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## Neuropsychiatric Genetics of African Populations-Psychosis (NeuroGAP-Psychosis): a case-control study protocol and GWAS in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda

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## Note from the Editors: Instructions for reviewers of study protocols

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Since launching in 2011, BMJ Open has published study protocols for planned or ongoing research studies. If data collection is complete, we will not consider the manuscript.

Publishing study protocols enables researchers and funding bodies to stay up to date in their fields by providing exposure to research activity that may not otherwise be widely publicised. This can help prevent unnecessary duplication of work and will hopefully enable collaboration. Publishing protocols in full also makes available more information than is currently required by trial registries and increases transparency, making it easier for others (editors, reviewers and readers) to see and understand any deviations from the protocol that occur during the conduct of the study.

The scientific integrity and the credibility of the study data depend substantially on the study design and methodology, which is why the study protocol requires a thorough peer-review.

*BMJ Open* will consider for publication protocols for any study design, including observational studies and systematic reviews.

Some things to keep in mind when reviewing the study protocol:

- Protocol papers should report planned or ongoing studies. The dates of the study should be included in the manuscript.
- Unfortunately we are unable to customize the reviewer report form for study protocols. As such, some of the items (i.e., those pertaining to results) on the form should be scored as Not Applicable (N/A).
- While some baseline data can be presented, there should be no results or conclusions present in the study protocol.
- For studies that are ongoing, it is generally the case that very few changes can be made to the methodology. As such, requests for revisions are generally clarifications for the rationale or details relating to the methods. If there is a major flaw in the study that would prevent a sound interpretation of the data, we would expect the study protocol to be rejected.

**Title:** Neuropsychiatric Genetics of African Populations-Psychosis (NeuroGAP-Psychosis): a case-control study protocol and GWAS in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder account for a large proportion of the global burden of disease. Despite their enormous impact, little is known about their pathophysiology. Given the high heritability of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, unbiased genetic studies offer the opportunity to gain insight into their neurobiology. However, advances in understanding the genetic architecture of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder have been based almost exclusively on subjects of Northern European ancestry. The Neuropsychiatric Genetics of African Populations-Psychosis (NeuroGAP-Psychosis) project aims to expand our understanding of the causes of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder through large-scale sample collection and analyses in understudied African populations.

**Methods and analysis:** NeuroGAP-Psychosis is a case-control study of 34,000 participants recruited across multiple sites within Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda. Participants will include individuals who are at least 18 years old with a clinical diagnosis of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder (“psychosis”) or those with no history of psychosis. Research assistants will collect phenotype data and saliva for DNA extraction. Data on mental disorders, history of physical health problems, substance use, and history of past traumatic events will be collected from all participants.

DNA extraction will take place in-country, with genotyping performed at the Broad Institute. The primary analyses will include identifying major groups of participants with similar ancestry utilizing the computation-efficient program SNP weights. This will be followed by a GWAS within and across ancestry groups.

**Ethics and Dissemination:** All participants will be assessed for capacity to consent using the University of California, San Diego Brief Assessment of Capacity to Consent (UBACC). Those demonstrating capacity to consent will be required to provide informed consent. Ethical clearances to conduct this study have been obtained from all participating sites. Findings from this study will be disseminated in publications and shared with controlled access public databases, such as dbGaP.

## STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY

- **Strength:** This will be the first psychiatric genetics study at this scale in Africa and across different African populations.
- **Strength:** Significant phenotypic data will be collected with the goal of a looking at a transdiagnostic category, without necessarily being limited to Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)/International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) diagnoses.
- **Strength/limitation:** We will extract DNA from saliva samples which are logistically easier to manage than blood. However, there is less DNA in saliva than in blood and there is a higher risk of contamination.
- **Limitation:** As we have chosen not to exclude based on race, some of the participants are likely to be of European descent.
- **Limitation:** Although we obtain permission to follow-up enrolled participants, this is a case-control study and thus will only have phenotypic data at one point in time.

**INTRODUCTION:** Neuropsychiatric disorders are the leading cause of years lived with disability in the world.<sup>1</sup> Within mental, neurological, and substance use disorders, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder account for more than 14% of years of life lost to premature mortality and years lived with disability.<sup>2</sup> In the past several years, there have been great strides in our understanding of the genetic architecture of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. A landmark paper in *Nature* from 2014 discovered 108 genome-wide significant loci for schizophrenia in ~37,000 cases and ~113,000 controls.<sup>3</sup> In the intervening years, the number of genome-wide significant hits for schizophrenia has grown to 145.<sup>4</sup> Successes in schizophrenia research have demonstrated that extremely large scale meta-analyses are necessary to identify genetic variants associated with neuropsychiatric disorders.<sup>5</sup> The hope is that these breakthroughs in neuropsychiatric genetics will lead to new pharmacological targets and ultimately treatments to reduce the global burden of psychiatric disorders.

However, for historical, cultural, financial, and practical reasons, these genetic findings are based predominantly on subjects of Northern European ancestry, with a growing but still small proportion on populations of East Asian ancestry.<sup>6,7</sup> Currently, there are major limitations in our knowledge of the genetic and environmental risk architecture of psychiatric disorders in persons of African descent.<sup>8</sup> As a result, we are limited in our ability to understand biological mechanisms, predict genetic risk<sup>9</sup>, and produce optimal therapy for African populations. Moreover, African genomes are characterized by shorter haplotype blocks and contain almost a million more variants per individual than populations outside Africa.<sup>10</sup> Further, genetic studies of underrepresented populations afford the opportunity to discover novel loci that are invariant in European populations<sup>11</sup>. Thus, including data from African populations in genetic studies of neuropsychiatric disorders may accelerate genetic discovery and could be useful for fine mapping of disease causing alleles.<sup>12</sup> Studies of psychiatric genetics are in their infancy in Africa and are not yet at a scale necessary for variant discovery.

**AIM AND OBJECTIVE:** The Neuropsychiatric Genetics of African Populations-Psychosis (NeuroGAP-Psychosis) project aims to expand knowledge of the genetic and environmental risk factors for neuropsychiatric disorders in Africa through large-scale sample collection and analysis, so that future advances in science and therapeutics can account for and be applicable to African populations.

## **METHODS AND ANALYSIS:**

**Study design:** The design will be a case-control study. This project is structured around two diagnostic categories: schizophrenia and bipolar I disorder (grouped under the heading “psychotic disorders”). The rationale for grouping schizophrenia and bipolar disorder stems from literature showing a high level of genetic correlation between schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, which may indicate that some of the same genetic variants confer risk for both phenotypes.<sup>13</sup>

Cases will be individuals with a diagnosis of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, referred to subsequently as psychosis. Controls will be individuals from the same geographic location, without psychosis, who will be matched to cases for age, sex, and ancestry.

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3 **Study sites:** The study will be conducted over four years, starting in September 2018 and  
4 ending in 2022, at several sites in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda (Figure 1)<sup>14</sup>. DNA  
5 extraction will be performed on site and genotyping will be performed at the Broad Institute in the  
6 USA using the Illumina Global Screening Array. Sites were selected on the basis of the  
7 following criteria: 1) proven track record of psychiatric research; 2) availability of research  
8 personnel and the necessary research infrastructure to be able to recruit thousands of  
9 participants; 3) existing trusted relationships from prior collaborations. Each of the countries  
10 where participants will be recruited from has enormous genetic diversity within and between  
11 them, which is likely to improve the ability of this research to answer the study objectives. Pilot  
12 studies are currently underway in all four countries.  
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15 *Ethiopia.* Participants will be recruited from the Amanuel Mental Specialized Hospital (cases)  
16 and Black Lion Hospital also known as the Tikur Anbessa Hospital (controls).  
17

18 *Kenya.* In Kenya, participants will be recruited from the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital and  
19 affiliated sites in Webuye, Kapenguria, Kitale, Kapsabet, Iten, and Kakamega and the KEMRI-  
20 Wellcome Trust Research Programme with recruiting sites in Kilifi County, Malindi sub-County,  
21 Port Reitz, and Coast General Provincial Hospitals.  
22

23 *South Africa.* Participants will be recruited from the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and the  
24 Gauteng provinces. In the Western Cape, participants will be recruited from the Valkenberg,  
25 Lentegeur, Khayelitsha District, and Groote Schuur Hospitals as well as a number of community  
26 clinics. In the Eastern Cape, participants (cases) will be recruited from the Fort England  
27 Psychiatric, Elizabeth Donkin, Tower Psychiatric, and Komani Hospitals while controls will be  
28 recruited from the Nelson Mandela Academic and Dora Nginza Hospitals as well as five  
29 affiliated health clinics.  
30

