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Biography

I am the lead of the functional genomics lab within the Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health (School of Psychological Sciences) and a molecular geneticist with long experience in psychiatry/mental health research. The focus of my research has been the identification of susceptibility loci for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Throughout my career in the field of psychiatric genetics, I have successfully identified risk loci (genes) for ADHD using the candidate approach (Hawi et al, 2002; Mol Psychiatry; Hawi et al, 2003; Mol Psychiatry; Sheehan et al 2005; Mol Psychiatry). More recently, I have mapped a novel locus for ADHD using the method of genome wide association (GWA) (Hawi et al, 2018; Translational Psychiatry). I have also published the first paper to apply whole exome sequencing to discover risk loci for ADHD (Hawi et al, 2017; Mol Psychiatry). As member of the ADHD subgroup of the Psychiatric Genetic Consortium (PGC) I have contributed to the identification of 12 novel risk loci for ADHD using GWAS, recently published in Nature Genetics (2019).

Since my relocation to the School of Psychological Sciences at Monash University (July 2012), I have been contributing to the development of genetic research projects by training staff from different groups including Huntington's disease, Sleep, Aging and Neurodegeneration, and cognitive control of action research, and have worked closely with my peers within the Turner Institute for Braun and mental Health. I have a strong record of successful HD students (Honours, MSc and Ph.D.) who I have supervised throughout my career. I have dedicated my life to research, discovery, teaching and will continue to do so.

Related Links:

Psych: Research Themes

Qualifications

Molecular Medical Genetics, PhD, Newcastle University (United Kingdom)
Award Date: 22 Dec 1994

Biochemical Genetics, Masters, University of Strathclyde
Award Date: 18 Dec 1989

Biology, Honours, University of Baghdad
Award Date: 2 Jun 1982

Employment

Casual Research Assistant
Psychology
MONASH UNIVERSITY
4 May 2026 → present

Turner Inst for Brain &Mental Health
MONASH UNIVERSITY
24 Aug 2022 → present

Research outputs

Modelling the Neurobiology of ADHD Using Human iPSC Systems: A Multimodal Platform for Mechanistic Discovery
Namipashaki, A. (Leading Author), Yu, H., Bellgrove, M. A. (Leading Author) & Hawi, Z., May 2026, In: Cells. 15, 10, 14 p. , 931.

"We Need Community-Centred, Strongly Ethical Genetic Research": A Qualitative Investigation of Community Attitudes Toward Autism Genetics

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Evaluating the regulatory function of non-coding autism-associated single nucleotide polymorphisms on gene expression in human brain tissue
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Generation of induced pluripotent stem cell lines from three individuals with autism spectrum disorder
Pugsley, K., Namipashaki, A., Vlahos, K., Furley, K., Graham, A., Johnson, B. P., Kallady, K., Kuah, J. Y., Mohanakumar Sindhu, V. P., Suter, A., Hawi, Z. & Bellgrove, M. A., Sept 2023, In: Stem Cell Research. 71, 5 p., 103170.

Author Correction: Genome-wide analyses of ADHD identify 27 risk loci, refine the genetic architecture and implicate several cognitive domains (Nature Genetics, (2023), 55, 2, (198-208), 10.1038/s41588-022-01285-8)
Demontis, D., Walters, G. B., Athanasiadis, G., Walters, R., Therrien, K., Nielsen, T. T., Farajzadeh, L., Voloudakis, G., Bendl, J., Zeng, B., Zhang, W., Grove, J., Als, T. D., Duan, J., Satterstrom, F. K., Bybjerg-Grauholm, J., Bækved-Hansen, M., Gudmundsson, O. O., Magnusson, S. H. & Baldursson, G. & 28 others, Davidsdottir, K., Haraldsdottir, G. S., Agerbo, E., Hoffman, G. E., Dalsgaard, S., Martin, J., Ribasés, M., Boomsma, D. I., Soler Artigas, M., Roth Mota, N., Howrigan, D., Medland, S. E., Zayats, T., Rajagopal, V. M., Nordentoft, M., Mors, O., Hougaard, D. M., Mortensen, P. B., Faraone, S. V., Stefansson, H., Roussos, P., Franke, B., Werge, T., Neale, B. M., Stefansson, K., Børglum, A. D., ADHD Working Group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium & iPSYCH-Broad Consortium, Apr 2023, In: Nature Genetics. 55, 4, p. 730 1 p.

