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

- 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)
- Post-doc NIMH T32 inquiries to Dr. Michael Neale, Director, NIMH training program (michael.neale@vcuhealth.org), Pre- and Post-doc NIAAA T32 inquiries to Dr. Brien Riley, Co-Director, NIAAA training program (brien.riley@vcuhealth.org)







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.

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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 highimpact 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

