

Nobel Conference

The role of genetics in promoting suicide prevention

Organisers: Danuta Wasserman, Professor, Lars Terenius, Professor, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

Nobel Forum, Karolinska Institute
Sponsored by the Nobel Assembly, Karolinska Institute

The role of genetics in promoting suicide prevention and the mental health of the population

June 8-10, 2009
Stockholm, Sweden



Introduction

The specific genes and neurobiological systems involved in suicidality are being explored with increasing intensity.

The conference will bring together many of the prominent scientists who are intensively involved in the genetic studies of the interrelated areas of suicide, depression, alcohol addiction and schizophrenia.

The aim of the conference is to offer a much needed and fruitful opportunity for exchange of the most current scientific experiences and the possibility for the establishment of new collaborations, crucial in the subsequent steps of scientific progress and the highly likely developments of clinical implementations for disease prevention and/or treatment.



Registration free of charge until 30/05/09

(Accommodation arrangements not included)

Program overleaf

**To register contact:
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**Karolinska
Institutet**

Nobel Conference Program: 8-10 June 2009

Monday 8 June 2009

13.00 **Welcome and introduction** Hans Jörnvall Nobel Committee for Physiology and Medicine.
Danuta Wasserman & Lars Terenius Organisers, KI, Sweden.

Prevention of Mental Ill-Health and Suicide, Clinical and Public Health Perspective

13.30 **Public Health Aspects** Christina Hoven, Columbia University, USA.

14.00 **Clinical Aspects** Alan Apter, Sackler School of Medicine, Israel.

The Family Genetics of Suicide

14.30 **Family Studies** David Brent, University of Pittsburgh, USA.

15.00 Coffee break

15.30 **Twin Studies** Nancy Pedersen, KI, Sweden.

The Genetics of Neurosystems in Mental Ill-Health and Suicidality

16.00 **Serotonin System** John Mann, Columbia University, USA.

16.30 **Beyond Serotonin** Dan Rujescu, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Germany.

17.00 **Panel discussion** Vsevolod Rozanov, Odessa National I.I Mechnikov University, Ukraine.

Tuesday 9 June 2009

Influences of Genes in Mental Ill-Health and Suicide

09.30 **Genetics of Affective Disorders and Suicide** Peter McGuffin, King's College London, UK.

10.00 **Genetics of HPA-axis, Depression and Suicidality** Danuta Wasserman, KI, Sweden.

10.30 Coffee break

10.45 **Genes and Alcohol** Lars Terenius, KI, Sweden.

11.15 **Depression, Alcohol and Suicide - Children and Adolescents** Gill Zalsman, Sackler School of Medicine, Israel.

11.45 **Panel Discussion** Julio Licinio, University of Miami Health System, USA.

12.15- 14.00 Lunch

Gene and Drug Interplay in Mental Ill-Health: Treatments and Pharmacogenetics

14.00 **Gene Expression Patterns in Brains of Suicides** G Turecki, McGill University, Canada.

14.30 **Genes and Treatment in Schizophrenia** Daniel Weinberger, NIMH, USA.

15.00 Coffee break

15.30 **Pharmacogenetics - Genomics and Personalized Psychiatry** Hans-Jürgen Möller, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Germany.

16.00 **Panel Discussion** Lil Träskman-Bendz, University of Lund, Sweden.

Wednesday 10 June 2009

Cognition and Mental Ill-Health

09.00 **Genes, Suicide and Decisions** Philippe Courtet, CHU Montpellier, France.

09.30 **Cognitive Functioning and Mental Ill-Health** J Lönnqvist, University of Helsinki, Finland.

10.00 **Panel Discussion** Marco Sarchiapone, University of Molise, Italy.

10.30 Coffee break

Gene-Environment Interplay and Mental Ill-Health

11.00 **The Inter-Relationship between Genetic and Environment Risk Factors for Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders** Kenneth S. Kendler, Virginia Commonwealth Univ., USA.

11.30 **Environment and the Serotonergic System** Lars Oreland, Uppsala University, Sweden.

12.00 **Panel Discussion** Avi Weizman, Sackler School of Medicine, Israel.

12.15- 14.00 Lunch

Methodology in Genetic Studies

14.00 **Uncovering the Genes of Mental Ill-Health** David Goldman, NIAAA/NIH, USA.

14.30 **Biostatistics in Genetic Studies** Christoph Lange, Harvard School of Public Health, USA.

15.00 **Panel Discussion** Alec Roy, New Jersey Medical School, USA.

15.30 Coffee break

16.00 **Future Directions: Closing Comments and Discussion** Danuta Wasserman and Lars Terenius, KI, Sweden.