

## WEBINARS

# Webinar: Sébastien Jacquemont on gene variants' ties to autism

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Here's how Jacquemont describes what he'll discuss during the session:

*Testing for genetic variants in individuals at risk for autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders is now relatively widespread in clinical practice, and case-control studies have associated many variants with one of these conditions. The mechanisms by which these genes lead to a psychiatric disorder remain unknown, however, and interpreting the meaning of these variants in the clinic is, at best, an approximation.*

*Our research focuses on understanding the nature and effect size of cognitive, behavioral and neural changes underlying the association between genetic variants and psychiatric disorders. As a test case, we study **copy number variants** (duplications and deletions of stretches of DNA) in the chromosomal region **16p11.2**. Our group is also interested in translating mechanisms into treatment, and we have been active in clinical trials evaluating the efficacy of mGluR5 antagonists in **fragile X syndrome**.*