
Genes, Circuits, Behavior: From psychiatry genetics to personalized medicines

Anirvan Ghosh, F. Hoffmann-La Roche

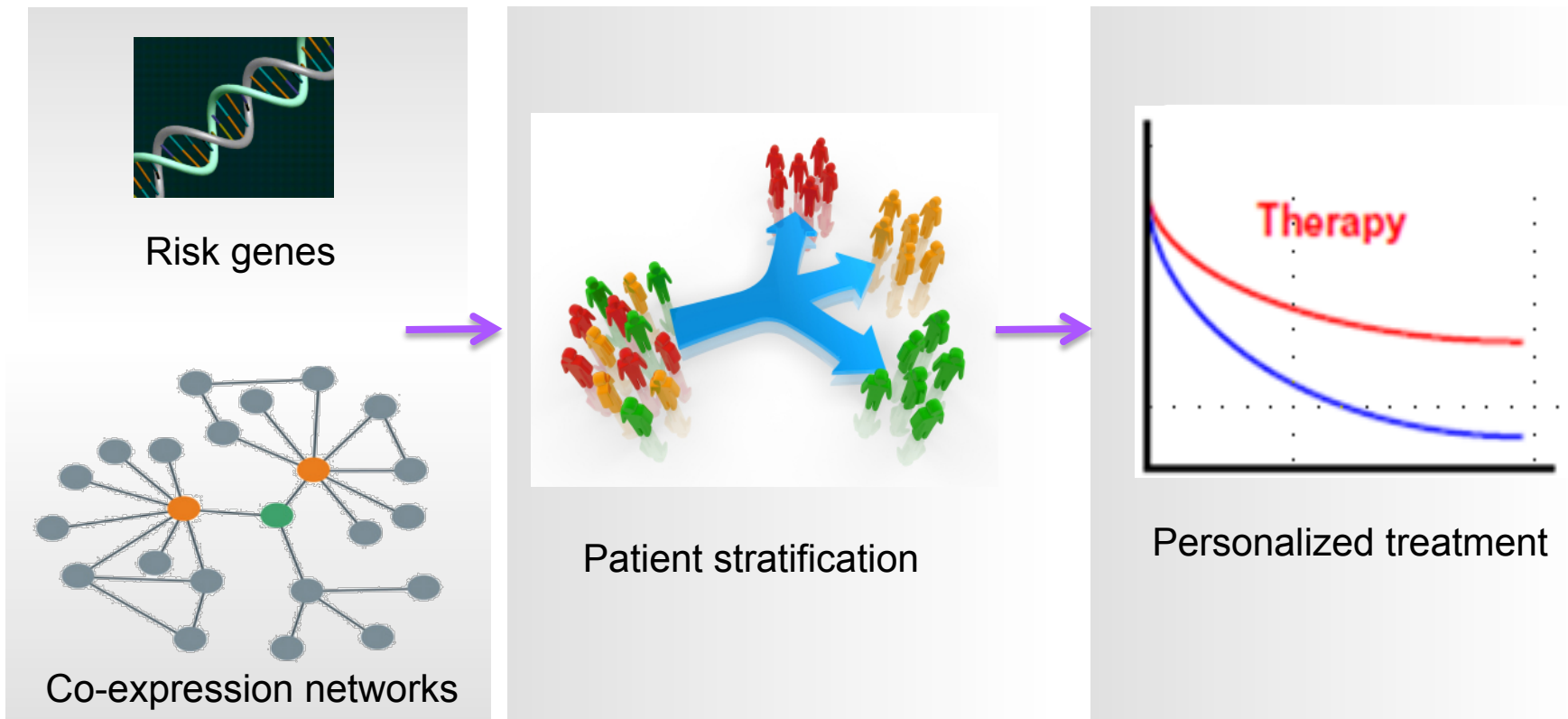
A blue-tinted background image showing a complex network of interconnected nodes and lines, resembling a neural circuit or a molecular structure.

Roche
pRED

NORD
Neuroscience, Ophthalmology
and Rare Diseases

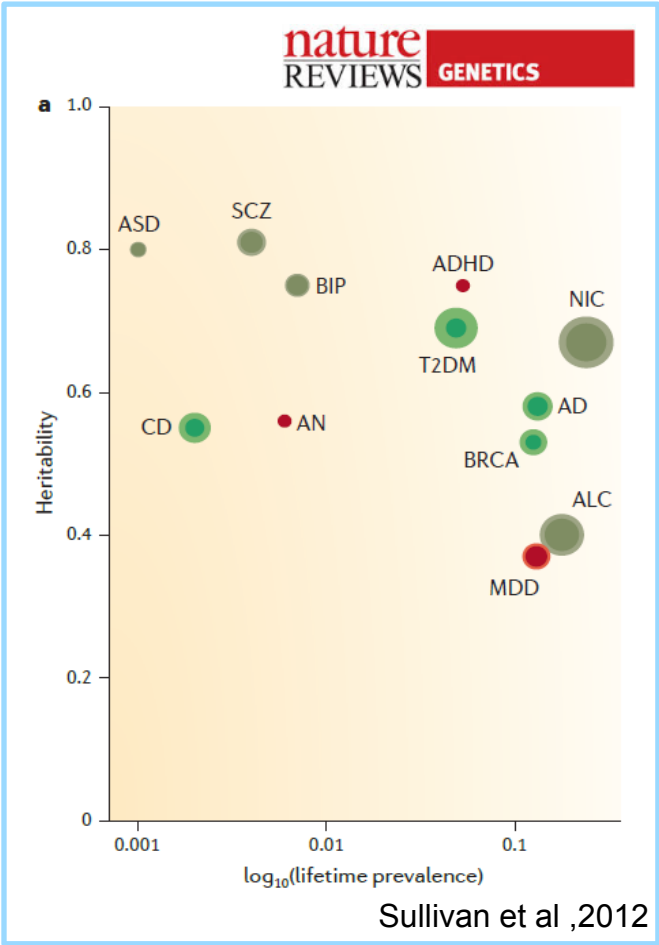
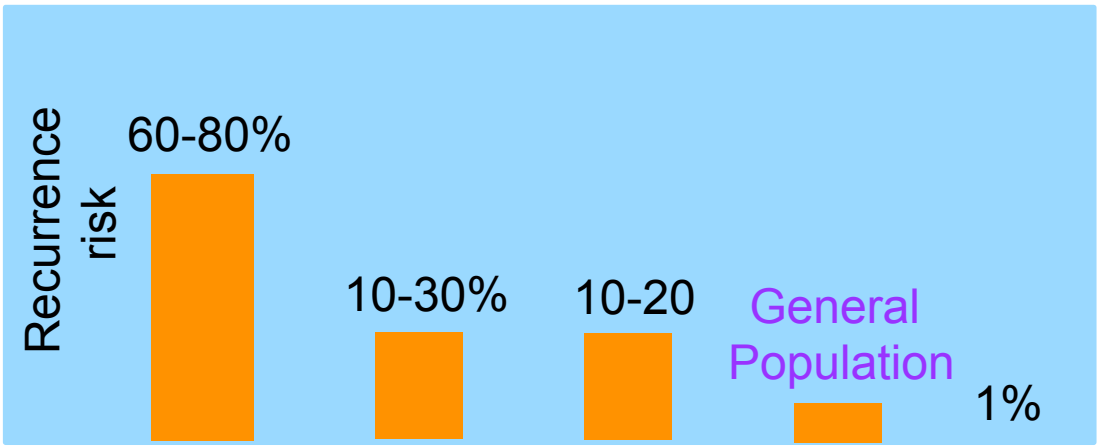
Imagine this...

