## CONSANGUINITY MULTIPLEX AND SCHIZOPHRENIA - THE ROYAL ROAD TO GENES OF MAJOR EFFECT

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**Introduction:** Multi-factorial aetiology of schizophrenia has an undeniably large genetic component. Attempts to elucidate its genetics with large case control studies have met with limited success and other approaches are warranted. **Method & results:** In an extended family (pedigree 1) in which two sets of siblings - children of a brother and sister - are intermarried; six members with DSM-IV schizophrenia share a 6MB region of homozygosity on chromosome 13q. One out of twelve genes at this locus shows a sequence change in its promoter region.





Another family (pedigree 2) with two affected brothers has revealed two loci of homozygosity on chromosomes 5 and 9.



<sup>[</sup>Pedigree 2]

A third family with nine cases of psychosis is being investigated.

**Conclusion:** An approach which focuses on families with multiple cases in one generation and evidence of consanguinity in parents may be particularly successful for identifying recessive genes.