

South-East Asian diversity in psychiatric genetics and genomics research: towards larger-scale sampling for patients and controls with mental disorders of Vietnamese Ethnicity by establishing a partnership between the PGC and Stanley Center Asia Initiatives in cooperation with Charité, Germany, National Institute of Mental Health Vietnam, Hanoi Medical University, and the Vietnamese Psychiatric Association.

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Introduction:

Today there is still a disparity regarding the worldwide diversity of genetic data, not just for patients with psychotic disorders but also bipolar and major depressive disorders, as well as most other common mental disorders. On the one hand, samples from Vietnam, with Vietnamese Kinh being one of the major South-East-Asian ethnic groups with a population of nearly 100 million persons, have so far not been included in larger numbers in global gene discovery by global endeavors like the Psychiatric Genomic Consortium. On the other hand, increasing sample diversity for specific psychiatric disorders and across domains will accelerate genetic and genomic understanding, advance global mental health equity, and strengthen scientific partnerships.

Objectives:

The poster/presentation will not just introduce a sustainable network between Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany, and the National Institute of Mental Health Vietnam, as well as the Department of Psychiatry at Hanoi Medical University and the Vietnamese Psychiatric Association, but also a possible future research landscape that includes capacity building in genetic research with Vietnam, at a national level. It will thus discuss pathways to have such a network to increase the number and genetic diversity of cases and controls, including in-depth phenotypic information.

Methods:

The poster will present a mapping of psychiatric hospitals at the provincial level, academic institutions and universities, and key actors in the research and clinical landscape of psychiatry in Vietnam. The feasibility of data collection and rich phenotyping of such a contribution of a larger number of cases and controls from Vietnam as a new partner of the Psychiatric Genomic Consortium and particularly the Stanley Center Asia Initiatives builds on a pilot study that showed both the feasibility and data quality (Nguyen, Braun...Ripke., 2019).

Conclusions:

Since efficient recruitment procedures and now in 2022, a more extensive network of possible larger-scale psychiatric recruitment and training sites across Vietnam has been included in a long-term collaboration between Charité, BIH, Germany (Ripke, Ta, Hahn, Braun, Kraft, Böge, and others) and Hanoi Medical University and NIMH-VN (Nguyen VT, Nguyen VP, H.T. Nguyen, T.C. Le, and others) has been established, the following steps will both include ensuring funding and ongoing scientific and recruitment training of a new partnership with Vietnam, to strengthen cross-ancestry genetics and genomics further, to allow more profound insights into the complex pathogenesis of mental illness and to simultaneously improve polygenic mental illness prediction possibly clinical utilization with ancestrally diverse populations.