Treatment of mental illness based on individual genome sequence



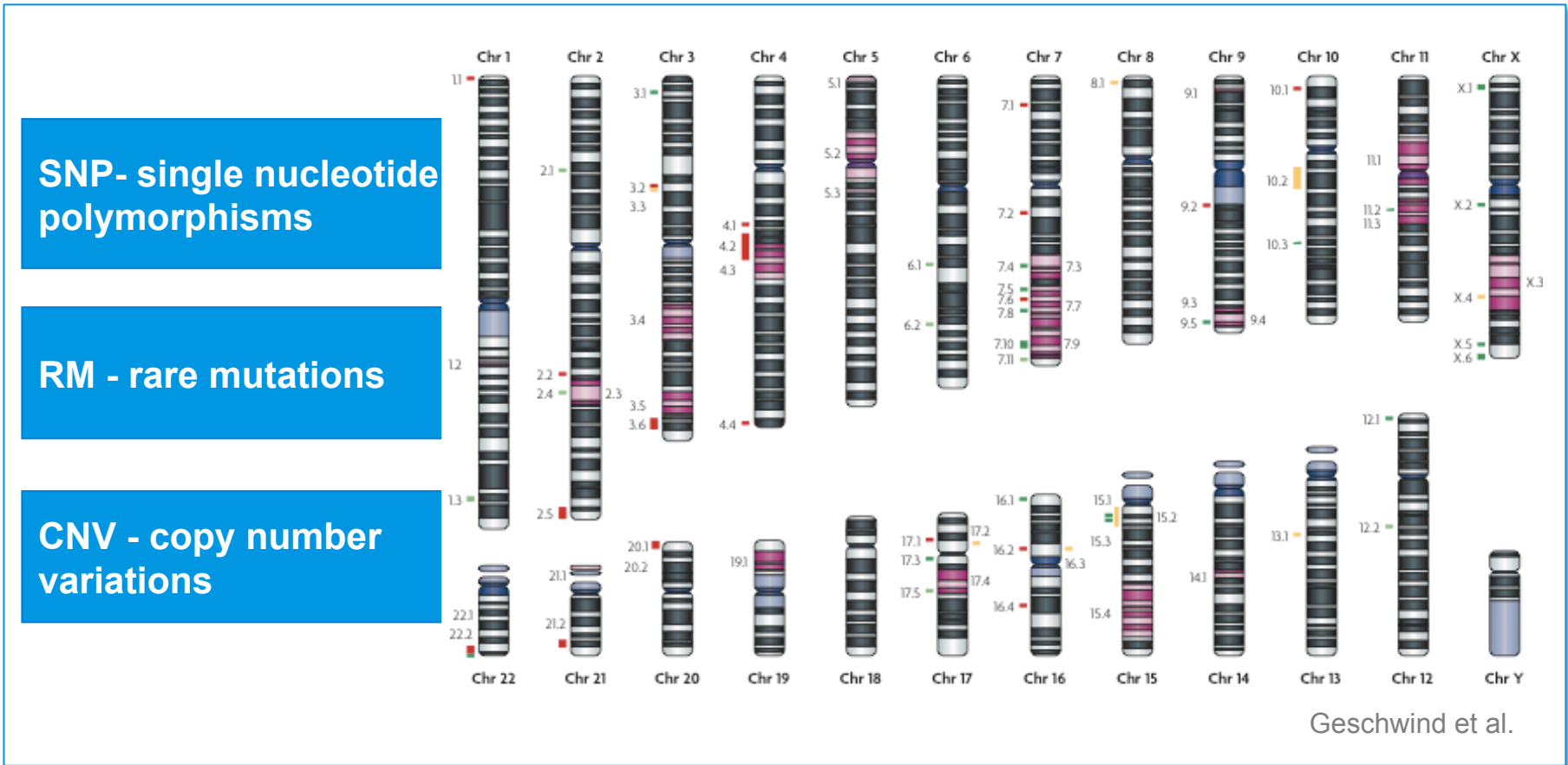
Psychiatric disorders are highly heritable

Genes play a major role



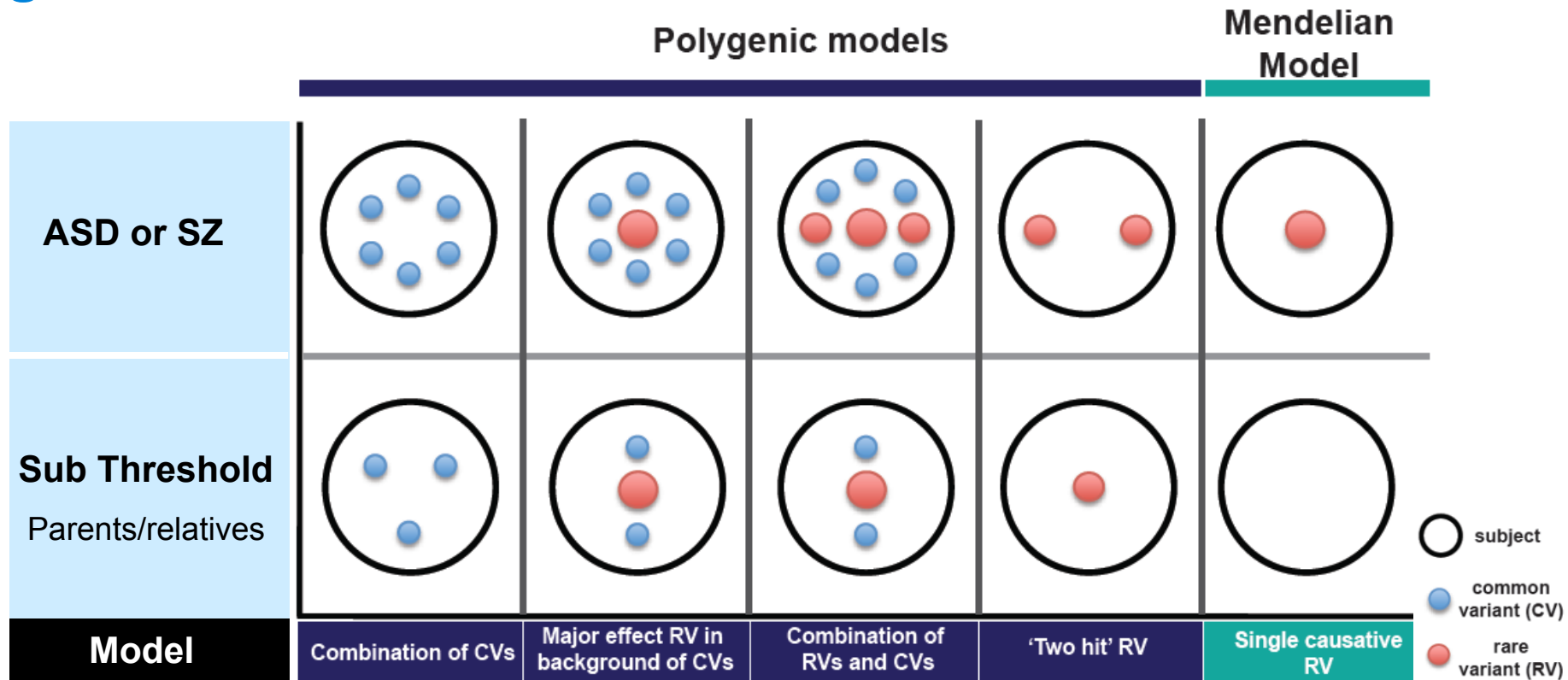
NDD and schizophrenia are highly heritable disorders