31 *Uganda.* Study participants in Uganda will be recruited from the Butabika National Mental  
32 Health Referral Hospital (cases and controls), Naguru (controls only), Arua (cases and controls),  
33 Mbarara (cases and controls), and Gulu Regional Referral Hospitals (cases and controls).  
34

35  
36 **Inclusion criteria:** Individuals with a clinical diagnosis of psychosis (cases) as confirmed by  
37 clinician referral and/or medical record review, and those without a clinical diagnosis of  
38 psychosis (controls) will be eligible to participate. All participants (cases and controls) will be  
39 required to provide written informed consent or a fingerprint in case of illiteracy and must be at  
40 least 18 years old. To ensure that participants (cases and controls) have sufficient capacity and  
41 autonomy to consent to the study, we will use the University of California, San Diego Brief  
42 Assessment of Capacity to Consent (UBACC),<sup>15</sup> which has been used as an iterative learning  
43 tool in similar populations in South Africa.<sup>16</sup>  
44

45 **Exclusion criteria for cases:** Individuals (cases) will be excluded if the following are present:

- 46 • Absence of a diagnosis of a psychotic disorder
- 47 • Severe, intrusive levels of psychiatric symptoms at the time of consent
- 48 • Intoxication or withdrawal from alcohol or substance abuse at the time of consent
- 49 • A current psychiatric hospitalization (inpatients)
- 50 • Involuntary detention at the time of consent
- 51 • Lack fluency in one of the languages the consent form has been translated into
- 52 • Lack capacity to consent to the study as determined by the UBACC.
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Potential cases may be approached at a later date once their symptoms are controlled if they meet other inclusion criteria. There will be no exclusions for cases or controls based on sex, ancestry/ethnicity, religious affiliations, or sexual orientation.

**Exclusion criteria for controls:** Potential controls will be excluded if they:

- Have current psychotic symptoms or a past diagnosis of a psychotic disorder
- Are currently taking medication for psychosis
- Have acute levels of alcohol or substance misuse as demonstrated by being a current inpatient or under acute medical care for substance misuse
- Are not fluent in any of the languages the consent form has been translated into
- Lack capacity to consent to the study as determined by the UBACC.

**Participant recruitment:** Eligible participants (cases) will be identified by clinical staff through review of their medical records. A research assistant (RA), who is a nurse, clinical officer, clinical assistant, or bachelor's level accredited RA and who has received study specific training and human subjects training, will approach the prospective participant, carefully explaining to them in the local language the purpose and procedures of the study and emphasizing that participation is entirely voluntary and will not impact any medical care they receive. Languages include: Acholi, Afrikaans, Amharic, English, Kigiryama, Kiswahili, Luganda, Lugbara, Runyankole, and isiXhosa.

After reading the information sheet out loud to the subject, the RA will administer the UBACC, a 10-item questionnaire that evaluates the potential participant's understanding of different components of the study. Each response will be scored on a range of 0-2, with 0 representing no understanding and 2 representing a clear understanding. In the NeuroGAP-Psychosis study, the RA will administer the UBACC over a maximum of four trials. The RA will re-explain and re-administer any items the subject answered incorrectly. The process will end if the full score of 20 is obtained. After the 4<sup>th</sup> trial, participants who are unable to achieve a score of 14.5, the cut-off originally developed for screening decisional capacity using the UBACC,<sup>15</sup> will be excluded.

The RA will proceed to obtain informed consent from those who express interest in participation, and ask participants to provide saliva into an Oragene tube, from which their DNA will be extracted. To maximize the quality of the collected DNA, participants will be asked not to eat, drink, smoke, or chew gum for 30 minutes prior to providing the sample during the consenting process.

Phenotypic assessments were selected on the basis of the following criteria: 1) the particular domain assessed; 2) cross-cultural validity; 3) non-proprietary measures, when possible; 4) investigators' prior experience using the tool; and 5) the time length of administering the tool. The study will collect the following battery of instruments (see Figure 2):

- Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview, Standard 7.0.2 for DSM-5 (MINI): modules A, C, K, and O on major depressive episodes, manic and hypomanic episodes, and psychotic disorders and mood disorders with psychotic features, respectively<sup>17</sup>
- Life Events Checklist for DSM-5 (LEC-5): a 17-item scale covering exposures to potentially traumatic events<sup>18</sup>
- Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test, version 3.0 (ASSIST): a subset of the ASSIST on substance type and use over a participant's lifetime and over the past three months<sup>19</sup>

- Composite International Diagnostic Interview screener (CIDI): a checklist within the CIDI on chronic physical conditions<sup>20</sup>

Participant phenotypic data will be collected using encrypted tablets, and uploaded to a secure cloud-based server. Other sources of data will include chart reviews to ascertain clinical diagnoses and medication use by the participants; as well as measurements of blood pressure, heart rate, height, and weight.

Recruitment of controls will take place from general medical facilities (some of these facilities are located within the premises where cases will be identified). In one site, at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme in Kenya, controls may also be recruited from homes through the Kilifi Health and Demographic Surveillance System (KHDSS).<sup>21</sup> [In KHDSS, census data is recorded every four months through household surveys in the catchment area and linked with healthcare data from Kilifi District Hospital.]

The study visit for controls will match the process for cases except for two phenotypic batteries, the K10 and the PSQ (see Figure 3); instead of using the MINI for controls, the RA will administer:

- Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10): a 10-item questionnaire to measure anxiety and depression<sup>22</sup>
- Psychosis Screening Questionnaire (PSQ): a brief screening tool for psychotic conditions<sup>23</sup>

All participants will receive compensation to offset the time and inconvenience of participating in the study. The estimated length of a study visit is 90 to 120 minutes.

### **Patient and Public Involvement**

Patients' priorities and experiences were taken into account in the design of the study. Prior research and clinical work with people with neuropsychiatric disorders at each of the sites informed the research question and study design, including limiting the length of the study battery, minimizing intrusive sample collection (saliva instead of blood), and incorporating a tool as part of the consent process to assess understanding of the research and study visit. In addition, most of the sites have a precedent of genetics research and we engaged with teams from those other genetic studies to incorporate patient concerns emerging from genetic research. Study findings will be shared with local community advisory boards.

**Sample size and power calculation:** Over a period of four years, the study team expects to recruit a total of 17,000 schizophrenia and bipolar disorder cases and 17,000 controls across four countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda. The geographical and demographic sampling distribution of the controls will follow that of the cases, and cases and controls will be matched for ethnic ancestry in all analyses. These numbers, described in more detail below, will give adequate statistical power to independently examine the genetic architecture of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder in African populations, the distribution and influence of rare copy number variation on neuropsychiatric disease risk in African populations, and determine the consistency of genetic influences on neuropsychiatric disease risk between populations of European and African descent. Ultimately these data will be analyzed in combination with other studies of psychiatric genetics, most notably from the Psychiatric Genetics Consortium, which will further increase our power to discover new and validate current variants with small effect sizes.

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3 With 17,000 cases and controls, using a threshold of  $2.5 \times 10^{-8}$  for genome-wide significance,  
4 we have >90% power to find common variants (Minor Allele Frequency (MAF) >5%) with effects  
5 of 1.15 or greater.<sup>24</sup> For more common variants with MAF=25%, we have 89% power to see  
6 significant effects as low as 1.06. These effect sizes are within the range of what was found in a  
7 recent GWAS of schizophrenia in a European population.<sup>3</sup>  
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10 **DNA extraction and processing:** All study participants will provide a 2.0 mL sample of saliva  
11 by spitting into a funnel in an Oragene<sup>(R)</sup> OR-500 kit. DNA extraction will take place in-country,  
12 with one aliquot of the extract sent to the Broad Institute in Cambridge, MA, USA for genotyping.  
13 The remaining DNA will be frozen and stored in-country within designated biobanks and will be  
14 governed by the rules of its institution. In Ethiopia, DNA will be stored at the Black Lion Hospital.  
15 In Kenya, DNA will be stored at Moi University and KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research  
16 Programme Biorepository Laboratories. In South Africa, DNA will be stored in a biobank at the  
17 Division of Human Genetics at the University of Cape Town, while in Uganda, DNA will be  
18 stored at the Integrated Biorepository Lab of H3Africa in Uganda (IBR-H3A-U).  
19

20 All samples will be assayed on the same genotyping array at the same facility. To maximize  
21 information and allow for comparisons across studies genotyped on different platforms, we will  
22 impute SNP genotypes not present on specific arrays. Genotype imputation of untyped markers  
23 will be performed using default parameters in IMPUTE2 using appropriate reference panels.  
24

