SELF FUNDED PHD OPPORTUNITY

Atopic diseases in bipolar disorder

There is evidence of association between atopic diseases and bipolar disorder (Wei et al., 2016) and increasing interest in the role of immunological mechanisms in bipolar disorder (Fries, Walss-Bass, Bauer, & Teixeira, 2019). Working with the Bipolar Disorder Research Network (BDRN.org) you will have access to data on the presence/absence of a number of atopic diseases (including asthma, hayfever and other allergies) in a very large UK-wide sample of individuals who have bipolar disorder. We also have detailed psychiatric, psychological, demographic and biological (genetic) data on the sample, and some environmental and social data. You can develop a research project to examine the association between atopy and bipolar disorder in more detail from a number of possible angles depending on your interests and background. For example, you may be interested in the relationship between the presence of atopy and clinical outcomes or quality of life in bipolar disorder, or the correlation between co-morbid atopy and genetic variants.

Supervisory team:

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References:

Fries, G. R., Walss-Bass, C., Bauer, M. E., & Teixeira, A. L. (2019). Revisiting inflammation in bipolar disorder. *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior*, *177*, 12–19. http://doi.org/10.1016/J.PBB.2018.12.006

Wei, H.-T., Lan, W.-H., Hsu, J.-W., Huang, K.-L., Su, T.-P., Li, C.-T., … Chen, M.-H. (2016). Risk of developing major depression and bipolar disorder among adolescents with atopic diseases: A nationwide longitudinal study in Taiwan. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, *203*, 221–226. http://doi.org/10.1016/J.JAD.2016.06.012