

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES & SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE

Genome-wide association analyses identify 44 risk variants and refine the genetic architecture of major depression

1

2

3

4

5 Supplementary Figure 1. SNP heritability estimates per cohort..... 2

6 Supplementary Figure 2: Leave-one-out genetic risk score analyses of PGC29. 3

7 Supplementary Figure 3: Circular plots to illustrate DNA-DNA loops. 4

8 Supplementary Figure 4: Mendelian randomization analyses..... 5

9 Genotyping and quality control..... 6

10 Cohort comparability..... 6

11 Trans-ancestry comparison with the Chinese CONVERGE cohort. 7

12 Definition of independent loci..... 8

13 Brief review of four key loci, *OLFM4*, *NEGR1*, *RBFOX1* and *LRFN5* 8

14 Genetic risk score (GRS) analysis..... 9

15 Mendelian randomization (MR) analyses..... 10

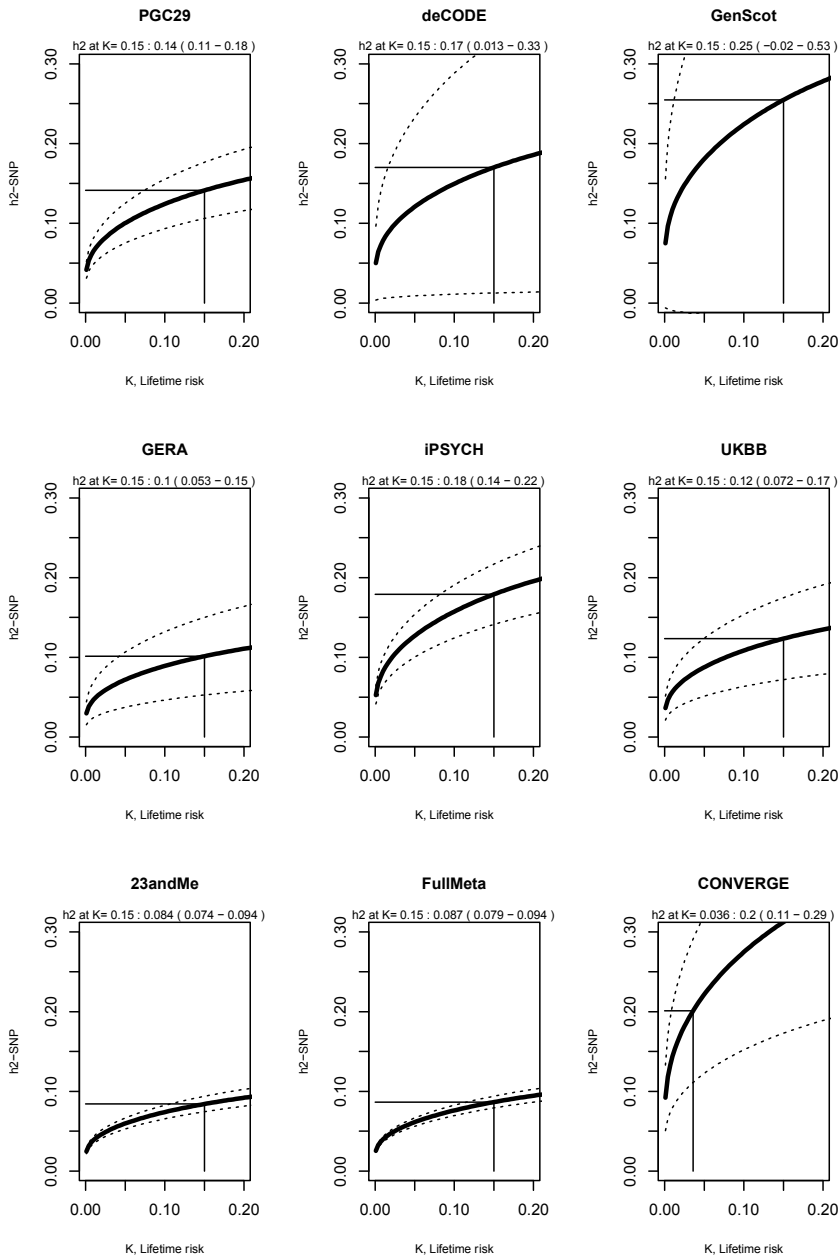
16 Acknowledgements 12

17 Funding sources..... 13

18 References 16

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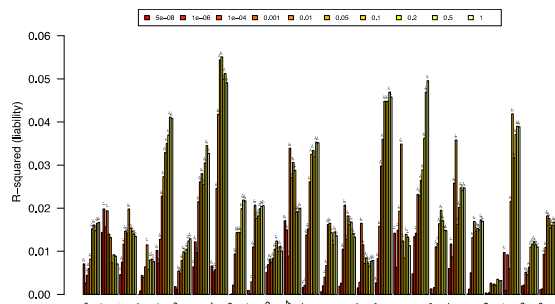
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23 **Supplementary Figure 1. SNP heritability estimates per cohort**

