

Joel T. Nigg, Ph.D.

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Biographical Information

Joel T. Nigg, Ph.D., professor and director of the Division of Psychology at Oregon Health and Sciences University, is a senior psychopathology researcher with a long record of studying children with cognitive, behavioral, and emotional disorders. His current NIH/NIMH funded research focuses on the underlying mechanisms and causes in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) across the lifespan. His primary focus is on cognitive and neuropsychological mechanisms. However, studies of genetics, family dynamics, personality and temperament, environmental toxins, and neuroimaging of ADHD are also ongoing. Dr. Nigg has authored more than 150 scientific publications, book/chapters, and talks resulting from his efforts to understand the causes of ADHD. Currently a professor in the Departments of Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Behavioral Neuroscience, he received his Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley, and completed his clinical internship at the University of Washington School of Medicine/Seattle Children's Hospital.

Presentation Abstract (ADHD: Causes and Mechanisms)

ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) is increasingly viewed as a neurodevelopmental disorder. Complex findings have emerged regarding ADHD etiology and pathophysiology. Part of this complexity is due to insufficient characterization of both clinical and mechanistic heterogeneity among children (or adults) who meet ADHD criteria. This presentation will consider some evidence in support of the centrality of this heterogeneity problem in ADHD. It will then consider the potential role of gene x environment interactions and of environmental effects on ADHD, a highly heritable condition.