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Potential role for immune-related genes in autism spectrum disorders: Evidence from genome-wide association meta-analysis of autistic traits
Arenella, M., Cadby, G., De Witte, W., Jones, R. M., Whitehouse, A. J. O., Moses, E. K., Fornito, A., Bellgrove, M. A., Hawi, Z., Johnson, B., Tiego, J., Buitelaar, J. K., Kiemeney, L. A., Poelmans, G. & Bralten, J., Feb 2022, In: Autism. 26, 2, p. 361-372 12 p.

Sex differences in anxiety and depression in children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: Investigating genetic liability and comorbidity
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The Monash Autism-ADHD genetics and neurodevelopment (MAGNET) project design and methodologies: a dimensional approach to understanding neurobiological and genetic aetiology
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Risk variants and polygenic architecture of disruptive behavior disorders in the context of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder
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Environmental exposures associated with elevated risk for autism spectrum disorder may augment the burden of deleterious de novo mutations among probands
Pugsley, K., Scherer, S. W., Bellgrove, M. A. & Hawi, Z., Jan 2021, In: Molecular Psychiatry. 27, p. 710–730 21 p.

Evidence against benefits from cognitive training and transcranial direct current stimulation in healthy older adults
Horne, K. S., Filmer, H. L., Nott, Z. E., Hawi, Z., Pugsley, K., Mattingley, J. B. & Dux, P. E., Jan 2021, In: Nature Human Behaviour. 5, 1, p. 146-158 13 p.

Functional validation of CHMP7 as an ADHD risk gene
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Discovery of the first genome-wide significant risk loci for attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder
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Projects

Cellular Modelling of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Risk Genes
Hawi, Z. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Tong, J. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Bellgrove, M. (Chief Investigator (CI))
1/01/18 → 31/12/21

CogChip: development of a targeted genotyping chip for executive function
Bellgrove, M. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Hawi, Z. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Wray, N. R. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Powell, D. (Chief Investigator (CI))
20/12/17 → 31/12/22

Data-driven diagnoses and treatments for neurodevelopmental disorders.
Bellgrove, M. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Johnson, B. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Cornish, K. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Kirk, H. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Williams, K. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Hawi, Z. (Chief Investigator (CI))

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (Australia)
20/01/20 → 30/06/25

Development of a functional genomics facility for human genetics
Bellgrove, M. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Egan, G. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Hawi, Z. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Fitzgerald, P. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Karistianis, N. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Ponsford, J. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Rinehart, N. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Stout, J. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Fielding, J. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Enticott, P. (Chief Investigator (CI))
NHMRC - National Health and Medical Research Council (Australia), Monash University
1/01/12 → 31/12/12

Functional characterisation of genetic risk variants for ADHD: from Association to Biology
Hawi, Z. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Bellgrove, M. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Vance, A. L. A. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Wallace, R. H. (Chief Investigator (CI))
NHMRC - National Health and Medical Research Council (Australia)
1/01/11 → 31/12/13

Genetic and physiological mechanisms of executive control.
Bellgrove, M. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Chambers, C. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Garavan, H. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Hawi, Z. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Hester, R. (Chief Investigator (CI))
NHMRC - National Health and Medical Research Council (Australia)
1/01/12 → 31/12/13

How exercise modulates neural plasticity and memory consolidation
Coxon, J. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Byblow, W. D. (Partner Investigator (PI)) & Hawi, Z. (Chief Investigator (CI))
3/02/20 → 31/12/24

How inhibition shapes human brain oscillations and working memory capacity
Rogasch, N. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Fornito, A. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Hawi, Z. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Yucel, M. (Chief Investigator (CI))
ARC - Australian Research Council, Monash University
9/01/17 → 8/01/21

The genetics of ADHD: role of rare variants
Bellgrove, M. (Primary Chief Investigator (PCI)), Hawi, Z. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Arcos-Burgos, M. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Easteal, S. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Vance, A. L. A. (Chief Investigator (CI)), Levy, F. (Chief Investigator (CI)) & Cummins, T. (Chief Investigator (CI))
NHMRC - National Health and Medical Research Council (Australia)
1/01/14 → 31/12/16