

Running in the FAMILY –

Understanding and predicting the intergenerational transmission of mental illness

OVERALL AIM

The FAMILY consortium is a five-year interdisciplinary, multi-site project, involving **16 partners from Europe and the US**. FAMILY aims to better understand the mechanisms of intergenerational transmission of mental illness and to gain prediction power from the family context. We additionally will address key bioethical and social issues raised by the concept of intergenerational risk transmission and risk prediction.

Systematic integration of the family context in the study of mental disorders will fundamentally change the clinical approach to mental illness

MORE INFO?
family-project.eu



WHY IT MATTERS

Despite ample evidence that mental illness runs in families, why, how, and when risk for mental illness is passed from parents to children is still poorly understood. To answer these questions, we not only need to identify the underlying risk factors and mediating (biological) mechanisms, but also *when* these factors operate, e.g. during foetal development, early childhood, adolescence, and into adulthood.



OUR APPROACH

FAMILY utilises methods from social sciences to map social and ethical consequences of risk prediction tools to prepare clinical practice on its future implementation. Specifically, this empirical bioethics approach will enable the development of ethical guidelines for professionals to assist in the clinical use of prediction tools, as well as empowerment of patients and their families.