

Dr Jessica Baker, PhD
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Dr Jessica Baker is a Clinical Psychologist, Associate Professor, and Associate Research Director in the Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina (UNC) Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders, Chapel Hill.

Dr Baker graduated with a BS in Psychology from Michigan State University before completing a MA and a PhD in Clinical Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia. She completed her clinical internship at Minneapolis Veteran's Hospital, Minnesota.

Dr Baker is a prolific researcher who has produced many research papers focusing on eating disorders and behavioral genetics, specifically the biological and genetic vulnerability for eating disorders and how these factors may change across the lifespan and between the sexes.



Her current work focuses on defining biological and genetic markers of eating disorder risk and recovery, and how these markers may interact with psychological factors, such as anxiety, in order to help improve and individualize treatment programs. Her research has also focused on the comorbidity between eating disorders and substance use disorders, exploring the genetic overlap between the two.

Dr Baker is an advocate for the Eating Disorders Genetics Initiative (EDGI) – the world's largest genetic research study of eating disorders ever performed, that aims to identify the hundreds of genes that influence a person's risk of developing anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge-eating disorder, to improve treatment, and ultimately, save lives.

"Gaining essential knowledge of the genes that predispose people to eating disorders has the potential to accelerate further essential research into their causes, treatment and prevention," said Dr Baker.

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