



Genetics of Anorexia Nervosa

Principal Investigator: Professor Janet Treasure

INTRODUCTION

Anorexia Nervosa (AN) is a chronic and often fatal disorder that affects approximately 0.3% of women. Since previous studies have demonstrated a substantial heritability for AN, a pilot study was carried out to examine the genetic underpinnings of the disorder. Whilst this provided evidence of four suggestive linkages from a genome-wide scan, the sample was limited.

AIMS

The current study will seek to detect and localise the genes that increase the susceptibility to AN. This data will form an international archival database for AN, allowing qualified investigators access to a large, well characterised sample for genetic studies.

METHOD

Over 400 participants with AN are to be recruited, each having at least one first, second or third degree relative with the disorder. Multiple sites across Europe and North America will be involved. Within the UK, these include Birmingham, Leeds, London, Newcastle and St Annes. The MHRN is currently working to open recruitment within each of the eight MHRN Research Hubs. Links have also been established with the Eating Disorder Association.

For more information, please contact:
Frankie Bishopp — 07914 777 848 or f.bishopp@iop.kcl.ac.uk

