Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

Anxiety disorders and depression in older adults

1. The cortisol awakening response is lowered in older adults with chronic anxiety disorders. (this thesis)
2. Common method variance leads to an artificial increase in the comorbidity estimate of anxiety disorders and depression. (this thesis)
3. The high comorbidity of anxiety disorders and depression is at least partly explained by a shared genetic component. (this thesis)
4. The PCLO gene is associated with depressive disorders in the general population. (this thesis)
5. Large sample sizes (>50,000 individuals) are necessary to find genetic variants associated with depressive symptoms. (this thesis)
6. The high comorbidity between psychiatric disorders results from the current consensus-based diagnostic system.
7. Further evolution of methods, phenotypes and collaboration will soon lead to genome-wide association study success for anxiety and depression.
8. The lack of an empirical diagnostic system complicates genetic research of anxiety and depression.
9. Studies of gene-environment interactions are unlikely to enhance our understanding of the etiology of psychiatric disorders. (S Zammit, MJ Owen and G Lewis in Evid Based Mental Health, 2010, 13(3):65-68)
10. A look-up of top hits from genome-wide association studies before replication is a waste of time.
11. Every PhD student experiences feelings of anxiety and depression.

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