



**International Society of Psychiatric Genetics (ISPG)** was established in 1992 to support the collaboration of physicians, researchers, geneticists, social workers, genetic counselors, students, or any professionals interested in the field of psychiatric genetics. The World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics (WCPG) was formed in 1989 as a result of a few successful workshops on schizophrenia and psychiatric genetics during the Biological Psychiatry Group. In 1993, ISPG sponsored the 3<sup>rd</sup> WCPG in New Orleans, Louisiana and together expanded the discipline of psychiatric genetics to encompass all researchers whose work in neuroscience, neurobiology and genetics has future implications for developing new treatments for people with major mental illness.

This year we are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of ISPG and WCPG, and the members who have dedicated their time and resources to promote education in psychiatric genetics. Please join us at the 2017 WCPG to celebrate this milestone and continue to work together to advance our mission.

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## *Congratulatory Notes from Past Lifetime Award Winners*

*It is with robust and enthusiastic congratulations I greet the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Society of Psychiatric Genetics (ISPG) and the World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics (WCPG). As a member and former president (2005-2010) of this respected organization, I can declare without exaggeration that the ISPG has truly become a catalyst for facilitating research in the genetics of psychiatric disorders; promoting education in psychiatric genetics; guiding early career researchers interested in the field of psychiatric genetics, & encouraging communication and collaboration between researchers in this area. All this has been done within the paradigm of the biomedical model and a clear mission to identify psychiatric disorders, and intervene early -with the most salient goal being prevention of their manifestation.*

### *Where you see the field of psychiatric genetics headed in the next 25 years?*

*Should we canvass recent discoveries it appears that psychiatric genetic research has an exciting future as our technology, knowledge, and methods advance. Identifying molecular pathophysiology of major psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia and affective disorders will also be an important future direction.*

*The search for biomarkers which predict the disorder before its manifestation is a worthy and important direction to follow.*

*As we have recently learned, the strongest genetic association at a population level involves genes which have an immune function. Dysregulation of immune system functions has been a feature of recent work on schizophrenia etiology. By comparing the RNA from immune cells among clinical high risk patients vs. controls, RNA may be used as a biomarker assay for psychosis risk in the future while immunotherapy may become a viable approach for clinical treatment.*

*Disciplines recently thought to be nowhere near the ambit of neuropsychiatry research-such as the microbiome- are now being interrogated while other disciplines such neuroimaging and psychosocial research continue to make great strides in identifying, intervening, and preventing these disorders. I have no doubt that members of the ISPG will be at the forefront of these efforts.*

*Thank you and congratulations again.*

*Best Wishes,*

**Ming T. Tsuang, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc.**

*Behavioral Genomics Endowed Chair and  
University Professor, University of California;  
Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and  
Director, Center for Behavioral Genomics,  
Department of Psychiatry,  
University of California, San Diego*

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*It's been a very exciting 25 years, from hopes and dreams to actual results. A lot of hard work and creativity went it to moving this field forward. I think the next 25 years will belong to the integration of phenomics with genomics, for better understanding, diagnostics, and treatments- drugs and genetic engineering*

**Bob Niculescu, III, MD, PhD**

*Professor of Psychiatry and Medical Neuroscience  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
Director, Laboratory of Neurophenomics and INBRAIN*

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*Dear Fellow Geneticists,*

*As an ISPG member who attended one of the early World Congresses (Cardiff, 1995), I am happy to congratulate the Society to its 25<sup>th</sup> Congress Anniversary. I always enjoy attending the congresses and the society's annual meetings, which I value because I find a crowd of nice people who share my specific research interests. This year, however, I will spend the month of October in Taipei to work with a former student of mine.*

*I am honored and grateful to have received the society's Ming Tsuang Lifetime Achievement Award at the World Congress in Osaka, Japan, in 2008. I had the pleasure to work with Ming Tsuang for several years, and I am very fond of his paper <sup>1</sup> that compares genetic and non-genetic risk factors for schizophrenia, with the latter being at least as strong, if not stronger than the former.*

*I wish everybody a great meeting and hope to see you all again soon!*

**Jurg Ott**

*Professor Emeritus and Head  
Laboratory of Statistical Genetics  
Rockefeller University, New York*

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*In the last 25 years, we have seen fundamental progress unraveling the genetic architecture of mental illness. By providing a space to disseminate findings and debate ideas, ISPG has been at the heart of these*

*advances. However, our goal to use genetics to improve the lives of those with psychiatric disorders is still largely unmet. I am confident that ISPG will facilitate our fields progress meeting this goal over the next 25 years.*

**David Glahn, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology*

*Co-Director, Neurocognition, Neurocomputation and Neurogenetics (n3) Division*

*Yale University School of Medicine*

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*Dear ISPG,*

*Happy Birthday! ISPG and WCPG are the center of my professional universe. This is where I meet most of my collaborators, this is where I draw most of my energy from. As many things ISPG is made out of people and I must say this is a very special collection of people. Extremely collaborative, highly intelligent, super innovative and a lot of fun to be with.*

*ISPG and WCPG are my home.*

*Can't wait for the next 25 years!*

**Stephan Ripke, M.D., Ph.D.**

*Analytic and Translational Genetics Unit*

*MGH Simches Research Center*

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*Congratulations to ISPG on its 25th Anniversary! So many of the recent successes in psychiatric genetics have been built on the foundations laid by ISPG and its members over many years. Here's to the next 25, during we will hopefully see this work starting to benefit our patients!*

**Mike Owen**

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