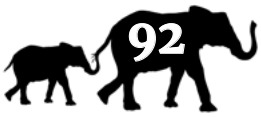

092: 22q11.2 deletion as a window into understanding the genomics of psychiatric illness

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The 22q11.2 deletion conveys the greatest known molecular genetic risk for schizophrenia. The combined effects of the reduced dosage of the multiple genes in the 22q11.2 deletion region must play a role. These genes have not been implicated in genetic studies of schizophrenia in the general population. Nonetheless, there is substantial evidence that the polygenic nature of causation of schizophrenia and related psychotic illnesses is highly comparable between 22q11.2 deletion syndrome and other forms of schizophrenia without the amplifying effects of this rare pathogenic copy number variation. We will discuss the many points of similarity in genomics, in genetic mechanisms, and in the guidance that genetic results are bringing to our understanding of the pathogenesis of schizophrenia. This will include the latest results on additional genetic factors - common and rare - that contribute to risk, and how these may be used for risk prediction.