Risk genes are widely distributed in the genome



Genetic architecture of schizophrenia and autism

Common & rare mutations in hundreds of genes



Evidence in SZ

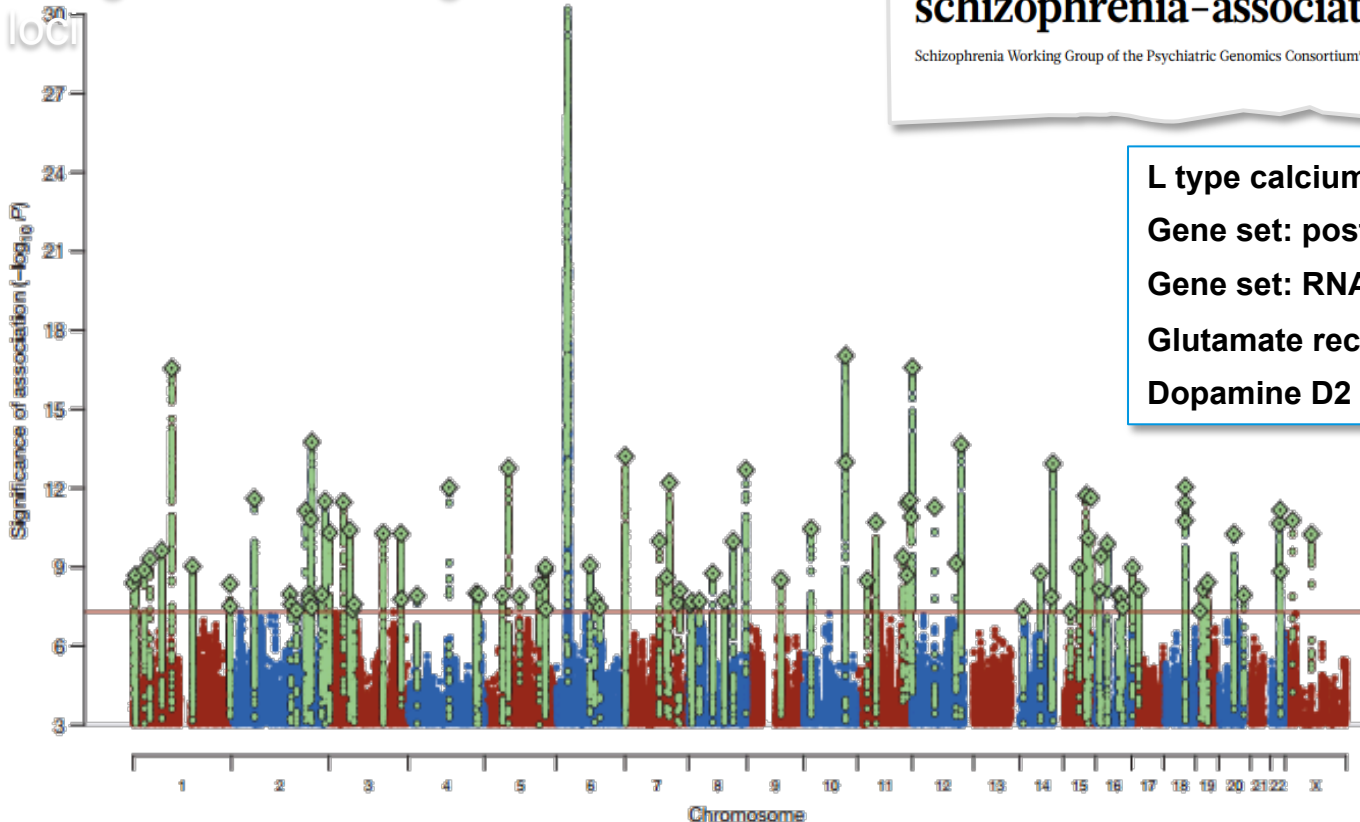
Evidence in ASD

Schizophrenia: genes implicated by common variants

Genome-wide association studies (GWAS)

36,989 cases & 113,075 controls

108 genome-wide significant loci



ARTICLE

doi:10.1038/nature13595

Biological insights from 108 schizophrenia-associated genetic loci

Schizophrenia Working Group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium*

- L type calcium channels (4 subunits)**
- Gene set: post synaptic density**
- Gene set: RNAs bound by FMRP**
- Glutamate receptors**
- Dopamine D2 receptors**

Autism: genes implicated by rare variants

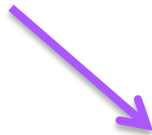
Whole exome sequencing studies

Nature: Oct 29, 2014

The contribution of *de novo* coding mutations to autism spectrum disorder



2517 families



Nature: Oct 29, 2014

Synaptic, transcriptional and chromatin genes disrupted in autism



2270 families



1601 ASD



5397 controls

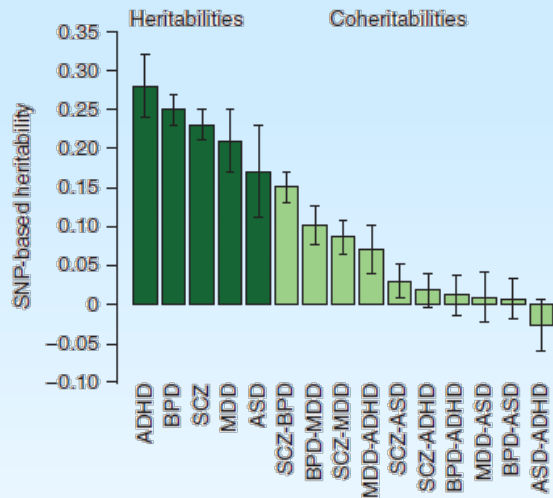


Voltage-gated ion channels
Gene set: Synaptic transmission
Gene set: FMRP targets
Gene set: Chromatin modifiers

Emerging themes from psychiatric genetic studies

Risk genes are shared across multiple psychiatric disorders

Common variants

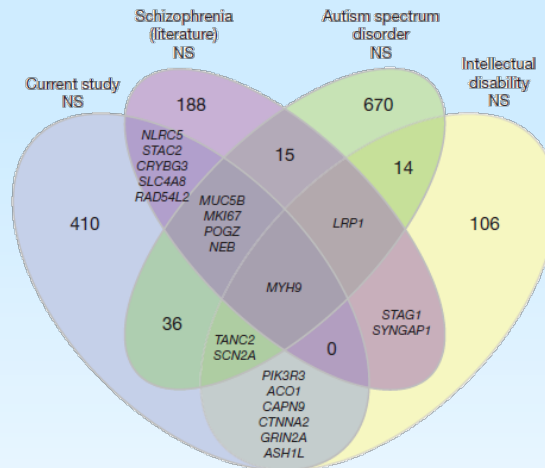


Nature Genetics, 2014

Genetic relationship between five psychiatric disorders estimated from genome-wide SNPs

