

# Virginia Institute For Psychiatric And Behavioral Genetics



## About Us

VIPBG is an interdisciplinary institute that brings together researchers with backgrounds ranging from statistical and molecular genetics to epidemiology, psychology, psychiatry, and neuroscience, all with a shared focus on understanding how genetic and environmental factors impact the development of psychiatric and substance use disorders and behavioral phenotypes/complex traits.

## Areas of Training

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- Behavioral Genetics
  - Deep Phenotyping
  - Advanced Statistics
  - Methods Development
  - Health Disparities
  - Big Data Science
  - Grantsmanship
  - Professional Development

## Available Resources

- A large number of existing datasets with phenotypic, genetic, and neuroimaging data available in diverse ancestries
- Personalized mentorship and training
- High-performance computing cluster
- Teaching assistantships for funding
- Broad array of courses, workshops, and seminars

## Contact Us

- Pre-doctoral and post-doctoral positions are available
- Positions funded by NIMH (Psychiatric and Statistical Genetics) and NIAAA (Cross-Species Multidisciplinary Training in Alcohol Research) T32 training grants as well as PI specific research grants
- Pre-doc inquiries to Dr. Hermine Maes, Coordinator of ILS-BSG Concentration ([hermine.maes@vcuhealth.org](mailto:hermine.maes@vcuhealth.org))
- Post-doc NIMH T32 inquiries to Dr. Michael Neale, Director, NIMH training program ([michael.neale@vcuhealth.org](mailto:michael.neale@vcuhealth.org)), Pre- and Post-doc NIAAA T32 inquiries to Dr. Brien Riley, Co-Director, NIAAA training program ([brien.riley@vcuhealth.org](mailto:brien.riley@vcuhealth.org))

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and Behavioral Genetics



## Our Training Looks Like

- Faculty mentor graduate students within the following PhD programs: Integrative Life Sciences – Behavioral and Statistical Genetics (ILS-BSG), Human and Molecular Genetics, Psychology, Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Pharmacology & Toxicology
- Interdisciplinary & collaborative
- Pre-doc students have coursework in genetic epidemiology, behavior, statistical and molecular genetics
- Research is matched to their interests
- Post-doc training is tailored to the career goals, experience, and needs of the fellow with an emphasis on tutorials and collaborative research -- can train with faculty in many other departments.



## Research Approaches

- Molecular genetic & genomic research studies
- Twin studies, extended pedigrees
- Statistical genetics approaches
- Neuroimaging
- Clinical laboratory studies
- Numerous topics: schizophrenia, suicide, depression, anxiety disorders, substance use disorders, alcohol use disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, birth outcomes, smoking, autism.
- Collaborative work on studies of neuroimaging and neurocognition and genomics consortia worldwide



## Career Options

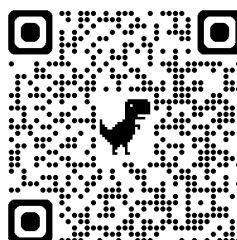
- Successful track record of high-impact publications and securing NIH funding.
- Pre-doc trainees have gone on to nationally and internationally notable postdoctoral fellowships.
- Pre- and post-doc trainees have obtained faculty positions and have gone on to work in academic research or industry positions.



## Our Diverse Trainees

Our Trainees come from a wide variety of backgrounds.

- Mathematics
- Biostatistics
- Psychology
- Psychiatry
- Biology
- Genetics
- Epidemiology



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