This paper demonstrates that a dominant X-linked gene is involved in the biological transmission of bipolar manic-depressive illness. This was done through the application of linkage methods using chromosomal markers in a large sample of families. The paper also emphasizes the notion that depression is heterogeneous from the genetic point of view since X-linked inheritance could not be found in unipolar depressive illness. These findings have now been replicated by our group and other laboratories and have stimulated interest and research in the area of molecular genetics of mental disorders. The significance of this work has further resulted in the attribution of several awards such as the First International Anna Monika Award in 1981, the Award of the Royal Academy of Medicine in 1983, the Award of the National Academy of Medicine in 1983, the Award of the National Academy of Medicine in France in 1986, and the First Lundbeck Prize for Biological Psychiatry in 1987.

It is hoped that these findings will, in the near future, permit the isolation and sequencing of a gene responsible for manic-depression and hold great promises for the diagnosis and etiological treatment of the mentally ill.