chair for over a decade. The group is grateful to Jordan for his years of leadership, but we note that he will still play a central role in CDG going forward. The CDG is currently working on starting the next phase of analyses, with hopes to include new and exciting data from other PGC groups. The CDG continues to bring together and welcome representatives from across PGC groups.