Cross-Disorder Group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium*

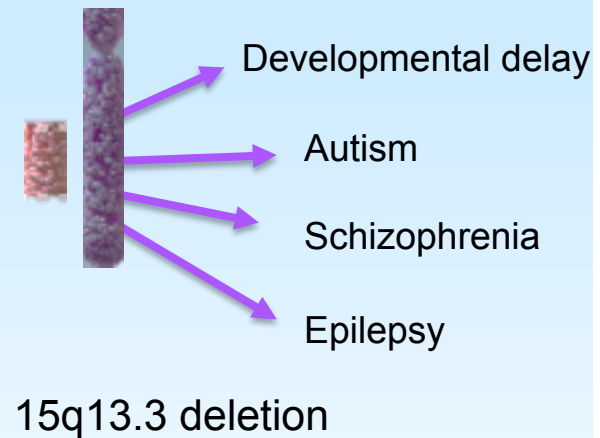
Rare variants



Fromer et al, Nature, 2014

Iosifov et al, Nature 2014

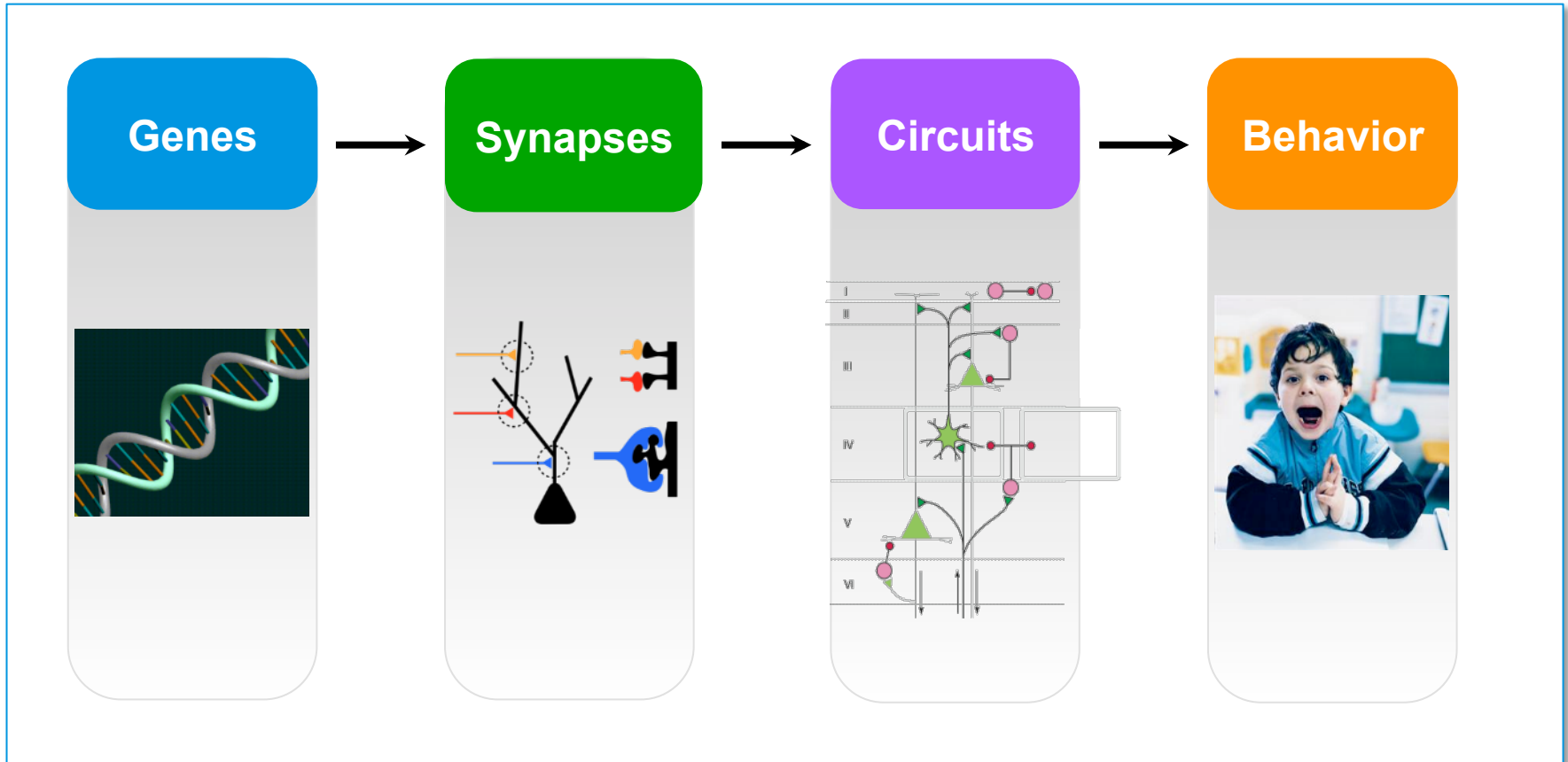
Copy number variants



Malhotra et al, Cell 2012

A framework for drug discovery in psychiatry & NDD

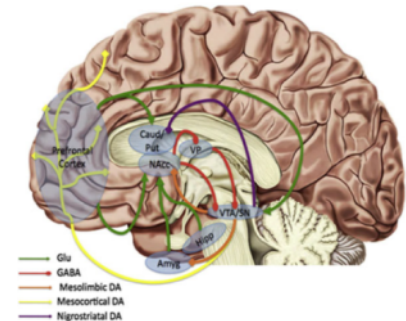
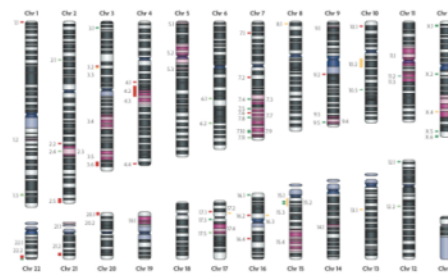
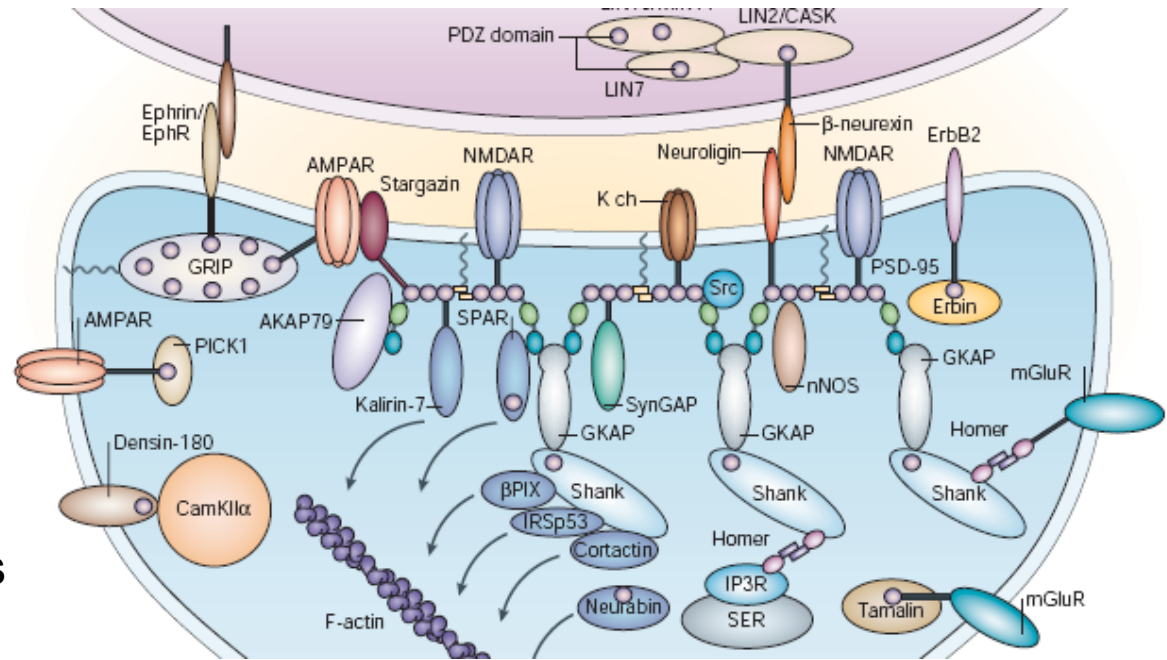
Synapses & circuits as the point of intervention



