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## Novel molecular pathways and biomarkers of anxiety disorders (AnxBio)

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Anxiety and fear are normal responses to threatening situations. However, in anxiety disorders these responses are excessive and prolonged, disrupting daily life. Anxiety disorders are the most common mental disorders in the EU, affecting approximately one in seven people. The drugs currently used to treat anxiety disorders are only helping a subset of patients and are associated with adverse side effects. There is a need to develop more highly targeted therapies. The ability to develop such therapies is contingent on the understanding of the molecular mechanisms that regulate anxiety. The AnxBio project will use modern genomic and proteomic methods to reveal the biological pathways involved in the regulation of anxiety. Based on this data, we will formulate specific hypotheses and test them in anxiety models. This approach could lead to the establishment of biomarkers to more accurately diagnose anxiety disorders and to the identification of molecular targets towards the development of more effective treatments.