Alexandra Havdahl, PhD,
Principal Investigator of the ABC Study

Alexandra Havdahl is the Principal Investigator for the ABC study and the director of the PsychGen Centre for Genetic Epidemiology and Mental Health at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. She is a clinical psychologist and did her PhD in neurodevelopmental conditions at the University of Oslo and Cornell University and postdoctoral training in genetic epidemiology at the University of Bristol. She is also Principal Investigator of a range of projects aiming to understand the factors influencing neurodevelopment and mental health from prenatal life through the lifespan.

Camilla Stoltenberg, PhD,
CEO NORCE

Dr. Camilla Stoltenberg (born 1958) is CEO of NORCE, an independent research institute that conducts research for both public and private sectors, to facilitate informed and sustainable choices for the future. She is the former Director-General of the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. She is a medical doctor and epidemiologist, and an adjunct professor at the University of Bergen. Stoltenberg has had and currently holds several positions in national and international boards and networks, mainly on research and public health. More specifically she has focused on developing research infrastructures such as biobanks, population cohorts, and health registries. Main topics in her research have been

autism, ADHD, and other neurodevelopmental conditions. In 2017-2019 she chaired a governmental commission on the gender gap in education. Stoltenberg has had a key national role in the Norwegian response to the Covid-19 pandemic since early 2020. She has been particularly engaged in mobilizing and using research as an essential tool in crisis management, and in developing the communication about science, uncertainties, and disagreements during a pandemic.

Annette Drangsholt,
Leader of Autismeforeningen

Catherine Lord, Professor,
University of California Los Angeles

Dr. Catherine Lord is the George Tarjan Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She is a practicing clinical psychologist whose primary focus is autism and related disorders across the lifespan from toddlers through adulthood. Her research and clinical work are aimed at improving methods of identifying strengths and difficulties in individuals with possible ASD and working with families and individuals to maximize independence and well-being for all

concerned. This has involved the development of diagnostic instruments (the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule - ADOS, the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised – ADI-R, and the Social Communication Questionnaire-SCQ) that describe individual profiles of skills and weaknesses and carrying out longitudinal studies from age 15 months up to 30 years with the goal of identifying protective and risk factors that influence milestones of progress over the years. A current priority is to develop better ways of measuring changes in social behavior and communication over short periods of time that can be used to monitor progress without bias. Another priority has been to participate in large scale studies where researchers share data about both behavior and neurobiology; this has included the Simons Simplex Collection (a genetics consortium led by geneticists and researchers through the Simons Foundation), ABIDE (an imaging open science group originated out of NYU), and the Healthy Brain Network through the Child Mind Institute as well as numerous clinical trials of different interventions. She is also very interested in graduate training for psychologists and other clinical researchers in ASD and related fields. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and a fellow of the American Association of Arts and Sciences, as well as a former chair of a National Academy of Sciences committee on the effectiveness of early intervention in ASD, a co-chair of the New York Board of Health committee on ASD and a member of the DSM 5 American Psychiatry Association's neurodevelopmental disorders committee. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for Autism Research. She has over 300 referred journal publications and has been funded by NIH, Autism Speaks, and the Simons Foundation for numerous research grants.

Vanessa Bal, PhD,
Rutgers University

Dr. Vanessa H. Bal is an Associate Professor and Karmazin and Lillard Chair in Adult Autism at the Graduate School of Applied & Professional Psychology at Rutgers University. She is a licensed clinical psychologist and director of the Psychological Services Clinic at the Rutgers Center for Adult Autism Services. She leads a research lab, called the Lifespan Symptom Profiles, Achievements & Needs (LifeSPAN) in Autism Lab. Her lab focuses on advancing understanding of autism in adulthood and is committed to characterizing strengths and profiles of individuals across the autism spectrum, including those who are minimally verbal, nonspeaking or have identified genetic conditions. Current projects include developing approaches to improve autism diagnosis across the lifespan and adapting interventions and other types of supports to address adult mental health concerns and foster well-being. Outside of her research, she hopes to promote equitable access to services through provision of graduate and professional education and training about autism in adulthood.

Laurie Hannigan, PhD,
Lovisenberg Hospital and NIPH

I am a senior researcher co-leading the Psychiatric Genetic Epidemiology (PaGE) group at Nic Waals Institute, and a researcher in the Centre for Genetic Epidemiology and Mental Health at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. I am interested in using genetic and genomic data to investigate the development and epidemiology of common health problems. In addition to empirical work, I have a strong focus on reproducibility and transparency. Within our research group, I am leading several infrastructural projects to improve the robustness and reproducibility of the handling of both phenotypic and genetic data for team members and collaborators.