Next generation of targets in NDD and psychiatry

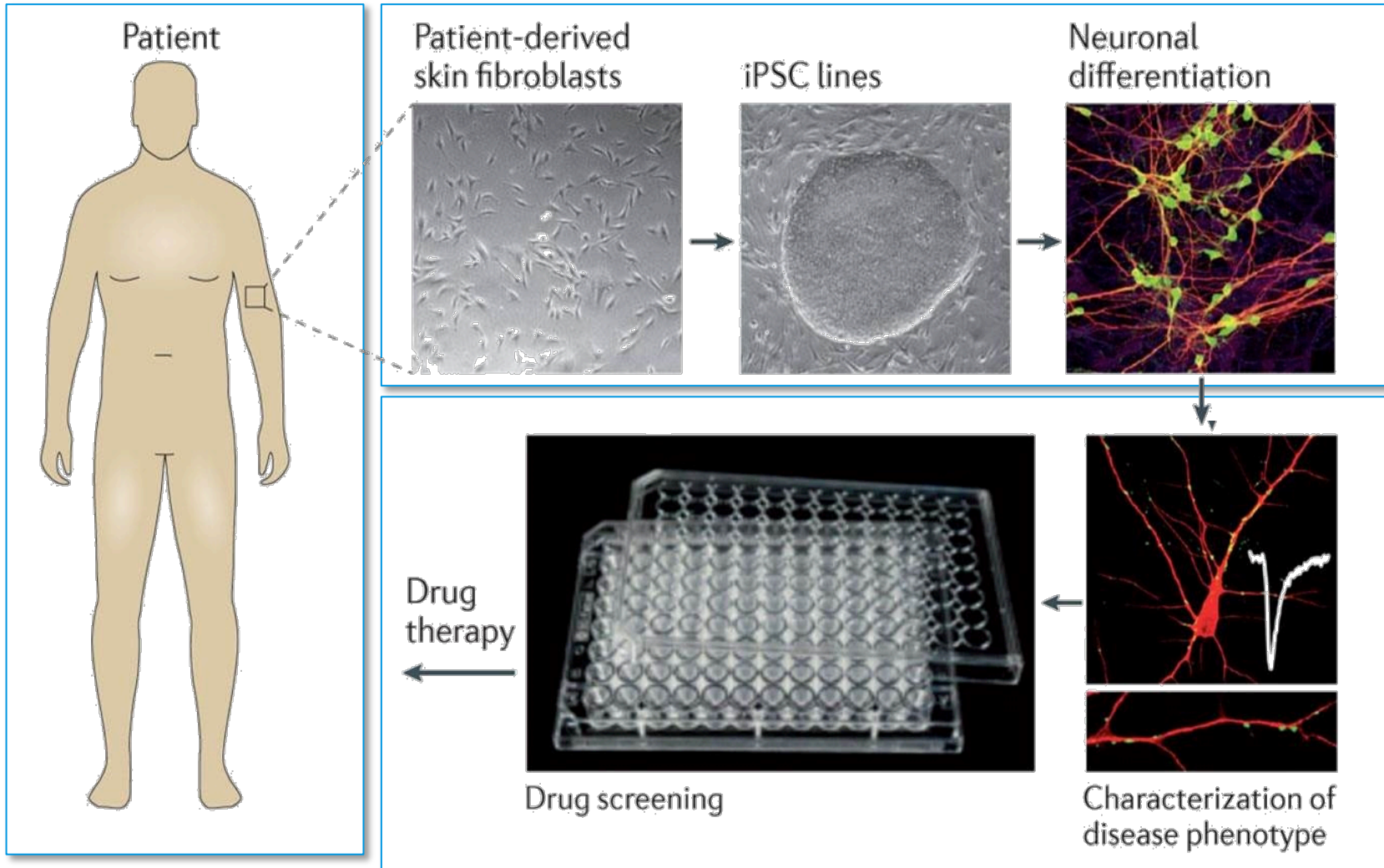
Synapse and Signaling modulators

- Compelling **genetic association** and **target tractability**
- **Disease-relevant phenotypes** in cellular (iPS) and animal models
- Evidence of **circuit dysfunction** for key behavioral domains from human imaging and behavioral studies



Cellular phenotype identification using iPSCs

Modeling neurobehavioral disorders



Large-scale whole genome sequencing in psychiatry

Big science will drive novel discoveries & precision treatment

MSSNG

A PROJECT BY AUTISM SPEAKS 

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

VIDEO

ABOUT MSSNG

Changing the future of autism with open science: "What we know about autism is not enough: MSSNG is the search for the answers"
December 09, 2014



MSSNG is a groundbreaking collaboration between Google and Autism Speaks to create the world's largest genomic database on autism.



Whole genome sequencing of 10,000 autism cases

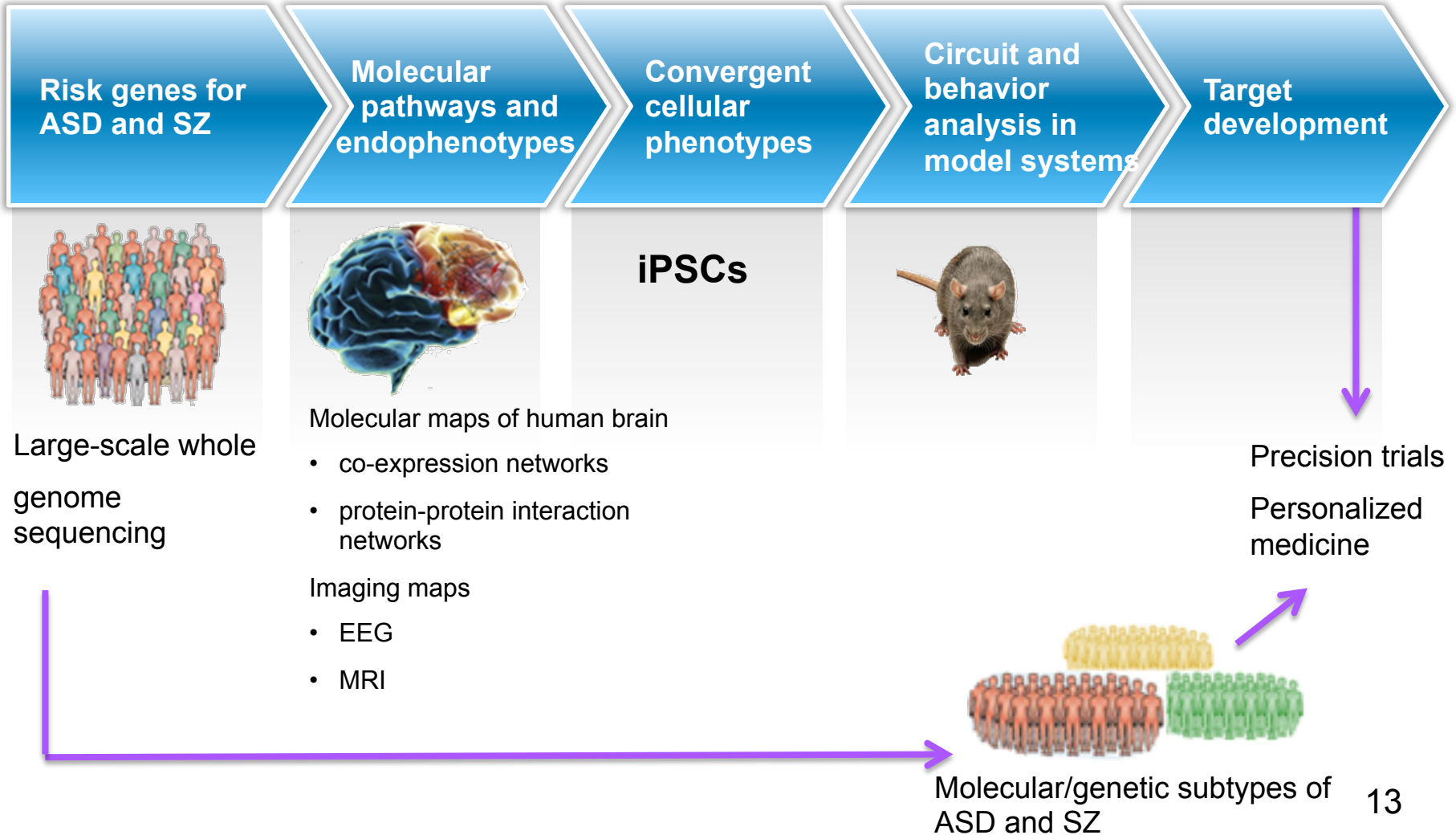
The Genomic Psychiatry Cohort: Partners in Discovery

