Polygenic psychiatric disorders through the lens of simple cells and organisms

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Of all diseases combined, mental disorders globally account for 23% of all the years lost to disability. Human epidemiological genetics has identified polygenic defects causative of or associated to these disorders. However the fundamental question not yet answered is: How do complex genomic defects generate phenotypes at the level of protein networks, affect the physiology of a single synapse, and behavior? Genomic microdeletions offer a unique path toward unravel the molecular basis of polygenic neurodevelopmental disorders, in particular schizophrenia. This seminar will focus on the 22q11.2 microdeletion syndrome, the strongest genetic risk factor identified for schizophrenia. We will present strategies to identify disease mechanisms and how to test these mechanisms in simple genetic systems.

Contact Alysia Mortimer (admorti@ilstu.edu) for appointments with this speaker

Thursday March 24, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.
Moulton Hall 214

Pre-seminar refreshments will be served from 3:30 - 3:50
Felmley Science Annex outside Room 133