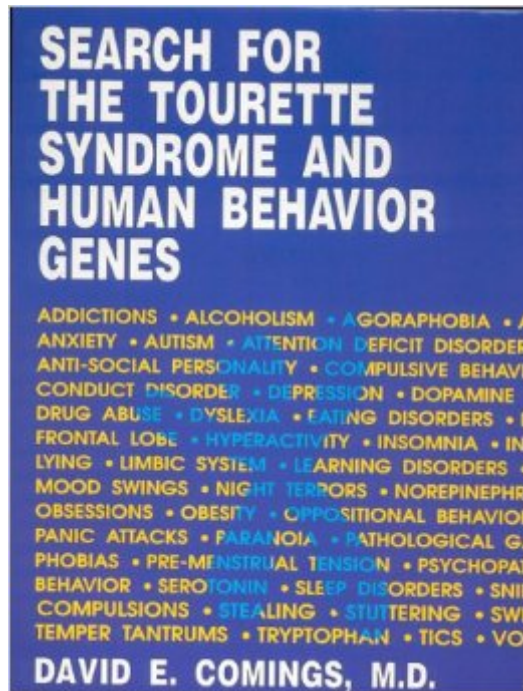


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# Search For The Tourette Syndrome And Human Behavior Genes



## Synopsis

Dr. Comings tells the story of his 18 years of involvement with Tourette syndrome, from both the level of treating thousands of patients with this common and complex disorder, to his clinical, genetic and molecular genetic research. He quickly realized this was more than just a tic disorder. His patients and their relatives had problems with a wide range of behaviors including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), obsessive compulsive behaviors, conduct and oppositional defiant disorder, rages, mania, depression, anxiety, panic attacks, phobias, sexual, sleep, and other disorders. Because Tourette syndrome is genetic, this involvement with a spectrum of disorders had broad implications about the causes of behaviors that most mental health workers attributed to psychological problems, poor parenting, or learned behaviors. His genetic studies led him to eventually conclude that Tourette syndrome was a polygenic disorder caused by the coming together from both parents of a number of genes affecting dopamine, serotonin and other brain chemical. Dr. Comings relates how the concept that many human behavioral disorders were genetically interrelated was initially ridiculed. These attitudes began to change as other reported similar findings and as his concept gained support from molecular genetic studies of specific genes.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There's that old saying - "When all you have is a hammer, the whole world is a nail." Since the author has made the study of Tourette's such a large part of his life's work, and since his son was diagnosed with the Syndrome - he sees it everywhere. He genetically associates the Syndrome with just about every other kind of dysfunction you can imagine, from all forms of OCD - to autism - to

alcoholism - to depression - to schizophrenia - to hyper-sexuality, hypo-sexuality, and homosexuality - and the list goes on. In the end, he even says that he can see himself as being likely responsible for passing at least some part of the Tourette's gene complex onto his son, because he has been a workaholic all his life. Thus even working hard at a career gets labeled as a form of Tourette's. So Comings does tend to cast his net too wide, dragging in every kind of fishy malady that's out there as a result. This far-flung association might tend to make the reader skeptical about the whole body of his work. This approach also obviously will make it difficult for future researchers to focus down on any real remedies. What's more, it becomes difficult to see why Comings specifically chose Tourette's as the fulcrum of this whole gamut of disorders. Couldn't he just as easily have made something like compulsive hand-washing or any other OCD behavior as the centerpiece of his researches, and hung every other disorder, including Tourette's, on that hook? However, Comings' researches, as reported here, still make a valuable contribution to the understanding of Tourette's and all compulsive behaviors.

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