

Immune Response & Social Cognition in Schizophrenia (iRELATE)



University Hospital Galway



St. James's Hospital Dublin

Summary of the study

The aim of the study is to gain a better understanding of how the environment and genes influence your brain structure and function. A particular focus of the research is on examining whether these effects are related to changes in the immune system in individuals with schizophrenia.

What is involved in the study?

There are three parts to the study:

- 1) There is a screening process to ensure the participant is eligible and that it is safe for you to take part in the study. Following this, the participant will be asked to complete pen and pencil questionnaires about early childhood experiences and there will be some clinical interviews. This first part of the study will take about 2.5 hours.
- 2) In the second part of the study, the participant will be asked to complete pen and pencil tests and computer tasks that look at memory, concentration and emotion. In addition, he/she will also be asked to provide small blood samples for immune function and genetic testing. Lastly, he/she will also be asked to participate in a stress task. This part will take about 2.5 hours.
- 3) In the third part of the study, the participant will be asked to do new computer tasks while having an MRI scan of the participant's brain done. This part will take about 1.5 hours.

The first and second part of the study will take place at the University Hospital Galway, whereas the third part of the study will take place at St. James's Hospital in Dublin. All travel and related expenses for the study will be fully reimbursed. In addition, we can provide feedback on the pen and pencil and computer tests. We also give a DVD containing the MRI scan of the participant's brain.

What individuals can be included in the study?

- ✓ Patient is between 18 and 65 years old
- ✓ Patient has a diagnosis of schizophrenia or schizo-affective disorder as defined by DSM-IV
- ✓ Patient does not currently misuse substances (for at least 1 month)

Who will be in contact with the participants?

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