



# IBG Family Studies News

University of Colorado at Boulder | Institute for Behavioral Genetics



## Project Updates

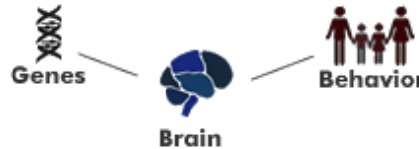
- Funding has been secured until 2014.
- 9,680 individuals in the community are participating
- Since 2003 over 80 papers have been written using data from this project

## An Exciting New Grant to Fund Family Study Research!

Thanks to your participation in prior research, IBG has just been awarded a new 5 year grant to continue studies with our family study participants.

The research supported by this grant will focus on the interaction between our genes (DNA), our brains (thoughts), and our behaviors (actions). More specifically, we will look at two questions about human behavior:

- 1) Why do some people engage in risky behaviors (like drug use, gambling, speeding etc) while others do not?
- 2) What are the consequences and/or rewards for these kinds of behaviors?



We were able to secure this grant in part because of our past successes with participant involvement. This important research would not be possible without your willingness to answer our questions.

Thank you again for your role in increasing our understanding of human genetics, behavior and development. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about your participation.

## What to Expect: Interview and Questionnaire

The interview process will be quite similar to interviews and questionnaires you have completed with us in the past. In fact, many of the questions are identical to previous ones. We will look at your answers to the same questions over time in order to see the changes and similarities that occur as people age and experience different life events.

Most of our interviews will be conducted on the phone and the questionnaire will be filled out on-line. If

you would prefer to visit our labs or have us come to you, we can also conduct the interviews in person.

The interview and questionnaire usually take between 2-3 hours to complete, and we will provide a token payment of \$100 to cover your time and efforts.

Since this is a 5 year grant, and we have nearly 10,000 participants, it may be a while (years!) until your interview. If you have changed addresses recently please contact us to let us know your new information. Thank you!

## Contact Us:

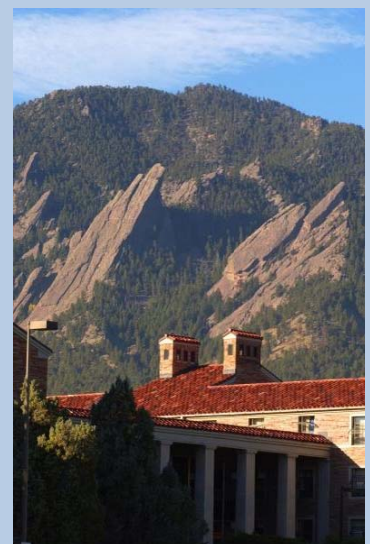
IBG Family Studies  
Campus Box 447  
Boulder, CO 80309

**Phone:** (303) 492-7991

**Fax:** (303) 492-8063

**Email:**  
wrightc@colorado.edu

**Website:**  
<http://ibg.colorado.edu/cadd>



A view of the Flatirons from the University of Colorado at Boulder Campus

## Publication Highlights

Since 2003, over 80 papers have been published using your data. Below are some highlights. Please let us know if you would like a copy of these or any other publications and we would be happy to mail them to you. You can find a complete list at [ibg.colorado.edu/cadd](http://ibg.colorado.edu/cadd). Please note this new website is still in development as a part of the grant we just received, so check back soon for updates.



### Possible Drug Addiction Genes Identified

Robin Corley

DNA samples collected from participants were analyzed using a unique method. We found 2 specific areas in the DNA (genes) that have a probable connection to drug and alcohol abuse as well as conduct problems.

Corley, R.P., Zeiger, J.S., Crowley, T.J., Ehringer, M.A., Hewitt, J.K., Hopfer, C.J., Lessem, J., McQueen, M.B., Rhee, S.H., Smolen, A., Stallings, M.C., Young, S.E., Krauter, K. (2008). Association of candidate genes with antisocial drug dependence in adolescents. [Drug and Alcohol Dependence](#), *96*, 90-98.



### Genes play a role in what friends we choose

Tanya Button

This study found that there is a genetic component that influences what friends we choose; it is not strictly environmental. Both boys and girls with conduct problems tend to choose friends with similar problems.

Button, T.M.M., Rhee, S.H., Hewitt, J.K., Young, S.E., Corley, R.P., Stallings, M.C. (2007). Delinquent peer affiliation and conduct problems: A twin study. [Journal of Abnormal Psychology](#), *116*, 554-564.



### Influences on behavior during adolescence

Susan Young

Investigators looked at two age points to see how behavior changes over time. At age 12, genetics played a larger role in certain types of behaviors (like impulse control) than they did at age 17.

Young S.E., Friedman N.P., Miyake A., Willcutt E.G., Corley R.P., Haberstick B.C., Hewitt J.K. (2009). Behavioral disinhibition: liability for externalizing spectrum disorders and its genetic and environmental relation to response inhibition across adolescence. [Journal of Abnormal Psychology](#), *118*, 117-30.



### Marijuana: Addictive for some

Christian Hopfer

IBG researchers identified specific areas of chromosomes 3 & 9 which were related to marijuana abuse problems, potentially opening the door for new early identification and treatment strategies.

Hopfer, C.J., Lessem, J.M., Hartman, C.A., Stallings, M.C., Cherny, S.S., Corley, R.P., Hewitt, J.K., Krauter, K.S., Mikulich-Gilbertson, S.K., Rhee, S.H., Smolen, A., Young, S.E., Crowley, T.J. (2007). A genome-wide scan for loci influencing adolescent cannabis dependence symptoms: Evidence for linkage on chromosomes 3 and 9. [Drug and Alcohol Dependence](#), *89*, 34-41.



### Causes of Early Smoking and Drinking

Isabel Schlaepfer

Researchers found that genes play a large role in alcohol and nicotine use at a young age. In this study, individuals with certain gene variations were more likely to try substances at an early age, regardless of other environmental factors.

Schlaepfer, I.R., Hoft, N.R., Collins, A.C., Corley, R.P., Hewitt, J.K., Hopfer, C.J., Lessem, J.M., McQueen, M.B., Rhee, S.H., Ehringer, M.A. (2008). The CHRNA5/A3/B4 gene cluster variability as an important determinant of early alcohol and tobacco initiation in young adults. [Biological Psychiatry](#), *63*, 1039-1046.



### The Genetics of Aggression

Brett Haberstick

Children who were aggressive at an early age tended to continue behaving that way, both at home and in the school environment. This study showed that consistent aggressive behaviors were the result of a genetic risk factor rather than individual experiences.

Haberstick, B. C., Schmitz, S. Young, S. E., Hewitt, J. K. (2006). Genes and developmental stability of aggressive behavior problems at home and school in a community sample of twins aged 7-12. [Behavior Genetics](#), *36*, 809-819.