## THE ANDALUSIAN "MULTIPLEX FAMILIES WITH BIPOLAR DISORDER ": A REVALUATION OF THE COHORT STUDY (1997-2013).

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Objectives.

Bipolar disorder (BD) is highly heritable, and gene identification will elucidate biological factors and gene-environment interactions. Multiplex families represent a promising resource for identifying rare variants and polygenic effects. However, such families are difficult to recruit.

In 1997, >100 multiplex Andalusian BD pedigrees - the largest of which contains >20 affected members- were recruited within an Andalusian-German collaboration study. Since then, the Andalusian psychiatric network and biobank facilities have been expanded in order to facilitate psychiatric research. Therefore in 2013, the Andalusian-German collaborators initiated a follow-up study of this cohort in order to identify new genetic and environmental factors for BD aetiology and clinical course.

Methods.

In 1997, BD patients at Andalusian psychiatric hospitals who reported a family history of BD were asked to inform their families about the study. All consenting family members (N=937; BPI/II=265; Recurrent Mayor Depression=149) were assessed using a structured psychiatric interview for life-time best estimate psychiatric diagnosis

(SADS) and the family history method, and blood was obtained for DNA genetic analysis.

Follow-up involves reassessment of diagnosis, neuropsychological testing (CANTAB), and the collection of biomaterials (RNA, Plasma, IPS, hair cortisol, etc.). Written informed consent is obtained for all study procedures and analyses.

## Results.

For the first three families, follow-up assessments and biomaterial-processing have been completed. Follow-up of the remaining families is ongoing.

## Conclusion.

This cohort represents a unique resource for the investigation of BD aetiology and clinical course, and will be available to international researchers from other sciences.