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Whole genome sequencing of 10,000 schizophrenia and bipolar disorder cases

From genomics to personalized medicine: The way forward for drug discovery for mental illness





Doing now what patients need next

Backup slides

A new era of gene discovery in psychiatric disorders

Risk and causal genes can be reliably identified

Key drivers of gene discovery

- Genome resources
 - Human Genome, HapMap and 1000 genomes project
- Genomic technologies :
 - Microarrays
 - Exome sequencing
 - Whole genome sequencing
- Large scale collaborations
 - Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (PGC)
 - Autism Genome Project (AGP), Simons Simplex Collection (SSC)

From exome to whole genome sequencing

Whole genome sequencing (WGS) will reveal causative mutations in majority of ASD cases

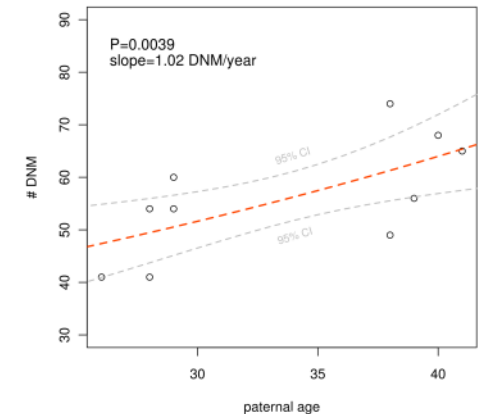
Whole-Genome Sequencing in Autism Identifies Hot Spots for De Novo Gemline Mutation

Cell, 2012

Whole-genome sequencing of quartet families with autism spectrum disorder

Nature Medicine, 2015

- Increase in diagnostic yield by WGS
 - 70% of WGS cases have a clinically relevant rare penetrant mutation
- Paternal age effect: denovo mutations increase with increasing father's age
 - partially explains increased risk of ASD in older fathers



Autism: Rare de novo mutations contribute significant genetic risk for ASD

Evidence from exome sequencing and CNV studies

Neuron :June, 2011

Rare De Novo and Transmitted Copy-Number Variation in Autistic Spectrum Disorders

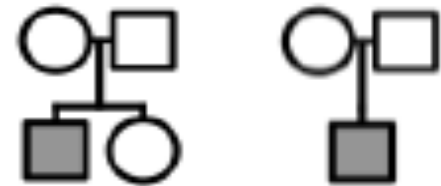
Nature: Oct 29,2014

The contribution of *de novo* coding mutations to autism spectrum disorder

Nature: Oct 29,2014

Synaptic, transcriptional and chromatin genes disrupted in autism

A list of authors and their affiliations appears at the end of the paper



2517 families
families

2270

- denovoCNVs and coding point mutations contribute 30% of ASD risk.
- 30 novel causal ASD genes identified
 - with recurrent(>2) loss of function de novo mutations in the same gene
- New causal genes implicate novel biological pathways such as chromatin modifier genes in ASD risk

Schizophrenia: genes implicated by rare variants

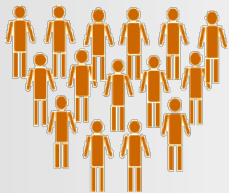
Whole exome sequencing studies

Nature: Feb13, 2014

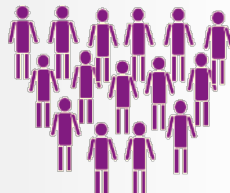
A polygenic burden of rare disruptive mutations in schizophrenia

Nature: Feb13, 2014

***De novo* mutations in schizophrenia implicate synaptic networks**



2500 SZ



2500 controls

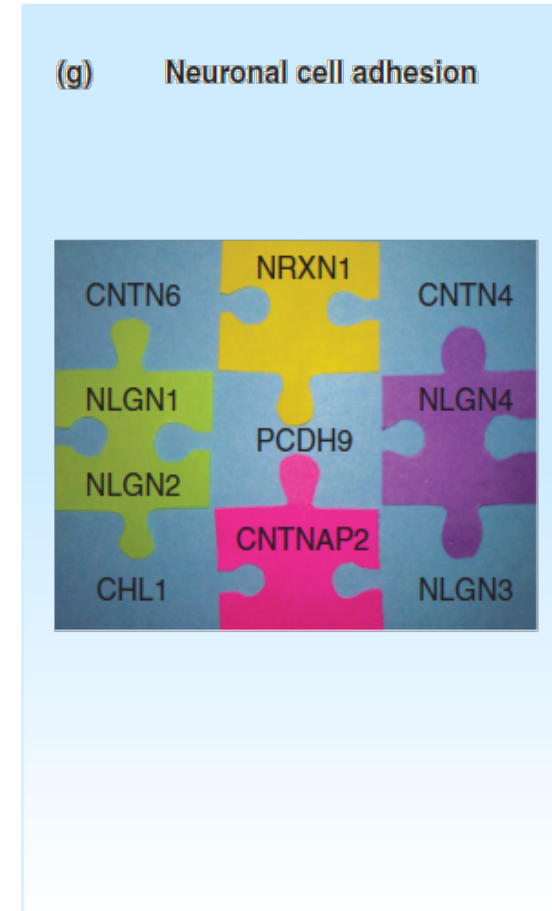
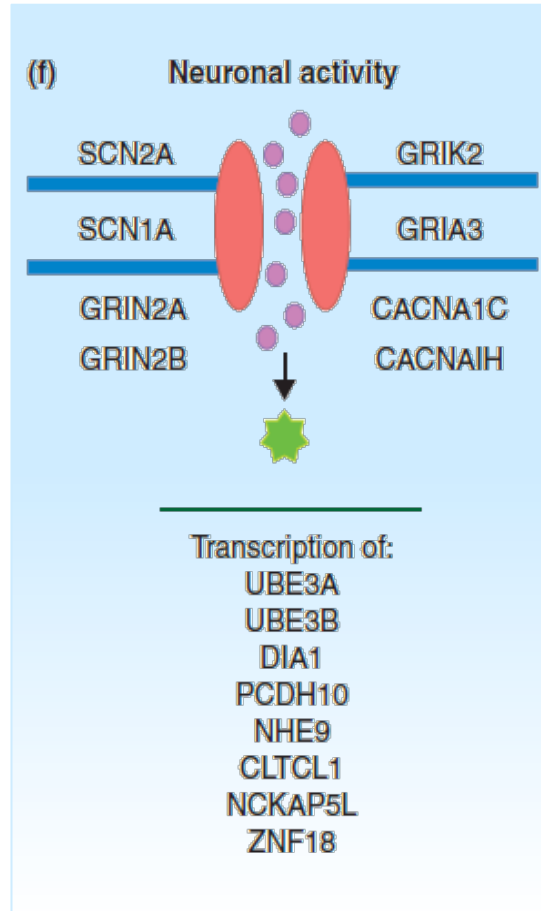
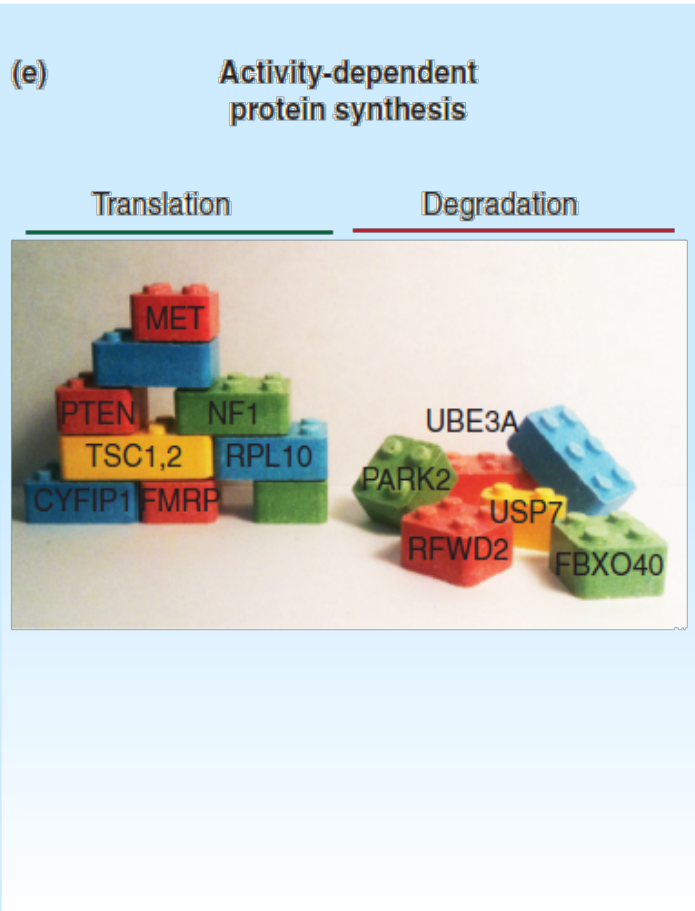


