

## HOW SCHIZOPHRENIA DEVELOPS: MAJOR CLUES DISCOVERED--FINDINGS MAY LEAD TO BETTER MEDICATIONS TO CORRECT GENE-RELATED PROBLEM

Schizophrenia may occur, in part, because of a problem in an intermittent on/off switch for a gene involved in making a key chemical messenger in the brain, scientists have found in a study of human brain tissue. The researchers found that the gene is turned on at increasingly high rates during normal development of the prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain involved in higher functions like thinking and decision-making – but that this normal increase may not occur in people with schizophrenia.

The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Press release:

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/science-news/2007/how-schizophrenia-develops-major-clues-discovered.shtml>