25 **Training:** To ensure research staff understand the study and their responsibilities, teams will  
26 undergo multiple trainings. Study staff who have contact with research participants will  
27 complete the online Human Subject Training offered by the US National Institutes of Health. Site  
28 leadership and Harvard staff will provide in-person training to the teams by providing an  
29 overview of the project, leading discussions, providing role playing on ethics and confidentiality,  
30 recruiting and consenting participants, on reportable events, and on storing forms and data  
31 properly. Additionally, there will be hands-on training using the electronic tablets, collecting  
32 saliva using Oragene kits, administering the phenotypic batteries, and taking physiological  
33 measures, such as height and weight. A checklist will be created of key skills staff need before  
34 they can begin interacting with participants one-on-one (Figure 4). This form will need to be  
35 signed and dated by the staff member and the staff member's supervisor before he or she can  
36 begin working with participants; it will then be uploaded to the regulatory binder. Harvard teams  
37 will reinforce these skills with multiple site visits per year and weekly video calls.  
38

39 In addition, Broad Institute wet lab staff will work in partnership with the lab teams in Africa to  
40 standardize the DNA extraction process across the five sites and to increase the quality of the  
41 extractions through visits, video calls, and email. Where needed, the Broad staff will train lab  
42 members on DNA extraction from saliva and establish a sample chain of custody process in  
43 order to decrease the likelihood of sample swaps.  
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#### 45 **Statistical analysis plans:**

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47 **a) Ancestry analyses:** In contrast to most samples previously analyzed by the psychiatric  
48 genetics community – which were predominately of European ancestry<sup>25</sup> – the NeuroGAP-  
49 Psychosis samples will include individuals of predominantly African ancestry and will be drawn  
50 from multiple populations across East and South Africa where genetic variation will be more  
51 structured and demographically complex<sup>26 27</sup>. Therefore, before proceeding with any phenotype  
52 analyses we will first analyze genetic ancestry in our cohorts to identify large, homogeneous  
53 groups to conserve optimal power in the GWAS and ultimately control for additional population  
54 stratification within these groups to avoid spurious results.  
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We will take advantage of the large amount of genotypic information available and control for potential population stratification in a standard and validated two-step process. First, we will compute principal components adjusting for population substructure and relatedness using PC-AiR<sup>28</sup>. We will define clusters of ancestries using ADMIXTURE<sup>29</sup>, and choose the optimal number of clusters with 5-fold cross-validation to identify major groups of participants with similar ancestry. The inclusion of extensive population reference samples compiled by our group and available from other studies will increase the power of this approach and lead to stable individual ancestry calling across studies. Second, if significant differences are found between populations in our cohorts, as expected, our initial analyses will then be conducted separately on more homogeneous ancestry groups, and later meta-analyzed. Within each group, we will conduct principal component analysis (PCA) again using PC-AiR, and the principle components (PCs) that explain the majority of the variation in ancestry within the cohort will be included as covariates in the regression analyses. Again adjusting for population structure, we will compute a genetic relatedness matrix using PC-Relate<sup>30</sup>, which can be used as a random effect in a linear or logistic mixed model. In addition, as new methods are developed by our group and others to account for population structure, we will modify our analyses when appropriate.

**b) Genome-wide Association Study (GWAS).** The primary GWAS discovery analysis will be conducted for the dichotomous schizophrenia/bipolar (“psychotic disorders”) diagnosis using logistic regression. All analyses will be performed using PLINK<sup>31</sup> and R.<sup>32</sup> To assess significance thresholds and correct for multiple comparisons, we will apply the conventional threshold of  $p < 2.5 \times 10^{-8}$ .

**c) Heritability estimates.** Estimation of heritability, the fraction of disease risk attributable to inherited genetic differences, is an important initial analytic goal. Heritability estimates speak to the anticipated architecture and power of a genome-wide association study, a primary endpoint of the NeuroGAP-Psychosis project. We will use Genome-wide Complex Trait Analysis (GCTA) to estimate SNP heritability within Africa.<sup>25 33</sup> We will assess genetic correlation with existing GWAS in other globally diverse populations using POPCORN<sup>34</sup>.

## **ETHICS AND DISSEMINATION:**

**Ethics:** Ethical and safety considerations will be taken across multiple levels. Since the subjects the study aims to recruit are deemed vulnerable populations, additional measures will be taken to protect them. Potential participants will be excluded if they are presenting with severe, intrusive levels at the time of consent. In addition, as described previously, the RAs will use the UBACC<sup>15 16</sup> during the consent process to make sure participants understand the study, what is required of them, and that they can withdraw at any point. Participants who pass the UBACC and who want to continue will be required to provide written informed consent or a fingerprint in lieu of a signature.

All steps will be taken to mitigate the potential loss of confidentiality for participants. A two-part ID system will be instituted in order to limit the possibility of connecting the participant with their data. There will be one ID for the phenotypic information, and one for genetic information. A single encrypted database linking the phenotypic ID and genetic ID will be stored in-country. The participant’s name and contact information will be on the consent form, which will be stored in a locked cabinet. This information will be put in a separate secure database and will never leave the country of origin. No data that is considered identifiable, by Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) standards, will ever be collected on the electronic tablets.

Ethical clearances to conduct this study have been obtained from all participating sites, including:

- Ethiopia: Addis Ababa University College of Health Sciences (#014/17/Psy) and the Ministry of Science and Technology National Research Ethics Review Committee (#3.10/14/2018).
- Kenya: Moi University School of Medicine Institutional Research and Ethics Committee (#IREC/2016/145, approval number: IREC 1727), Kenya National Council of Science and Technology (#NACOSTI/P/17/56302/19576) KEMRI Centre Scientific Committee (CSC# KEMRI/CGMRC/CSC/070/2016), KEMRI Scientific and Ethics Review Unit (SERU# KEMRI/SERU/CGMR-C/070/3575)
- South Africa: The University of Cape Town Human Research Ethics Committee (#466/2016) and Walter Sisulu University Research and Ethics Committee (# 051/2016)
- Uganda: The Makerere University School of Medicine Research and Ethics Committee (SOMREC #REC REF 2016-057) and the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST #HS14ES)
- USA: The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (#IRB17-0822)

**Dissemination:** We aim to share results through a number of mechanisms in addition to conferences and peer-reviewed publications. In order to maximize scientific utility of the samples/data and to minimize data waste, both genomic and phenotypic data from NeuroGAP-Psychosis will be deposited in controlled access public databases, such as the database of Genotypes and Phenotypes (dbGaP), the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (PGC), and/or the European Genome-Phenome Archive (EGA). By pooling NeuroGAP-Psychosis' data with that from other studies, it will be possible to maximize statistical power. Sharing the data will also contribute to the "genomic revolution" currently underway in Africa due to the pioneering work of the African Genome Variation Project, MalariaGEN, African Society of Human Genetics, and Human Hereditary and Health in Africa (H3Africa).<sup>27 35-38</sup>

To help ensure all collaborators have the capacity to work with all the data that will be created, a unique training program has been created, the Global Initiative for Neuropsychiatric Genetics Education in Research (GINGER),<sup>39</sup> that will run in parallel to the NeuroGAP-Psychosis study. Over a two-year period, 17 early-career researchers from Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda will take part in online and in-person trainings on topics including biostatistics, genetic analysis, and epidemiology. Ultimately, the goal of GINGER is to build the next generation of neuropsychiatric geneticists who will be able to work on the NeuroGAP-Psychosis data and continue its legacy in the future.

**Authors' contributions:**

KK and DS conceptualized and designed the study.

AS, DA, RS, LA, EK, SK, VdM, CN, DS, ST, ZZ, and KK wrote the protocol, selected the phenotype questionnaires, and added site-specific information.

LC and AM wrote the sample size, power calculations, and statistical analysis plans.

MC and GS contributed to the UBACC process.

AS and DA wrote the draft of the manuscript and incorporated the revisions by the co-authors; they contributed equally to this paper.

All authors reviewed the manuscript for intellectual content, contributed to revisions, and approved the final version for publication.

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**Competing interests statement.** Dan Stein has received research grants and/or consultancy honoraria from Biocodex, Lundbeck, Servier, and Sun.

