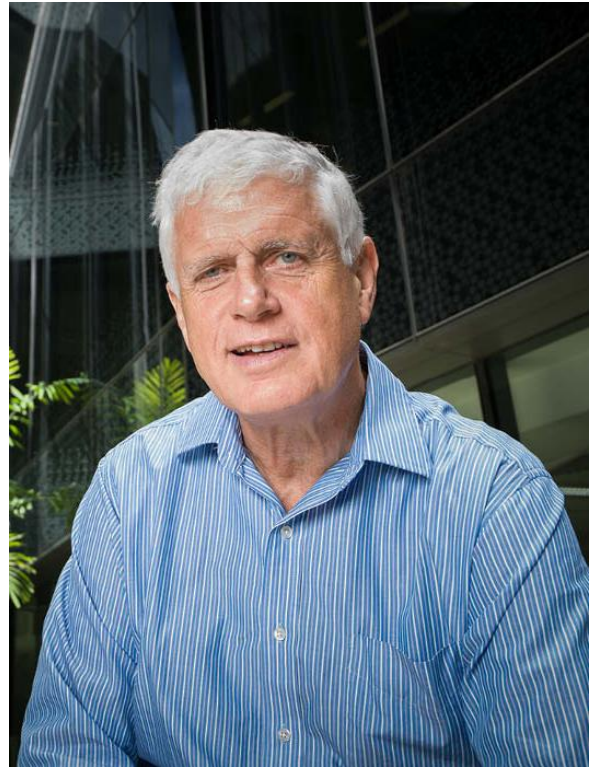


**Professor Nick Martin PhD, FAA, FAHMS, FASSA, FAAAAS
Lead Investigator, Eating Disorders Genetics Initiative 2 (EDGI2) &
Head, Genetic Epidemiology, QIMR Berghofer, BRISBANE**

Professor Nick Martin is Head of the Genetic Epidemiology Laboratory, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, and Lead Investigator of the Eating Disorders Genetics Initiative (EDGI) 2 – the world's largest genetic investigation of eating disorders ever performed, that aims to identify the hundreds of genes that influence a person's risk of developing the complex, devastating illnesses of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge-eating disorder and Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID), to improve treatment, and ultimately, save lives.

EDGI2 follows the ground-breaking advances made in the initial EDGI investigation and collaborative Anorexia Nervosa Genetics Initiative (ANGI), in which researchers, including Prof Martin and his EDGI team, identified the first eight genes for anorexia nervosa that implicate both psychiatric and metabolic causes for the condition.

"This was a total surprise and a finding that urgently needs replication and expansion to fully understand the pathways that lead to this debilitating condition – hence the need for a much larger sample size, which is the aim of EDGI2," said Prof Martin.



A scientist, and Honorary Professor in Psychology in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Queensland,

Prof Martin is a leader in behaviour genetics research using longitudinal twin studies, and a pioneer in the field of multivariate genetic modelling and the analysis of gene-environment interactions.

Prof Martin's more recent research focus has shifted into the field of genome-wide association studies (GWAS), to discover the particular genes which predispose people to developing eating disorders, depression, anxiety, alcoholism, melanoma and other common disorders.

Prof Martin is a Fellow of the Australian Academies of Science, Health and Medical Science, and Social Science and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He previously served as President of the Behaviour Genetics Association.

He is editor of *Twin Research and Human Genetics*, an Advisor to the *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, and also sits on the editorial board of the *American Journal of Medical Genetics (Neuropsychiatric Genetics)*.

Prof Martin has published more than 1,500 papers and won international accolades. **He is recognised as a world leader in genetics of psychiatric disorders and traits, and was ranked first in genetics in Australia, and ninth in the world in a list of the world's most highly cited researchers.**

As Lead Investigator for EDGI2, Prof Martin is aiming to make Australia punch above its weight in the international quest to find the genes behind eating disorders which will flag the way to new cures.

"The best way to fix a problem", says Prof Martin, "is to discover its fundamental cause. But for this we need DNA samples from many thousands of people with lived experience of an eating disorder.

"I am sure that with the volunteer spirit we have in Australia, we can achieve this."

To volunteer for the EDGI2, head to edgi.org.au or email edgi2@qimrberghofer.edu.au.

ends#

To coordinate an interview with Professor Nick Martin, please contact:

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