

John McGrath is a psychiatrist interested in discovering the causes of serious mental disorders. He has affiliations with the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research, the Queensland Brain Institute (University of Queensland), and the National Centre for Register-based Research (Aarhus University) Denmark. His research aims to generate and evaluate nongenetic risk factors for schizophrenia. He has forged productive cross-disciplinary collaborations linking risk factor epidemiology with developmental neurobiology (e.g. using animal models to explore candidate exposures). He has supervised major systematic reviews of the incidence, prevalence and mortality of schizophrenia. He has led register-based studies detailing patterns of comorbidity related to mental disorders. He was awarded a John Cade Fellowship by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council, and a Niels Bohr Professorship by the Danish National Research Foundation. He has been awarded the Erik Stromgren Medal and the Lieber Prize for Outstanding Schizophrenia Research.



Measuring the impact of mental disorders – what have we learnt from the Global Burden of Disease?

Over the last two decades, the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) project has revolutionized how we measure the impact of disease and injury. By combining measures of premature mortality and years lived with disability into the Disability-adjusted Life Year (DALY), we have been able to compare different types of disorders on the same 'ruler'. For example, we can compare the disease burden associated with disorders that contribute to disability only, versus those disorders associated with both disability and premature mortality. This research has highlighted the substantial contribution of common mental disorders on the global burden of disease. The methods used by the Global Burden of Disease can be hard to follow and many ad hoc decisions have to be made in order to generate the global estimates of disease burden. This presentation will outline recent register-based research designed to apply GBD-related measures to treated mental disorders in Denmark. There is a short introductory video available in Danish <https://nbepi.com/DPS>. Interactive data visualization tools related to our Danish research can be found on this website <https://www.nbepi.com/>.