**Legends for Figures:**

Figure 1: Proposed collection sites for NeuroGAP-Psychosis

Figure 2: Phenotyping tools for study participants

Figure 3: The study process for cases and controls

Figure 4: NeuroGAP-Psychosis Training Checklist

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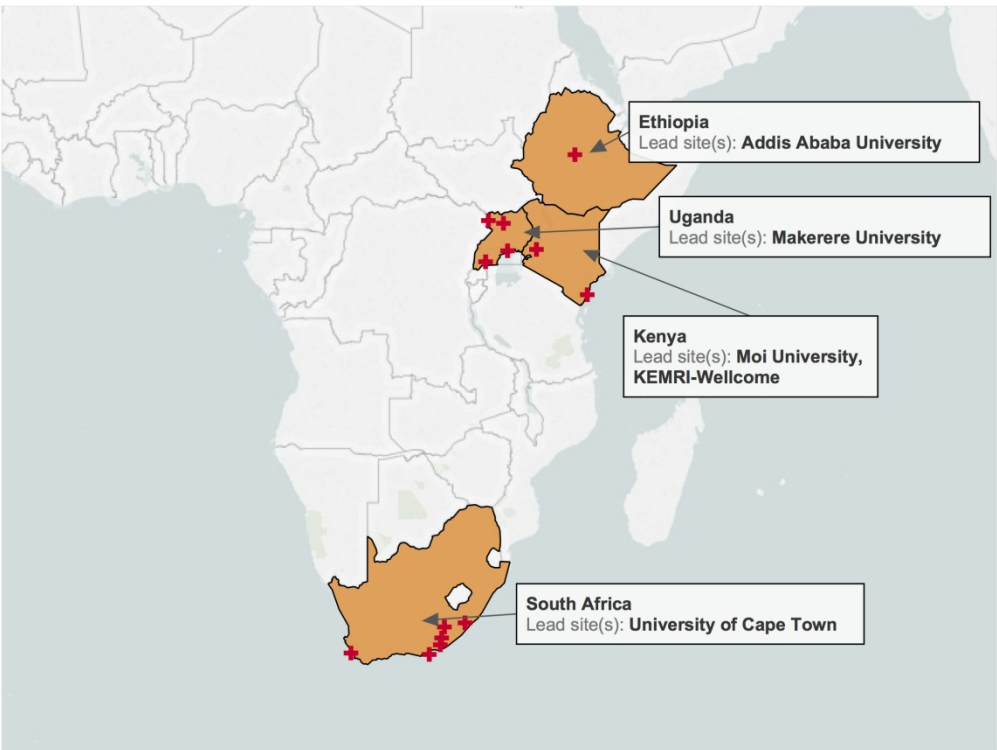


Figure 1: Proposed collection sites for NeuroGAP-Psychosis  
192x145mm (300 x 300 DPI)

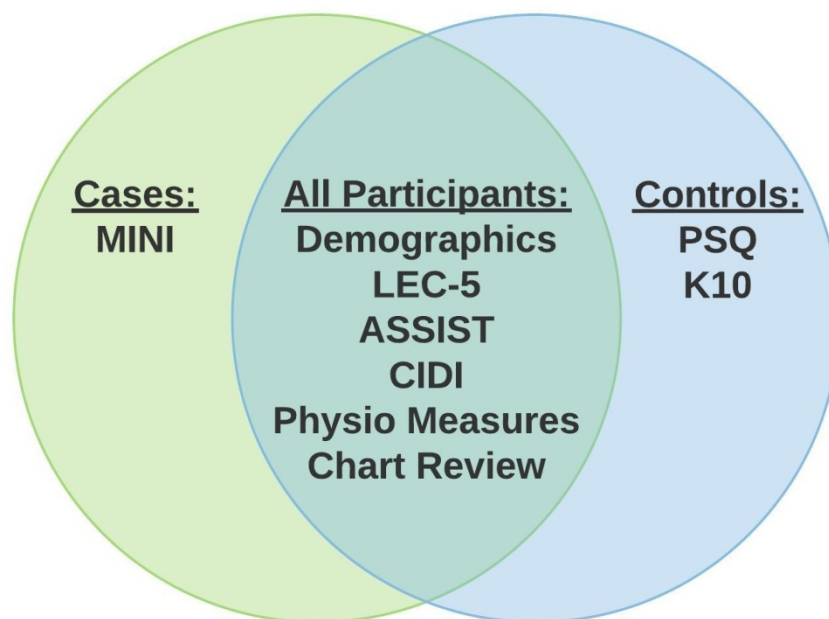


Figure 2: Phenotyping tools for study participants

130x97mm (300 x 300 DPI)

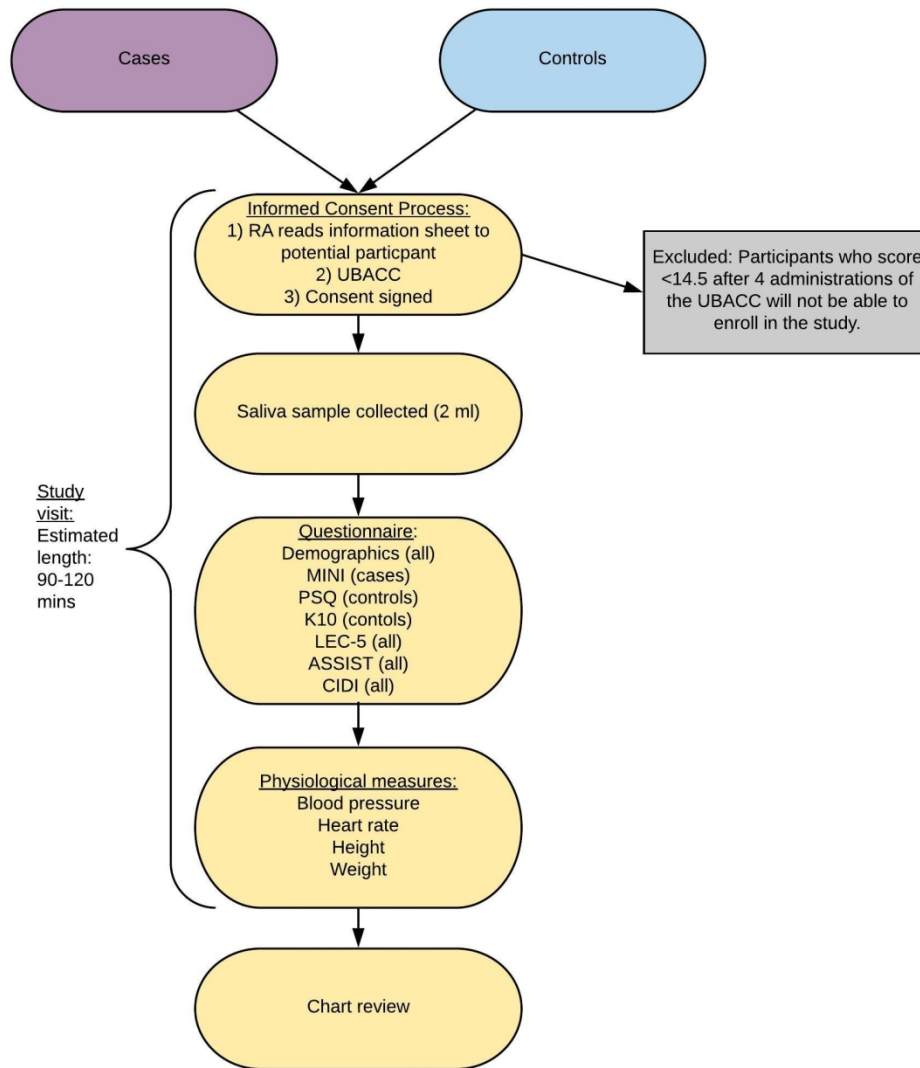


Figure 3: The study process for cases and controls

155x177mm (300 x 300 DPI)

**NeuroGAP-Psychosis Training Checklist  
For All Study Staff**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name above

**Instructions:** Check the boxes when you have completed each task. When you are done, you and your supervisor must sign and date the form to attest that you have completed the training and have approval to start working with NeuroGAP-Psychosis subjects. If some of these components are not applicable, the PI should write "Not Applicable" next to the item.

Online US National Institutes of Health Ethics Training      Date completed:

CV on file - must be signed and dated

Trained on the NeuroGAP-Psychosis Protocol

**Consent Process**

Study Information Sheet

Consent Form

UBACC

**Study Tools**

MINI       LEC-5

K10       PSQ

ASSIST       CIDI

**Physiological Measures**

Blood pressure, heart rate, weight, height

**Role Playing**

Role played all of the study activities from beginning to end with other members of the NeuroGAP-Psychosis team

**Shadowing**

Watched an experienced member of the study team complete 5 study visits with participants

**ATTESTATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of study team member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of supervisor or PI

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name of study team member

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Print name of supervisor or PI

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Date

Figure 4: NeuroGAP-Psychosis Training Checklist

196x203mm (300 x 300 DPI)

# BMJ Open

## Neuropsychiatric Genetics of African Populations-Psychosis (NeuroGAP-Psychosis): a case-control study protocol and GWAS in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda

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<b>Primary Subject Heading:</b>	Genetics and genomics
<b>Secondary Subject Heading:</b>	Mental health
<b>Keywords:</b>	GENETICS, MENTAL HEALTH, Africa, Schizophrenia & psychotic disorders < PSYCHIATRY

SCHOLARONE™  
Manuscripts

**Title:** Neuropsychiatric Genetics of African Populations-Psychosis (NeuroGAP-Psychosis): a case-control study protocol and GWAS in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder account for a large proportion of the global burden of disease. Despite their enormous impact, little is known about their pathophysiology. Given the high heritability of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, unbiased genetic studies offer the opportunity to gain insight into their neurobiology. However, advances in understanding the genetic architecture of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder have been based almost exclusively on subjects of Northern European ancestry. The Neuropsychiatric Genetics of African Populations-Psychosis (NeuroGAP-Psychosis) project aims to expand our understanding of the causes of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder through large-scale sample collection and analyses in understudied African populations.