Morgan James Morgan, MSc,
Birkbeck, University of London

My PhD project involves carrying out studies of infants to identify causal associations between early temperamental traits and early sensory sensitivity and later outcomes. It will use the results of these studies to investigate trajectories of children from infancy to adolescence with the aim of gaining a greater understanding of the heterogeneity of autism presentation.

This aim is to be able to identify those autistic individuals most at risk of adverse outcomes and what factors help or hinder those individuals. This research is needed to provide a greater understanding of

the considerable variation seen within the autism spectrum and to help detect those individuals with the greatest need for early intervention.

Beate St Pourcain, PhD,
Max Plank Institute for Psycholinguistics

Beate St Pourcain leads the Population Genetics of Human Communication research group, Language and Genetics Department. She is an Affiliated Principal Investigator at the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour and co-chair of the cognitive working group of the EAGLE consortium. Beate is also an honorary lecturer at Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol, UK.

Hilary Martin, PhD,
Wellcome Sanger Institute

In 2011, after my undergraduate studies in genetics at the University of Queensland, I started my PhD with Peter Donnelly at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics in Oxford. There, I worked on an eclectic set of projects. As part of the WGS500 project (clinical whole-genome sequencing of various disorders), I analysed data from families with severe neurological diseases, and also evaluated different approaches for pinpointing causal mutations. I also conducted a meta-analysis of multiple cohorts in order to address the effect of maternal age on recombination rates, which had previously been controversial. Finally, I worked on population sequencing study of the platypus to investigate the population structure and history of this unique species, as well as its ten sex chromosomes.

I moved to the Sanger Institute in 2016 as a postdoc with Jeff Barrett. My major focus was on exploring genetic architecture in the Deciphering Developmental Disorders (DDD) study, a large cohort of exome-sequenced individuals with rare developmental disorders. Specifically, I looked at the role of rare recessive variants and polygenic risk. I became a Group Leader in Human Genetics in September 2018. My group analyses large-scale genetic and electronic health record data to explore

fine-scale population structure, its impact on disease risk, and the genetic architecture of both rare and complex diseases. We have a particular focus on populations with high levels of parental relatedness (consanguinity).

W. Ian Lipkin, Professor,
Columbia University

Dr. Lipkin has over 30 years of experience in diagnostics, microbial discovery and outbreak response. He has mentored and trained over 30 students and post-doctoral fellows and leads a workforce of over 65 principal investigators, post-doctoral fellows and research and support staff with expertise in sample and database management, bioinformatics, neurology_biostatistics, diagnostics, molecular biology, experimental pathology, serology, culture, animal models, and staged strategies for efficient pathogen discovery and proof of causation.

In the 1980s, Dr. Lipkin identified AIDS-associated immunological abnormalities and inflammatory neuropathy, which he showed could be treated with plasmapheresis, and demonstrated that early life exposure to viral infections affects neurotransmitter function. Dr. Lipkin was the first to use purely molecular methods to identify infectious agents. In 1999, he identified West Nile virus as the cause of encephalitis in North America. He developed MassTag PCR and Greenechip technology, two multiplex assays that have been used to identify and characterize more than 400 viruses, and was the first to use high throughput sequencing for pathogen discovery. In 2003, Dr. Lipkin established the Norwegian Autism Birth Cohort (ABC), the largest prospective birth cohort devoted to investigating gene-environment-timing interactions and biomarker discovery.

Dr. Lipkin serves as co-chair of the Steering Committee of the National neurology_biosurveillance Advisory Subcommittee and as Director of the Northeast Biodefense Center and the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center on Diagnostics, Surveillance and Immunotherapeutics for Emerging Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases, the only academic WHO Center focused on diagnostics and discovery. He has ongoing collaborations and projects with the Centers for Disease Control, National Institutes of Health, USAID PREDICT, US Department of Agriculture, US Food and Drug Administration, Agilent Technologies, Pfizer, Roche 454 Life Sciences, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Google.org, Institut Pasteur, and OneHealth Alliance.

His honors include the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression Young Investigator Award, Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences, Distinguished Lecturer of the Nation Center for Infectious Diseases, Honorary and Founding Director of the Beijing Center for Infectious Diseases, Fellow of the American Society for Microbiology, Fellow of the Wildlife Conservation Society, Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Member of the Association of

American Physicians. He has been featured by the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, Discover Magazine, Nature Medicine, the History Channel, National Geographic, National Public Radio, Wired, the Huffington Post, This Week in Virology, WNYC, and Steven Soderbergh's upcoming film Contagion.