623 families

Voltage-gated calcium channels
Gene set: post synaptic density-95
Gene set: ARC complex
Gene set: NMDAR complex

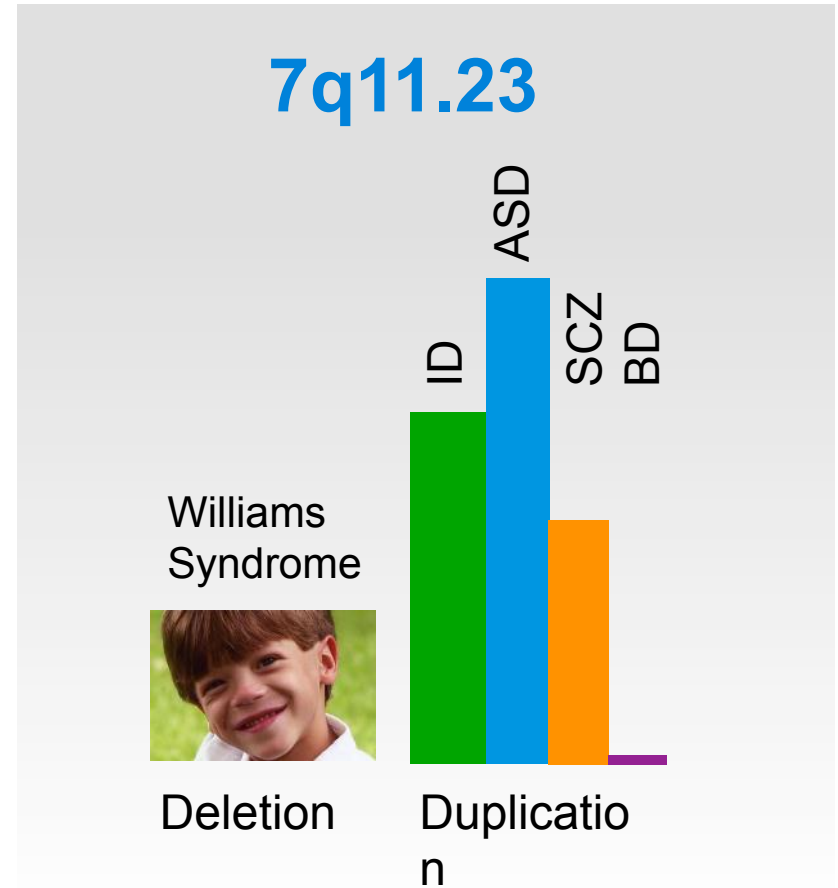
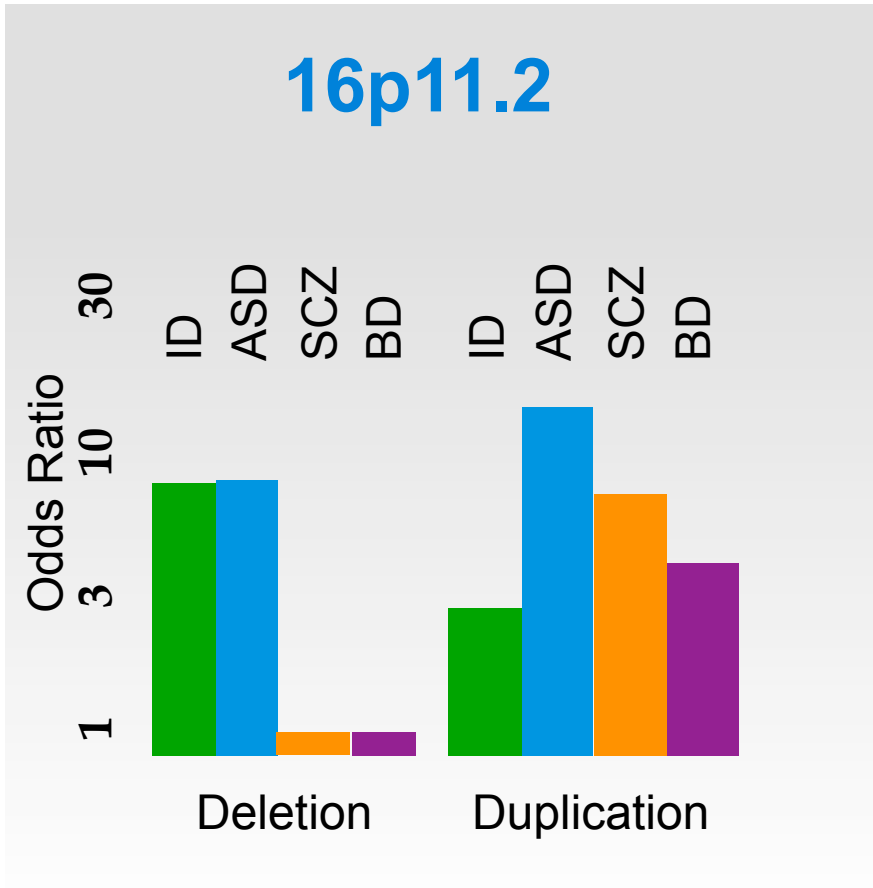
Notably, both common and rare variants implicate convergent gene sets