**Methods and analysis:** NeuroGAP-Psychosis is a case-control study of 34,000 participants recruited across multiple sites within Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda. Participants will include individuals who are at least 18 years old with a clinical diagnosis of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder (“psychosis”) or those with no history of psychosis. Research assistants will collect phenotype data and saliva for DNA extraction. Data on mental disorders, history of physical health problems, substance use, and history of past traumatic events will be collected from all participants.

DNA extraction will take place in-country, with genotyping performed at the Broad Institute. The primary analyses will include identifying major groups of participants with similar ancestry utilizing the computation-efficient program SNP weights. This will be followed by a GWAS within and across ancestry groups.

**Ethics and Dissemination:** All participants will be assessed for capacity to consent using the University of California, San Diego Brief Assessment of Capacity to Consent (UBACC). Those demonstrating capacity to consent will be required to provide informed consent. Ethical clearances to conduct this study have been obtained from all participating sites. Findings from this study will be disseminated in publications and shared with controlled access public databases, such as dbGaP.

## STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY

- **Strength:** This will be the first psychiatric genetics study at this scale in Africa and across different African populations.
- **Strength:** Significant phenotypic data will be collected with the goal of a looking at a transdiagnostic category, without necessarily being limited to Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)/International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) diagnoses.
- **Strength/limitation:** We will extract DNA from saliva samples which are logistically easier to manage than blood. However, there is less DNA in saliva than in blood and there is a higher risk of contamination.
- **Limitation:** As we have chosen not to exclude based on race, some of the participants are likely to be of European descent.
- **Limitation:** Although we obtain permission to follow-up enrolled participants, this is a case-control study and thus will only have phenotypic data at one point in time.



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3 **INTRODUCTION:** Neuropsychiatric disorders are the leading cause of years lived with disability  
4 in the world.<sup>1</sup> Within mental, neurological, and substance use disorders, schizophrenia and bipolar  
5 disorder account for more than 14% of years of life lost to premature mortality and years lived  
6 with disability.<sup>2</sup> In the past several years, there have been great strides in our understanding of  
7 the genetic architecture of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. A landmark paper in *Nature* from  
8 2014 discovered 108 genome-wide significant loci for schizophrenia in ~37,000 cases and  
9 ~113,000 controls.<sup>3</sup> In the intervening years, the number of genome-wide significant hits for  
10 schizophrenia has grown to 145.<sup>4</sup> Successes in schizophrenia research have demonstrated that  
11 extremely large scale meta-analyses are necessary to identify genetic variants associated with  
12 neuropsychiatric disorders.<sup>5</sup> The hope is that these breakthroughs in neuropsychiatric genetics  
13 will lead to new pharmacological targets and ultimately treatments to reduce the global burden of  
14 psychiatric disorders.  
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18 However, for historical, cultural, financial, and practical reasons, these genetic findings are based  
19 predominantly on subjects of Northern European ancestry, with a growing but still small proportion  
20 on populations of East Asian ancestry.<sup>6,7</sup> Currently, there are major limitations in our knowledge  
21 of the genetic and environmental risk architecture of psychiatric disorders in persons of African  
22 descent.<sup>8</sup> As a result, we are limited in our ability to understand biological mechanisms, predict  
23 genetic risk,<sup>9</sup> and produce optimal therapy for African populations. Moreover, African genomes  
24 are characterized by shorter haplotype blocks and contain almost a million more variants per  
25 individual than populations outside Africa.<sup>10</sup> Further, genetic studies of underrepresented  
26 populations afford the opportunity to discover novel loci that are invariant in European  
27 populations.<sup>11</sup> Thus, including data from African populations in genetic studies of neuropsychiatric  
28 disorders may accelerate genetic discovery and could be useful for fine mapping of disease  
29 causing alleles.<sup>12</sup> Studies of psychiatric genetics are in their infancy in Africa and are not yet at a  
30 scale necessary for variant discovery.  
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35 **AIM AND OBJECTIVE:** The Neuropsychiatric Genetics of African Populations-Psychosis  
36 (NeuroGAP-Psychosis) project aims to expand knowledge of the genetic and environmental risk  
37 factors for neuropsychiatric disorders in Africa through large-scale sample collection and analysis,  
38 so that future advances in science and therapeutics can account for and be applicable to African  
39 populations.  
40

#### 41 **METHODS AND ANALYSIS:**

42  
43 **Study design:** The design will be a case-control study. This project is structured around two  
44 diagnostic categories: schizophrenia and bipolar I disorder (grouped under the heading “psychotic  
45 disorders”). The rationale for grouping schizophrenia and bipolar disorder stems from literature  
46 showing a high level of genetic correlation between schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, which  
47 may indicate that some of the same genetic variants confer risk for both phenotypes.<sup>13</sup>  
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50 Cases will be individuals with a diagnosis of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, referred to  
51 subsequently as psychosis. Controls will be individuals from the same geographic location,  
52 without psychosis, who will be matched to cases for age, sex, and ancestry.  
53

54 **Study sites:** The study will be conducted over four years, starting in September 2018 and ending  
55 in 2022, at several sites in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda (Figure 1).<sup>14</sup> DNA  
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3 extraction will be performed on site and genotyping will performed at the Broad Institute in the  
4 USA using the Illumina Global Screening Array. Sites were selected on the basis of the following  
5 criteria: 1) proven track record of psychiatric research; 2) availability of research personnel and  
6 the necessary research infrastructure to be able to recruit thousands of participants; 3) existing  
7 trusted relationships from prior collaborations. Each of the countries where participants will be  
8 recruited from has enormous genetic diversity within and between them, which is likely to improve  
9 the ability of this research to answer the study objectives. Pilot studies are currently underway in  
10 all four countries.  
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12 *Ethiopia.* Participants will be recruited from the Amanuel Mental Specialized Hospital (cases) and  
13 Black Lion Hospital also known as the Tikur Anbessa Hospital (controls).  
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16 *Kenya.* In Kenya, participants will be recruited from the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital and  
17 affiliated sites in Webuye, Kapenguria, Kitale, Kapsabet, Iten, and Kakamega and the KEMRI-  
18 Wellcome Trust Research Programme with recruiting sites in Kilifi County, Malindi sub-County,  
19 Port Reitz, and Coast General Provincial Hospitals.  
20

21 *South Africa.* Participants will be recruited from the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and the Gauteng  
22 provinces. In the Western Cape, participants will be recruited from the Valkenberg, Lentegur,  
23 Khayelitsha District, and Groote Schuur Hospitals as well as a number of community clinics. In  
24 the Eastern Cape, participants (cases) will be recruited from the Fort England Psychiatric,  
25 Elizabeth Donkin, Tower Psychiatric, and Komani Hospitals while controls will be recruited from  
26 the Nelson Mandela Academic and Dora Nginza Hospitals as well as five affiliated health clinics.  
27

28 *Uganda.* Study participants in Uganda will be recruited from the Butabika National Mental Health  
29 Referral Hospital (cases and controls), Naguru (controls only), Arua (cases and controls), Mbarara  
30 (cases and controls), and Gulu Regional Referral Hospitals (cases and controls).  
31

32 **Inclusion criteria:** Individuals with a clinical diagnosis of psychosis (cases) as confirmed by  
33 clinician referral and/or medical record review, and those without a clinical diagnosis of psychosis  
34 (controls) will be eligible to participate. All participants (cases and controls) will be required to  
35 provide written informed consent or a fingerprint in case of illiteracy and must be at least 18 years  
36 old. To ensure that participants (cases and controls) have sufficient capacity and autonomy to  
37 consent to the study, we will use the University of California, San Diego Brief Assessment of  
38 Capacity to Consent (UBACC),<sup>15</sup> which has been used as an iterative learning tool in similar  
39 populations in South Africa.<sup>16</sup>  
40

41  
42 **Exclusion criteria for cases:** Individuals (cases) will be excluded if the following are present:

- 43 • Absence of a diagnosis of a psychotic disorder
- 44 • Severe, intrusive levels of psychiatric symptoms at the time of consent
- 45 • Intoxication or withdrawal from alcohol or substance abuse at the time of consent
- 46 • A current psychiatric hospitalization (inpatients)
- 47 • Involuntary detention at the time of consent
- 48 • Lack fluency in one of the languages the consent form has been translated into
- 49 • Lack capacity to consent to the study as determined by the UBACC.  
50

51  
52 Potential cases may be approached at a later date once their symptoms are controlled if they  
53 meet other inclusion criteria. There will be no exclusions for cases or controls based on sex,  
54 ancestry/ethnicity, religious affiliations, or sexual orientation.  
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**Exclusion criteria for controls:** Potential controls will be excluded if they:

- Have current psychotic symptoms or a past diagnosis of a psychotic disorder
- Are currently taking medication for psychosis
- Have acute levels of alcohol or substance misuse as demonstrated by being a current inpatient or under acute medical care for substance misuse
- Are not fluent in any of the languages the consent form has been translated into
- Lack capacity to consent to the study as determined by the UBACC.

