



# WIKINEWS PRINT EDITION

*Lead Stories*

*Continuation:*  
 'Fascinating' and 'provocative' research examines genetic elements of bipolar, schizophrenia

Journalist forbidden to leave Belarus

## **Co 'Fascinating' and 'provocative' research examines genetic elements of bipolar, schizophrenia**

The latest research examined both the healthy and the afflicted, using computers to scan genomes. Inheritance was thought to be a factor from prior knowledge of the diseases as a familial trait, but the original desire had been to isolate a single faulty gene. Instead it has become apparent that the genetic factors are many; in the case of schizophrenia, at most around 30% of the genetic components are thought to have been identified.

The University of Chicago's comprised of multiple illnesses. Pablo Gejman, a lead researcher on the schizophrenia study, explained to Wikinews in a telephone interview from Buenos Aires, Argentina that "One of the goals of genetic research is to find druggable targets" - to "find treatments at the root of the problem".

Whilst noting that there is no guarantee the genetic code identified is druggable, Gejman named calcium-activated neurochemical channels in the brain as candidates for new drugs. The channels were linked to schizophrenia in the study.

Gejman explained that a genetic locus called mir137 "suggests an abnormality of gene regulation." The diseases are so poorly understood that it is uncertain if they are in fact two components of a single spectrum, or even each

The new and "provocative data" gathered showed the significant loci identified were "not part of the pre-existent hypothesis." Calling this "interesting", Gejman added that the team found no evidence that dopamine receptors are involved; current drug treatments target dopamine receptors. The findings are "not related to anything we thought we knew [about schizophrenia]," he told our correspondent.

Quizzed about the possibility variations in the genetic factors involved in expressing the diseases explained the variation seen in symptoms, Gejman was uncertain. "We will have the answer, probably, only when we sequence the whole [human] genome." He notes that the relationship between

genotype and phenotype is unclear, and that “We know very little of the genetic architecture of schizophrenia and” other disorders. At the time the results were published, participating scientist Professor Rodney Scott from the University of Newcastle in Australia said “The strength of this research is in the numbers. The findings are robust and give us a lot of statistical power to identify the genetic determinants of schizophrenia.” Scott told Wikinews that “If any single centre tried to undertake such a study, it would require millions of pounds. Since it was a collection of data from across the world the costs were spread. In this era of financial difficulty it will become increasingly difficult to secure funding for this type of project even though the pay-offs will be significant.”

Gejman expressed similar sentiment. “The research budget is not growing, which makes [funding] difficult,” he said, though he felt the cost “is not prohibitive because of the

benefits.” “I think that it was money well invested” and “very well spent for the future,” he said, adding that organisations in Europe and the US were aware of the importance of such research.

Gejman also agreed on reliability – the study is “Very reliable because of the sample size; that should provide robust results... [we] have worked with a much larger sample than before.” Scott told us it was “a highly reliable study” that has the potential to lead to new treatments “in the long run”.

Another point was the two genetic loci identified as common to both – how much support do they lend to the notion the diseases are linked? “Until more information is available it is really only suggestive,” says Scott. “Strong enough to say there may be potentially a common pathway that bifurcates to give rise to two diseases.”

### **Journalist forbidden to leave Belarus**

A Polish-Belarusian journalist accused of defaming Belarusian President Alexander

Lukashenko has been banned from leaving Belarus due to a suspended court sentence given to him earlier this year.

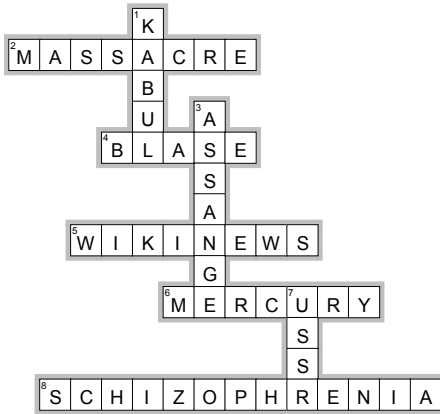
The Polish activist and journalist Andrzej Poczobut was convicted in July for alleged defamation in the Polish Press, and sentenced to three years, suspended.

Informed of the travel ban by the Belarusian Interior Ministry, he said he intends to continue reporting from within Belarus.

Police told the Gazeta Wyborcza journalist to report to police three times each month and not to travel, after inspecting and registering him. After three violations of the conditions, he would be jailed.

He had recently travelled to and from Warsaw just before the order came, because he anticipated some travel restrictions.

**Puzz o t da  
A**



EclipseCrossword.com

**Across**

- 2. **MASSACRE**—killing of multiple people
- 4. **BLASE**—cannot care less
- 5. **WIKINEWS**—A free content news source
- 6. **MERCURY**—Closest planet to the sun
- 8. **SCHIZOPHRENIA**—A mental disorder characterized by a disintegration of thought processes and of emotional responsiveness.

**Down**

- 1. **KABUL**—Capital of Afghanistan
- 3. **ASSANGE**—Last name of Wikileaks' founder
- 7. **USSR**—A communist state that broke up in 1991

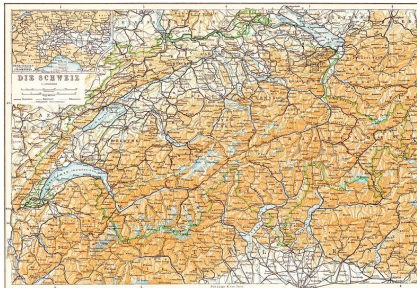
**Quote of the day**

The theater needs continual reminders that there is nothing more debasing than the work of those who do well what is not worth doing at all.  
~ Gore Vidal ~

**Word of the day**

unitive *adj*  
Causing or characterized by unity or union

**C t Day Pi o**



Map of Switzerland, published in a 1913 Baedeker travel guide  
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