

**Professor Tracey Wade, Ph.D.**  
**Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor,**  
**College of Education, Psychology and Social, ADELAIDE**

Professor Tracey Wade obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Adelaide University in 1985 and then progressed to postgraduate clinical training at the Australian National University (ANU), Canberra.

After working in an eating disorder clinic at Cambridge University, UK, she returned to South Australia and completed a PhD exploring genetic and environmental risk factors for eating disorders using a twin population.

Prof Wade has worked as a clinician in the area of eating disorders for almost 30 years, and is a Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Flinders University, Adelaide.

She is recognised as an important contributor to international research on eating disorders, with more than 200 published papers addressing epidemiology, classification, aetiology, prevention and treatment. She has also co-authored two books on the treatment of perfectionism, a temperament of special relevance to the development and maintenance of anorexia nervosa.

Her work with twin populations is continuing, in a bid to better understand how genes and environment work together, to increase one's risk for developing an eating disorder.

Prof Wade is a member of the Eating Disorder Research Society, a Fellow of the Academy of Eating Disorders, a steering committee member of the National Eating Disorder Collaboration, and Director of the Flinders University Services for Eating Disorders.

In 2015 she was elected a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

Prof Wade is an advocate for the Eating Disorders Genetic 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 the 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.

"Identifying the genes that predispose people to eating disorders will revolutionise future research into causes, treatment and prevention of the illnesses," said Prof Wade.

**To volunteer for the EDGI2, head to [edgi.org.au](http://edgi.org.au) or email [edgi2@qimrberghofer.edu.au](mailto:edgi2@qimrberghofer.edu.au).**



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**To coordinate an interview with Professor Tracey Wade, please contact:**

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