

Dr Jennifer Jordan PhD

Senior Lecturer, University of Otago & Co-lead Investigator, Eating Disorders Genetics Initiative NZ, CHRISTCHURCH

Dr Jennifer Jordan is a senior lecturer at the University of Otago, Christchurch and co-lead Investigator for the New Zealand arm of the Eating Disorders Genetics Initiative (EDGI) – the world's largest and most rigorous investigation into eating disorders to date.

Dr Jordan completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees and Diploma in Clinical Psychology at the University of Canterbury.

In 2004, she also completed her PhD on psychiatric comorbidity and subtyping in anorexia nervosa at the University of Otago.

Dr Jordan is a Fellow of the New Zealand College of Clinical Psychologists.



She has worked in clinical research for almost 18 years, participating in comparative psychotherapy research trials for significant mental health problems, including eating, anxiety and mood disorders.

Dr Jordan was a member of the Anorexia Nervosa Treatment Study team in Christchurch which developed Specialist Supportive Clinical Management (SSCM). After evaluation in a series of international research studies, SSCM is now included in several international treatment guidelines for outpatient treatment for adults with anorexia nervosa.

She has many years of experience as a clinical psychologist working in a range of adult mental health settings for the Canterbury District Health Board, including four years at the South Island Eating Disorders Service.

She has ongoing collaborations with those working in the eating disorders field in New Zealand. Over the past few years, she has led a collaboration of researchers, clinicians and EDANZ in the Costs of Eating Disorders in New Zealand study.

Together with geneticist, Professor Martin Kennedy, Dr Jordan is coordinating the New Zealand arm of EDGI, with the aim of recruiting 3,500 participants from across the country.

According to Dr Jordan, gaining essential knowledge of the genetics of eating disorders has the potential to accelerate further essential research into their causes, treatment and prevention.

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