

Principal Investigator

Dr Stacey Cherny

Address

University of Hong Kong, Centre for Genomic Sciences, 6/F, HKJCIBR, 5
Sassoon Road, Southern District, Pokfulam, Hong Kong

Lead Collaborators: Professor Meike Bartels

Collaborating Institutions and Addresses: VU University Amsterdam, Biological
Psychology, Van der Boerhorststraat 1, Amsterdam, 1081 BT. Netherlands

Summary of research:

Impulsive aggression, GWAS, Gene-Environment Interaction

Application Lay Summary:

1a: Impulsive aggressive behaviour is present in a proportion of patients with wide a range of psychiatric disorders including depression, schizophrenia, conduct and antisocial personality disorder, resulting in an increased risk of violence, self-harm and other serious physical and psychological consequences. Despite its high heritability, individual genetic factors as well as their interaction with environmental components are poorly understood. Thus we aim to identify genetic risk factors and gene-environment interactions contributing to impulsive aggression.

1b: Our aim is to identifying multifaceted genetic and environmental features of impulsive aggressive behaviour. Understanding these factors will benefit patients and mental healthcare providers alike by identifying high-risk individuals and inform treatment options to reduce the negative impact of such behaviour for patients, family, friends, health care workers and society.

1c: We will first identify and investigate environmental components associated with impulsive aggression. Following this we will look for potential genetic factors as well as gene-environment interactions associated with impulsive aggressive behaviour. At last we will validate our findings on an independent dataset.

1d: We will include all genotyped individuals who completed questions related to their mental health, psychosocial status and cognitive functions.