**Participant recruitment:** Eligible participants (cases) will be identified by clinical staff through review of their medical records. A research assistant (RA), who is a nurse, clinical officer, clinical assistant, or bachelor's level accredited RA and who has received study specific training and human subjects training, will approach the prospective participant, carefully explaining to them in the local language the purpose and procedures of the study and emphasizing that participation is entirely voluntary and will not impact any medical care they receive. Languages include: Acholi, Afrikaans, Amharic, English, Kigiryama, Kiswahili, Luganda, Lugbara, Runyankole, and isiXhosa.

After reading the information sheet out loud to the subject, the RA will administer the UBACC, a 10-item questionnaire that evaluates the potential participant's understanding of different components of the study. Each response will be scored on a range of 0-2, with 0 representing no understanding and 2 representing a clear understanding. In the NeuroGAP-Psychosis study, the RA will administer the UBACC over a maximum of four trials. The RA will re-explain and re-administer any items the subject answered incorrectly. The process will end if the full score of 20 is obtained. After the 4<sup>th</sup> trial, participants who are unable to achieve a score of 14.5, the cut-off originally developed for screening decisional capacity using the UBACC,<sup>15</sup> will be excluded.

The RA will proceed to obtain informed consent from those who express interest in participation, and ask participants to provide saliva into an Oragene tube, from which their DNA will be extracted. To maximize the quality of the collected DNA, participants will be asked not to eat, drink, smoke, or chew gum for 30 minutes prior to providing the sample during the consenting process.

Phenotypic assessments were selected on the basis of the following criteria: 1) the particular domain assessed; 2) cross-cultural validity; 3) non-proprietary measures, when possible; 4) investigators' prior experience using the tool; and 5) the time length of administering the tool. The study will collect the following battery of instruments (see Figure 2):

- Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview, Standard 7.0.2 for DSM-5 (MINI): modules A, C, K, and O on major depressive episodes, manic and hypomanic episodes, and psychotic disorders and mood disorders with psychotic features, respectively<sup>17</sup>
- Life Events Checklist for DSM-5 (LEC-5): a 17-item scale covering exposures to potentially traumatic events<sup>18</sup>
- Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test, version 3.0 (ASSIST): a subset of the ASSIST on substance type and use over a participant's lifetime and over the past three months<sup>19</sup>
- Composite International Diagnostic Interview screener (CIDI): a checklist within the CIDI on chronic physical conditions<sup>20</sup> including diabetes, HIV/AIDS, epilepsy/seizures, and tuberculosis.

Participant phenotypic data will be collected using encrypted tablets, and uploaded to a secure cloud-based server. Other sources of data will include chart reviews to ascertain clinical

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3 diagnoses and medication use (both psychotropic and non-psychotropic) by the participants; as  
4 well as measurements of blood pressure, heart rate, height, and weight.  
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6 Recruitment of controls will take place from general medical facilities (some of these facilities are  
7 located within the premises where cases will be identified). Controls will be approached in the  
8 same manner as cases and will likely consist of people who are seeking clinical care for  
9 themselves, accompanying a friend or family member to a clinic visit, or picking up a medication  
10 refill. In one site, at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme in Kenya, controls may  
11 also be recruited from homes through the Kilifi Health and Demographic Surveillance System  
12 (KHDSS).<sup>21</sup> [In KHDSS, census data is recorded every four months through household surveys  
13 in the catchment area and linked with healthcare data from Kilifi District Hospital.]  
14

15  
16 The study visit for controls will match the process for cases except for two phenotypic batteries,  
17 the K10 and the PSQ (see Figure 3); instead of using the MINI for controls, the RA will administer:  
18

- 19 • Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10): a 10-item questionnaire to measure anxiety  
20 and depression<sup>22</sup>
- 21 • Psychosis Screening Questionnaire (PSQ): a brief screening tool for psychotic  
22 conditions<sup>23</sup>  
23

24 All participants will receive compensation to offset the time and inconvenience of participating in  
25 the study based on recommendations from the local ethics committees and principal investigators.  
26 The estimated length of a study visit is 90 to 120 minutes.  
27

### 28 **Patient and Public Involvement**

29 Patients' priorities and experiences were taken into account in the design of the study. Prior  
30 research and clinical work with people with neuropsychiatric disorders at each of the sites  
31 informed the research question and study design, including limiting the length of the study battery,  
32 minimizing intrusive sample collection (saliva instead of blood), and incorporating a tool as part  
33 of the consent process to assess understanding of the research and study visit. In addition, most  
34 of the sites have a precedent of genetics research and we engaged with teams from those other  
35 genetic studies to incorporate patient concerns emerging from genetic research. Study findings  
36 will be shared with local community advisory boards.  
37  
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39 **Sample size and power calculation:** Over a period of four years, the study team expects to  
40 recruit a total of 17,000 schizophrenia and bipolar disorder cases and 17,000 controls across four  
41 countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda. The geographical and demographic  
42 sampling distribution of the controls will follow that of the cases, and cases and controls will be  
43 matched for ethnic ancestry in all analyses. These numbers, described in more detail below, will  
44 give adequate statistical power to independently examine the genetic architecture of  
45 schizophrenia and bipolar disorder in African populations, the distribution and influence of rare  
46 copy number variation on neuropsychiatric disease risk in African populations, and determine the  
47 consistency of genetic influences on neuropsychiatric disease risk between populations of  
48 European and African descent. Ultimately these data will be analyzed in combination with other  
49 studies of psychiatric genetics, most notably from the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium, which  
50 will further increase our power to discover new and validate current variants with small effect  
51 sizes.  
52

53 With 17,000 cases and controls, using a threshold of  $2.5 \times 10^{-8}$  for genome-wide significance, we  
54 have >90% power to find common variants (Minor Allele Frequency (MAF) >5%) with an odds  
55 ratio of 1.15 or greater.<sup>24</sup> For more common variants with MAF=25%, we have 89% power to a  
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3 see significant odds ratio as low as 1.06. These effect sizes are within the range of what was  
4 found in a recent GWAS of schizophrenia in a European population.<sup>3</sup>  
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6 **DNA extraction and processing:** All study participants will provide a 2.0 mL sample of saliva by  
7 spitting into a funnel in an Oragene<sup>(R)</sup> OR-500 kit. DNA extraction will take place in-country, with  
8 one aliquot of the extract sent to the Broad Institute in Cambridge, MA, USA for genotyping. The  
9 remaining DNA will be frozen and stored in-country within designated biobanks and will be  
10 governed by the rules of its institution. In Ethiopia, DNA will be stored at the Black Lion Hospital.  
11 In Kenya, DNA will be stored at Moi University and KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme  
12 Biorepository Laboratories. In South Africa, DNA will be stored in a biobank at the Division of  
13 Human Genetics at the University of Cape Town, while in Uganda, DNA will be stored at the  
14 Integrated Biorepository Lab of H3Africa in Uganda (IBR-H3A-U).  
15

16  
17 All samples will be assayed on the same genotyping array at the same facility. To maximize  
18 information and allow for comparisons across studies genotyped on different platforms, we will  
19 impute SNP genotypes not present on specific arrays. Genotype imputation of untyped markers  
20 will be performed using default parameters in IMPUTE2 using appropriate reference panels.  
21

22 **Training:** To ensure research staff understand the study and their responsibilities, teams will  
23 undergo multiple trainings. Study staff who have contact with research participants will complete  
24 the online Human Subject Training offered by the US National Institutes of Health. Site leadership  
25 and Harvard staff will provide in-person training to the teams by providing an overview of the  
26 project, leading discussions, providing role playing on ethics and confidentiality, recruiting and  
27 consenting participants, on reportable events, and on storing forms and data properly.  
28 Additionally, there will be hands-on training using the electronic tablets, collecting saliva using  
29 Oragene kits, administering the phenotypic batteries, and taking physiological measures, such as  
30 height and weight. A checklist will be created of key skills staff need before they can begin  
31 interacting with participants one-on-one (Figure 4). This form will need to be signed and dated  
32 by the staff member and the staff member's supervisor before he or she can begin working with  
33 participants; it will then be uploaded to the regulatory binder. Harvard teams will reinforce these  
34 skills with multiple site visits per year and weekly video calls.  
35

