Brief Bio

Dr. Gelernter is Foundations Fund Professor of Psychiatry and Professor of Genetics and Neuroscience; and Director, Division of Human Genetics (Psychiatry), at Yale University School of Medicine. He studied music and biology as an undergraduate at Yale University; completed his MD at SUNY-Downstate; and trained in psychiatry at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (Pittsburgh) followed by fellowship in psychiatric genetics at the NIMH. He returned to Yale in 1988 to join the psychiatry faculty, where he has been ever since.

The research focus of his laboratory is complex trait genetics, especially genetics of psychiatric illness: a range of behavioral phenotypes including substance use disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety disorders, and other traits. To this end, he studies genomewide genetic polymorphism and sequence variation, usually in large samples, and from the perspective of population genetics. Dr. Gelernter co-leads the Million Veteran Program PTSD project, and also co-leads the Substance Use Disorders Working Group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium. He has worked on substance use genetics in Thailand for over two decades with a range of collaborators. Studies published recently include genomewide association studies of cannabis use disorder, problematic alcohol use, sleep duration, and level of physical activity. His research is supported by the US Department of Veterans Affairs, and by multiple US National Institutes of Health agencies: NIDA, NIAAA, NIMH, and the Fogarty Center.