

Special Issue

Genetic Studies of Mood Disorders and Comorbidities

Message from the Guest Editor

Individuals with severe mental illness (such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depressive disorder) carry increased risk of developing many physical diseases, which contributes to the mortality rate being 2–3 times higher in such patients compared to the general public. Cardiometabolic diseases (such as obesity, type 2 diabetes and coronary artery disease) are particularly prevalent, with reductions in life expectancy of up to 25 years due to cardiovascular diseases. Traditionally, the increased disease risk has been attributed to the increased burden of risk factors, such as sedentary lifestyle, smoking, substance abuse and socioeconomic factors. Genetic studies have begun to challenge this assumption, with recent studies suggesting common biological mechanisms underlying physical and psychiatric illness. In this Special Issue, we aim to highlight some of the ways in which genetics and genomics can be used to investigate the relationship between physical and psychiatric illness as well as to provide an update on some recent findings in this area.

Guest Editor

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Genes is central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fast-moving field. There is a need for good quality, open access journals in this area, and the *Genes* team aims to provide expert manuscript handling, serious peer review, and rapid publication across the whole discipline of genetics. Starting in 2010, the journal is now well established and recognised. Why not consider *Genes* for your next genetics paper?

Editor-in-Chief

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