36 In addition, Broad Institute wet lab staff will work in partnership with the lab teams in Africa to  
37 standardize the DNA extraction process across the five sites and to increase the quality of the  
38 extractions through visits, video calls, and email. Where needed, the Broad staff will train lab  
39 members on DNA extraction from saliva and establish a sample chain of custody process in order  
40 to decrease the likelihood of sample swaps.  
41

#### 42 **Statistical analysis plans:**

43  
44 **a) Ancestry analyses.** In contrast to most samples previously analyzed by the psychiatric genetics  
45 community – which were predominately of European ancestry<sup>25</sup> – the NeuroGAP-Psychosis  
46 samples will include individuals of predominantly African ancestry and will be drawn from multiple  
47 populations across East and South Africa where genetic variation will be more structured and  
48 demographically complex.<sup>26 27</sup> Therefore, before proceeding with any phenotype analyses we will  
49 first analyze genetic ancestry in our cohorts to identify large, homogeneous groups as described  
50 below to conserve optimal power in the GWAS and ultimately control for additional population  
51 stratification within these groups to avoid spurious results.  
52

53 We will take advantage of the large amount of genotypic information available and control for  
54 potential population stratification in a standard and validated two-step process. First, we will  
55 compute principal components analysis (PCA) to adjust for population substructure. We will also  
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3 include principal components (PCs) when computing relatedness using PC-AiR.<sup>28</sup> We will define  
4 clusters of ancestries using ADMIXTURE,<sup>29</sup> and choose the optimal number of clusters with 5-  
5 fold cross-validation to identify major groups of participants with similar ancestry. The inclusion of  
6 extensive population reference samples compiled by our group and available from other studies,  
7 such as the 1000 Genomes Project<sup>30</sup> and the African Genome Variation Project,<sup>27</sup> will increase  
8 the power of this approach and lead to stable individual ancestry calling across studies. Second,  
9 if significant differences are found between populations in our cohorts, as expected, we will define  
10 more homogeneous populations within several standard deviations of these reference data,  
11 selecting each population by constructing multidimensional ellipses across the PCs. Our initial  
12 analyses will then be conducted separately on more homogeneous ancestry groups, and later  
13 meta-analyzed. Within each group, we will conduct PCA again using PC-AiR, and the PCs that  
14 explain the most variation within the cohort will be included as covariates in the regression  
15 analyses. To adjust for cryptic relatedness that considers ancestry, we will compute a genetic  
16 relatedness matrix using PC-Relate,<sup>31</sup> which can be used as a random effect in a linear or logistic  
17 mixed model. In addition, as new methods are developed by our group and others to account for  
18 population structure, we will modify our analyses when appropriate.  
19

20 **b) Genome-wide Association Study (GWAS).** The primary GWAS discovery analysis will be  
21 conducted for the “psychotic disorders” diagnosis, as well as through subsets stratified by primary  
22 disorder (schizophrenia, bipolar disorder) using logistic regression. All analyses will be performed  
23 using PLINK<sup>32</sup> and R.<sup>33</sup> To correct for multiple comparisons and the large number of variants in  
24 the African genome, we will apply a more conservative significance threshold of  $p < 2.5 \times 10^{-8}$ .<sup>34</sup>  
25 Using these subsets, we will assess the genetic correlation and diagnostic stratification among  
26 phenotypes.  
27

28 **c) Heritability estimates.** Estimation of heritability, the fraction of disease risk attributable to  
29 inherited genetic differences, is an important initial analytic goal. Heritability estimates speak to  
30 the anticipated architecture and power of a genome-wide association study, a primary endpoint  
31 of the NeuroGAP-Psychosis project. We will use Genome-wide Complex Trait Analysis (GCTA)  
32 to estimate SNP-based heritability within Africa.<sup>25 35</sup> We will assess genetic correlation with  
33 existing GWAS in other globally diverse populations using POPCORN.<sup>36</sup>  
34

## 35 **ETHICS AND DISSEMINATION:**

36 **Ethics:** Ethical and safety considerations will be taken across multiple levels. Since the subjects  
37 the study aims to recruit are deemed vulnerable populations, additional measures will be taken to  
38 protect them. Potential participants will be excluded if they are presenting with severe, intrusive  
39 levels of psychiatric symptoms at the time of consent. In addition, as described previously, the  
40 RAs will use the UBACC<sup>15 16</sup> during the consent process to make sure participants understand  
41 the study, what is required of them, and that they can withdraw at any point. Participants who  
42 pass the UBACC and who want to continue will be required to provide written informed consent  
43 or a fingerprint in lieu of a signature.  
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47 All steps will be taken to mitigate the potential loss of confidentiality for participants. A two-part  
48 ID system will be instituted in order to limit the possibility of connecting the participant with their  
49 data. There will be one ID for the phenotypic information, and one for genetic information. A  
50 single encrypted database linking the phenotypic ID and genetic ID will be stored in-country. The  
51 participant's name and contact information will be on the consent form, which will be stored in a  
52 locked cabinet. This information will be put in a separate secure database and will never leave  
53 the country of origin. No data that is considered identifiable, by Health Insurance Portability and  
54 Accountability Act (HIPPA) standards, will ever be collected on the electronic tablets.  
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Ethical clearances to conduct this study have been obtained from all participating sites, including:

- Ethiopia: Addis Ababa University College of Health Sciences (#014/17/Psy) and the Ministry of Science and Technology National Research Ethics Review Committee (#3.10/14/2018).
- Kenya: Moi University School of Medicine Institutional Research and Ethics Committee (#IREC/2016/145, approval number: IREC 1727), Kenya National Council of Science and Technology (#NACOSTI/P/17/56302/19576) KEMRI Centre Scientific Committee (CSC# KEMRI/CGMRC/CSC/070/2016), KEMRI Scientific and Ethics Review Unit (SERU# KEMRI/SERU/CGMR-C/070/3575)
- South Africa: The University of Cape Town Human Research Ethics Committee (#466/2016) and Walter Sisulu University Research and Ethics Committee (# 051/2016)
- Uganda: The Makerere University School of Medicine Research and Ethics Committee (SOMREC #REC REF 2016-057) and the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST #HS14ES)
- USA: The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (#IRB17-0822)

**Dissemination:** We aim to share results through a number of mechanisms in addition to conferences and peer-reviewed publications. In order to maximize scientific utility of the samples/data and to minimize data waste, both genomic and phenotypic data from NeuroGAP-Psychosis will be deposited in controlled access public databases, such as the database of Genotypes and Phenotypes (dbGaP), the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (PGC), and/or the European Genome-Phenome Archive (EGA). By pooling NeuroGAP-Psychosis' data with that from other studies, it will be possible to maximize statistical power. Sharing the data will also contribute to the "genomic revolution" currently underway in Africa due to the pioneering work of the African Genome Variation Project, MalariaGEN, African Society of Human Genetics, and Human Hereditary and Health in Africa (H3Africa).<sup>27 37-40</sup>

To help ensure all collaborators have the capacity to work with all the data that will be created, a unique training program has been created, the Global Initiative for Neuropsychiatric Genetics Education in Research (GINGER),<sup>41</sup> that will run in parallel to the NeuroGAP-Psychosis study. Over a two-year period, 17 early-career researchers from Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, and Uganda will take part in online and in-person trainings on topics including biostatistics, genetic analysis, and epidemiology. Ultimately, the goal of GINGER is to build the next generation of neuropsychiatric geneticists who will be able to work on the NeuroGAP-Psychosis data and continue its legacy in the future.

**Authors' contributions:**

KK and DS conceptualized and designed the study.

AS, DA, RS, LA, EK, SK, VdM, CN, DS, ST, ZZ, and KK wrote the protocol, selected the phenotype questionnaires, and added site-specific information.

LC and ARM wrote the sample size, power calculations, and statistical analysis plans.

MC and GS contributed to the UBACC process.

AS and DA wrote the draft of the manuscript and incorporated the revisions by the co-authors; they contributed equally to this paper.

All authors reviewed the manuscript for intellectual content, contributed to revisions, and approved the final version for publication.