ASD risk genes cluster into specific cellular and molecular processes



Emerging themes from psychiatric genetic studies

Reciprocal mutations associated with psychiatric traits

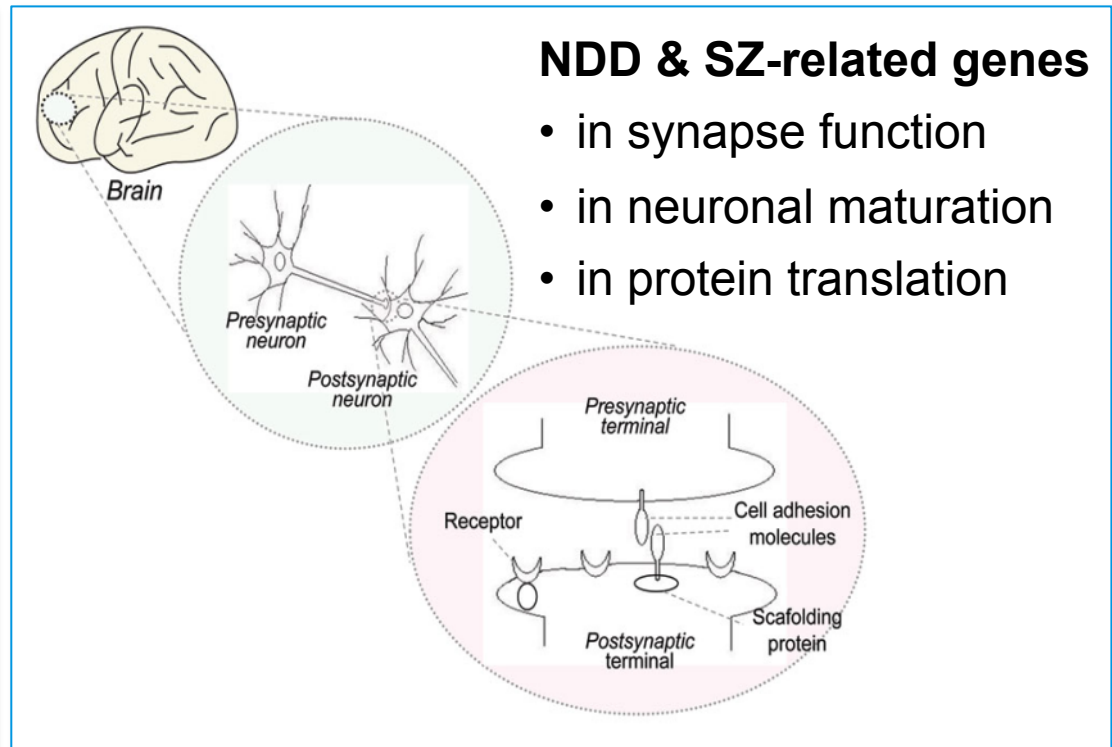
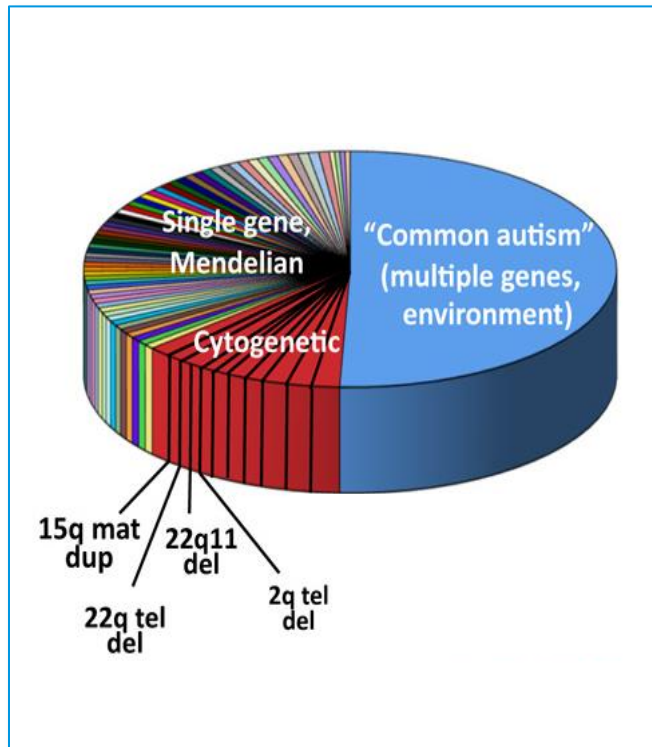


Malhotra et al, Cell 2012

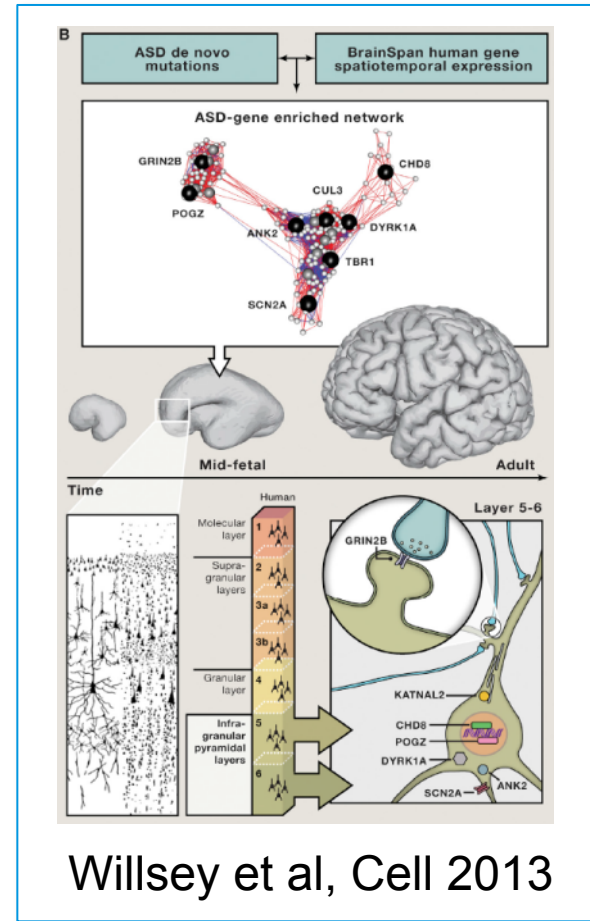
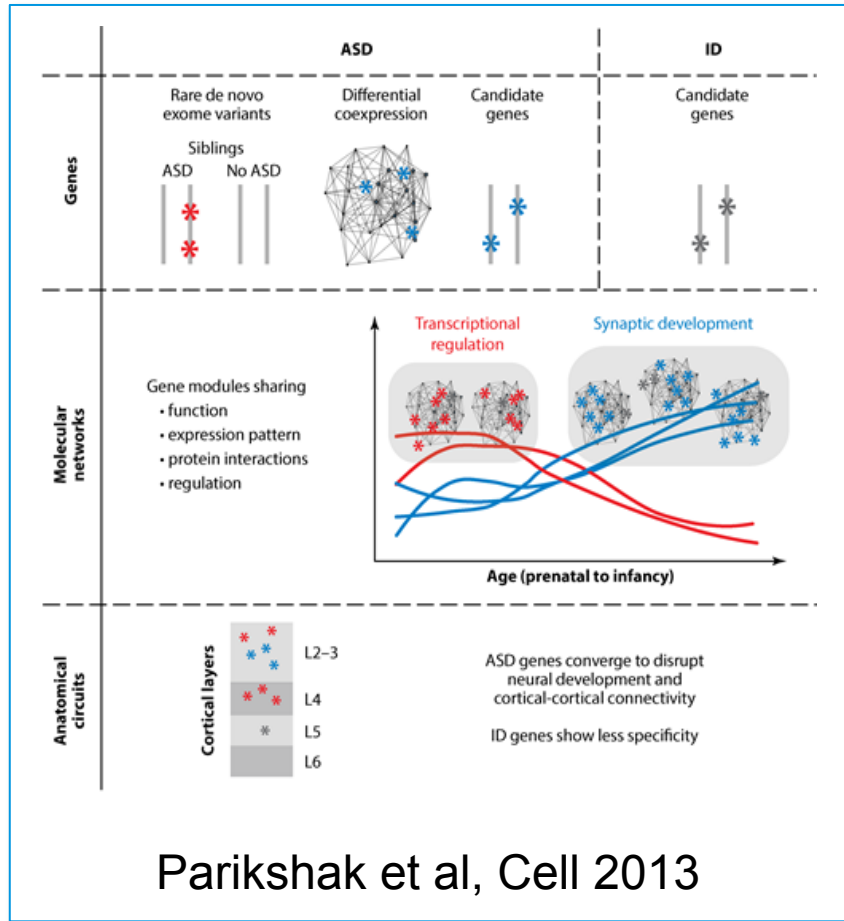
Synapses are convergence pathways for risk genes

Relationship of susceptibility genes to synaptic dysfunction

Neuronal synapses harbor many tractable targets including GPCRs and ion channels



Developmental timing and cellular specificity of the molecular pathways disrupted by ASD risk genes



Integrative genomics implicate mid-fetal cortical glutamatergic neurons