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Joel Gelernter, MD, is Foundations Fund Fund Professor of Psychiatry and Professor of Genetics and of Neuroscience; and Director, Division of Human Genetics (Psychiatry), at the Yale University School of Medicine.

The research focus of his laboratory is genetics of psychiatric illness – phenotypes including cocaine, opioid, nicotine, cannabis, and alcohol use and use disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and panic and other anxiety disorders. He also studies a range of related phenotypes, including pharmacogenomics; other complex traits; and basic issues in population and complex trait genetics. The overall approach involves study of genetic polymorphism and sequence variation, on a molecular level and from the perspective of population genetics. Dr Gelernter's laboratory published genomewide association studies (GWAS) and other downstream analyses for cannabis use and use disorder, opioid use disorder, PTSD and related traits, alcohol use disorder and problematic alcohol use, and other psychiatric and medical traits - such as level of physical activity, and how exercise relates to mental health. These studies have resulted in the identification of numerous novel risk loci and clarification of underlying biology.

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