Genetics and Pharmacogenetics in Human Complex Disorders (Examples of Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder)

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Human complex disorders, such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndromes and neuropsychiatric disorders (e.g., schizophrenia and bipolar disorder), and treatment responses are the most debilitating clinical manifestation with high degrees of genetic and clinical heterogeneity. Given their debilitative nature, morbidity, and economic burden, these diseases represent a major public health problem and an important topic in health research. With advanced molecular genetics technology, several genetic variants associated with these disorders and drug responsiveness have been suggested. This lecture will help you understand how scientists detect human inherited diseases, identify individuals at risk for these complex diseases, provide genetic markers, and determine poor responders and good responders for specific drug treatment using advanced molecular genetics technology. It is very important to translate molecular genetics/genomics and pharmacogenetic knowledge into the prediction, prevention, and creation of novel treatments for these human complex disorders.

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For more information, please contact the Colloquium Chair, Dr. Chuan “River” Xiao, at cxiao@utep.edu or 915.747.8657.