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**Legends for Figures:**

Figure 1: Proposed collection sites for NeuroGAP-Psychosis

Figure 2: Phenotyping tools for study participants

Figure 3: The study process for cases and controls

Figure 4: NeuroGAP-Psychosis Training Checklist



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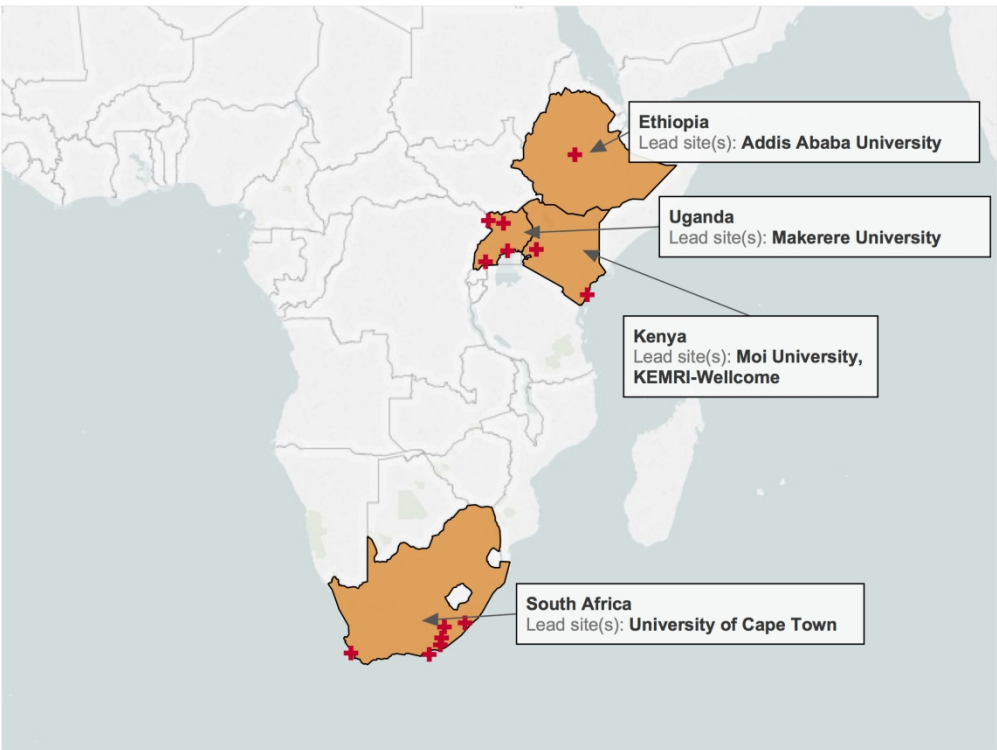


Figure 1: Proposed collection sites for NeuroGAP-Psychosis  
192x145mm (300 x 300 DPI)

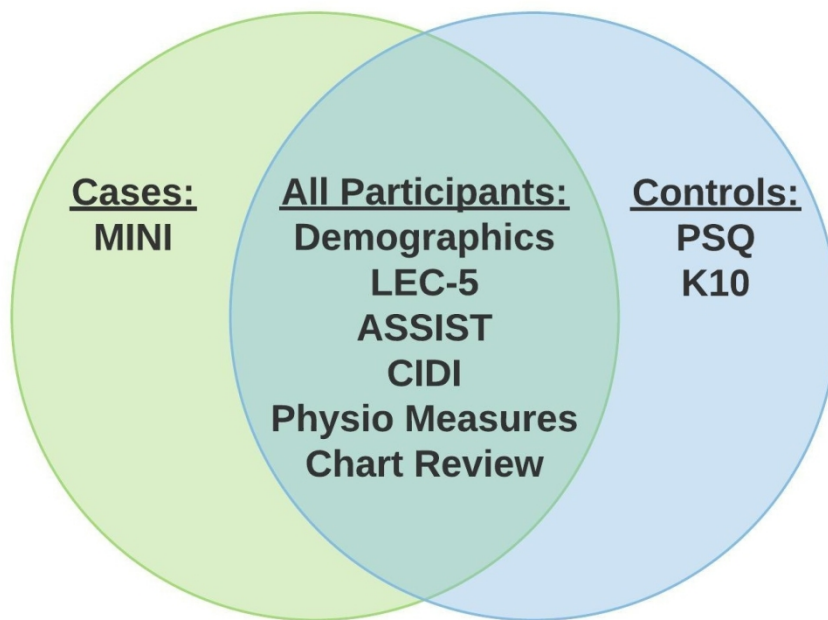


Figure 2: Phenotyping tools for study participants

130x97mm (300 x 300 DPI)

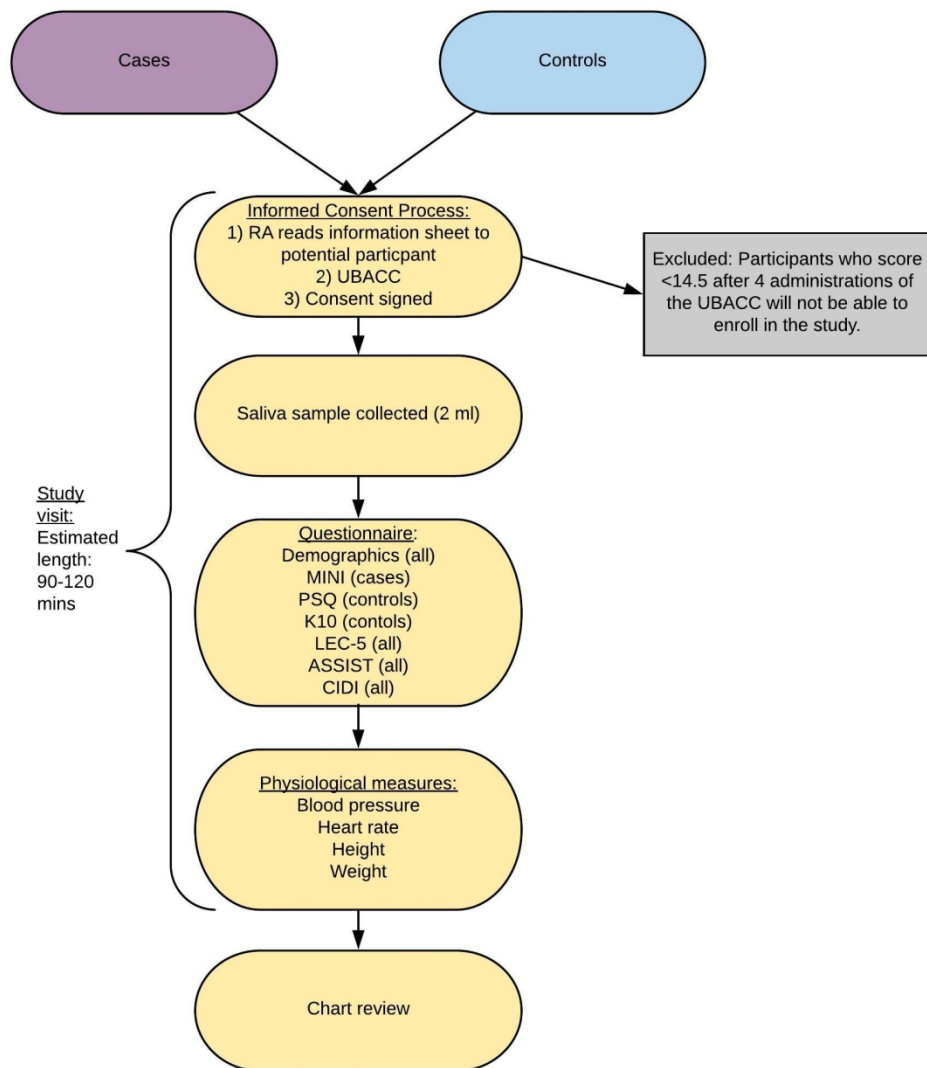


Figure 3: The study process for cases and controls

155x177mm (300 x 300 DPI)

**NeuroGAP-Psychosis Training Checklist  
For All Study Staff**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name above

Instructions: Check the boxes when you have completed each task. When you are done, you and your supervisor must sign and date the form to attest that you have completed the training and have approval to start working with NeuroGAP-Psychosis subjects. If some of these components are not applicable, the PI should write "Not Applicable" next to the item.

- Online US National Institutes of Health Ethics Training      Date completed:
- CV on file - must be signed and dated
- Trained on the NeuroGAP-Psychosis Protocol

**Consent Process**

- Study Information Sheet
- Consent Form
- UBACC

**Study Tools**

- MINI       LEC-5
- K10       PSQ
- ASSIST       CIDI

**Physiological Measures**

- Blood pressure, heart rate, weight, height

**Role Playing**

- Role played all of the study activities from beginning to end with other members of the NeuroGAP-Psychosis team

**Shadowing**

- Watched an experienced member of the study team complete 5 study visits with participants

**ATTESTATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of study team member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of supervisor or PI

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name of study team member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name of supervisor or PI

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Figure 4: NeuroGAP-Psychosis Training Checklist

196x203mm (300 x 300 DPI)