Obtaining his Bachelor of Science Degree in Genetics from the University of Adelaide in 1972, followed by his Ph.D. where his thesis explored the classical twin study in human behaviour genetics from the University of Birmingham in 1977, Professor Nicholas Martin now heads the Genetic Epidemiology Laboratory at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR).

As the lead Australian investigator of the Anorexia Nervosa Genetics Initiative (ANGI) – the world’s largest and most rigorous genetic investigation of anorexia nervosa to date – Professor Martin and his team are working towards detecting genetic variations that may play a role in the onset of anorexia.

As a senior scientist, and an Adjunct Professor in Psychology at the University of Queensland, Professor Martin has been a leader in behaviour genetics research using longitudinal twin studies and is recognised as a pioneer in the field of multivariate genetic modelling.

In recent years, Professor Martin’s research has seen his focus shift more into the field of genome-wide association studies to discover the particular genes which predispose people to depression, anxiety, eating disorders, alcoholism, melanoma and other common diseases.

He is the editor of *Twin Research and Human Genetics*, and an associate editor of *Molecular Psychiatry*, and has published more than 1,000 papers, winning international accolades.

He is a fellow of the Australian Academies of Science, Health and Medical Science, and Social Science and has previously served as President of the Behaviour Genetics Association.

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