



John McGrath

Location:	Aarhus University
Host professor:	Preben Bo Mortensen
Total grant:	29.9 million DKK

How will John McGrath enrich Danish research?

Preben Bo Mortensen: John McGrath is a world leader in psychiatric epidemiology. His work is dedicated to developing our understanding of the causes of serious mental disorders. In collaboration with our group and colleagues from the Statens Serum Institut, John has discovered a new link between low prenatal vitamin D and risk of schizophrenia. We will follow up this interesting new clue. Also, John will link our local researchers with colleagues from two major international research consortia — the Global Burden of Disease group, and the World Mental Health Survey group.

What makes the National Centre for Register-based Research at Aarhus University attractive to you?

John McGrath: Preben Bo Mortensen leads one of the world's most influential psychiatric epidemiology groups. The chances to work with Preben and his team allows me to explore research questions in an efficient fashion. Danish citizens should be very proud that their country has a long tradition of ethical research based on health registers and biobanks. It not only contributes to better health in Denmark, but allows Denmark to lead the world in many areas of health research.

How are you going to increase the internationalization of this research area in the five-year grant period?

John McGrath: As part of my research over the next 5 years, we will follow-up our discoveries related to neonatal vitamin D and risk of mental illness. In addition, we will build on the strong foundation of psychiatric epidemiology to explore patterns of comorbidity (i.e. the presence of two or more health disorders) across the lifespan. We will do this in collaboration with the Harvard-based World Mental Health Survey, and the University of Washington-based Global Burden of Disease group.

What will the long-term effects on Danish research be with this grant?

John McGrath: We hope that this research will further strengthen Danish research skills by training the next generation of researcher, and also provide an international showcase for the best of Danish health research.

