

An Introduction to the Psychiatric and Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit (PNGU)

The mission of this research unit is to achieve a better understanding of the origins of disorders such as Tourette syndrome (TS), Attention Deficit hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). Our hope is that a better understanding of these conditions will also lead to advances in their treatment. The objectives of our current projects include identifying genetic contributions to TS, ADHD and OCD. Dr. David Pauls, the director of the Psychiatric and Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit (PNGU), is a behavioral geneticist. His research over the last 25 years has focused primarily on neurodevelopmental disorders such as TS, ADHD, and OCD, and more recently on other related conditions as well. The PNGU is a part of the Center for Human Genetic Research at the Massachusetts General Hospital and is located in Boston, MA. The Unit is staffed by researchers representing a variety of disciplines and with affiliations to the Harvard Medical School and Whitehead Institute.

Studies currently recruiting families include the following:

1. Genetic Linkage/Association Study of TS: This Tourette Syndrome Association (TSA)-sponsored study aims to identify the genes responsible for TS. Conducted with the collaboration of an international consortium of researchers, this study will clarify the role of genes in the occurrence of TS. For this study, we are currently seeking **individuals over the age of six with a diagnosis of TS**. For children with TS, we request the participation of a parent as well.

2. Family Genetic Study of TS, ADHD and OCD: This project explores the familial relationship among TS, ADHD, and OCD, and will specifically examine the shared behavioral components of these three conditions. We expect that this research will further our understanding of how these disorders are expressed, and will promote the identification of susceptibility genes. This study includes **children between the ages of 6 to 21 years old who have been diagnosed with TS, ADHD and/or OCD, both of their parents and any siblings over the age of six**.

Individuals who are interested in learning more about these studies are invited to call 1-800-471-2730, or email the project director, Dr. Cornelia Illmann, at cillmann@partners.org. Further information can also be obtained by visiting our website: www.ts-adhd-ocd.org.