

Barbara Franke, PhD, biography:

Barbara Franke is a Professor of Molecular Psychiatry at the Radboud University in Nijmegen, The Netherlands, based at the departments of Human Genetics and Psychiatry of the Radboud University Medical Center. She is also Principal Investigator at the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour in Nijmegen. At Radboudumc, she is the Chief of the Division of Genome Research and Leader of the Radboud Research Theme Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

Educated as a molecular biologist in Giessen (Germany) and Utrecht (The Netherlands), she obtained her PhD in signal transduction in Utrecht before joining Radboud University, where she trained as a geneticist. She dedicates the work of her research group to understanding the genetic contribution to (neurodevelopmental) psychiatric disorders, especially attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorders, and schizophrenia. In addition to gene-identification approaches involving common and rare genetic variation, she uses a battery of complementary interdisciplinary approaches to map the biological pathways leading from gene to disease. These include bioinformatics, cell and small animal models, as well as neuroimaging (genetics) approaches, which provide information at different levels of organismal organization.

She is the founder and coordinator of the International Multicentre persistent ADHD Collaboration (IMpACT) and the ECNP Network 'ADHD across the Lifespan'. She also is a cofounder and member of the central support group of the ENIGMA Consortium on neuroimaging (genetics), and senior lead for the ENIGMA ADHD Working Group. In addition, she leads two EU-funded international consortia on ADHD and related phenotypes, Aggressotype on aggressive behaviour (www.aggressotype.eu) and MiND on ADHD and autism (www.mind-project.eu), and leads work packages in 4 additional EU-funded consortia. Barbara Franke is an author of over 350 peer-reviewed scientific publications. For more information, please see <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4375-6572>.