



# Introduction to Genetic Epidemiology

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# Genetic Epidemiology

- Establishing / Quantifying the role of genes and environment in variation in disease and complex traits ~ Answering questions about the importance of nature and nurture on individual differences
- Finding those genes and environmental factors

# Genes & Environment

- How much of the variation in a trait is accounted for by genetic factors?
- Do shared environmental factors contribute significantly to the trait variation?
- The first of these questions addresses heritability, defined as the proportion of the total variance explained by genetic factors