The Social and Genetic Epidemiology of Tobacco and Alcohol Use in Adolescence

Abstract: Tobacco and alcohol use in adolescence and young adulthood are two of the most widely-studied topics in all of behavioral science, yet many questions remain. Although many studies have investigated both genetic and environmental determinants of tobacco and alcohol use, very few have brought the two together in a gene-environment interaction framework. Furthermore, it is an understudied fact that the interactive effects of tobacco and alcohol use are greater than the effect of tobacco use alone despite the absence of large, negative health effects of moderate alcohol consumption alone. This highlights the need to study the determinants of tobacco and alcohol co-use as well as their individual determinants. In this presentation, we give an overview of our collaborative research program seeking two address these two limitations of the literature on tobacco and alcohol use in adolescence in the United States, with a special focus on the role of the school-level health behavioral environment.

Date: Thursday February 28, 2013
Time: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
Venue: IBS Meeting Room, 155 B