

Dr Laura Huckins, PhD

Assistant Professor, Division of Psychiatric Genomics, Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai, NEW YORK

Dr Laura Huckins is an Assistant Professor at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, where she works at the Pamela Sklar Division of Psychiatric Genomics.

In October 2011, Dr Huckins received her MEng (First Class) in Biomedical Engineering from the Imperial College, London. She then continued her studies at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, completing her PhD in Statistical and Psychiatric Genetics in January 2016.

Dr Huckins' research has been published extensively, and primarily focuses on behavioral health, bioinformatics, developmental neurobiology, epigenetics and epigenomics, gene expression and regulation, neurobiology, and psychiatric disorders, including eating disorders, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), and depression.



She is passionate about under-studied and vulnerable populations, with an emphasis anorexia nervosa and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following interpersonal violence and sexual assault. She specializes in multi-omic approaches to understanding psychiatric disorders.

At the XXVth World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics (WCPG) Meeting in Florida during October 2017, Dr Huckins was awarded the Early Career Investigator Prize – Travel Award Winner, for her research 'Transcriptomic Imputation Analysis in Anorexia Nervosa Identifies Both Metabolic and Psychiatric Aetiologies'.

She is committed to the cause of gender equality, particularly the issue of women in science. Dr Huckins has participated in various programs to further gender equality, at the Sanger Institute and at Cambridge University, as well as helping to promote science to children, predominantly to girls aged between four and 12 years.

Dr Huckins is a strong 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.

"Identifying the genes that predispose people to developing eating disorders will revolutionize future research into treatment and prevention of these potentially devastating illnesses," said Dr Huckins.

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