24 *SNP-heritability per cohort showing impact of lifetime risk assumptions (with 95% confidence intervals).*
 25 *Sample size: PGC29 (Ncas=16,823; Ncon=25,632); deCODE (Ncas=1,980; Ncon=9,536); GenScot (Ncas=997;*
 26 *Ncon=6,358); GERA (Ncas=7,162; Ncon=38,307); iPSYCH (Ncas=18,629; Ncon=17,841); UKBB (Ncas=14,260;*
 27 *Ncon=15,480); 23andMe (Ncas=70,813; Ncon=217,316); FullMeta (Ncas=130,664; Ncon=330,470);*
 28 *CONVERGE (Ncas=5,303; Ncon=5,337)*

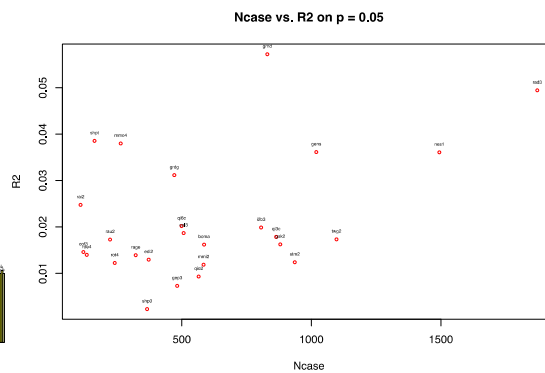
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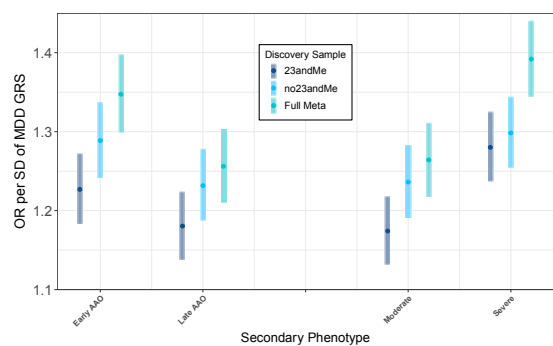


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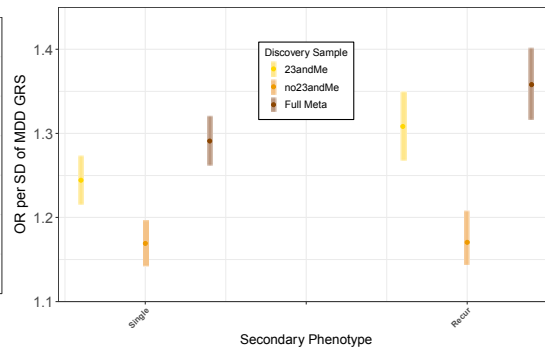
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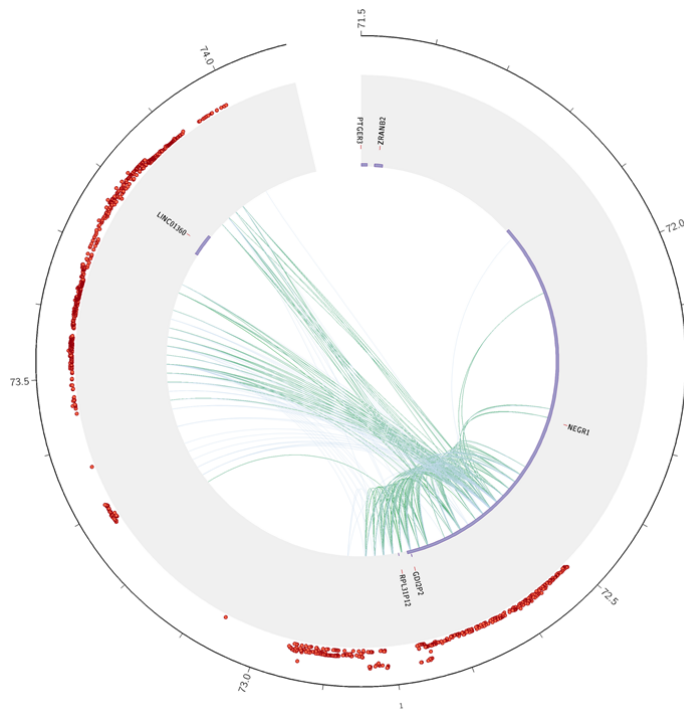


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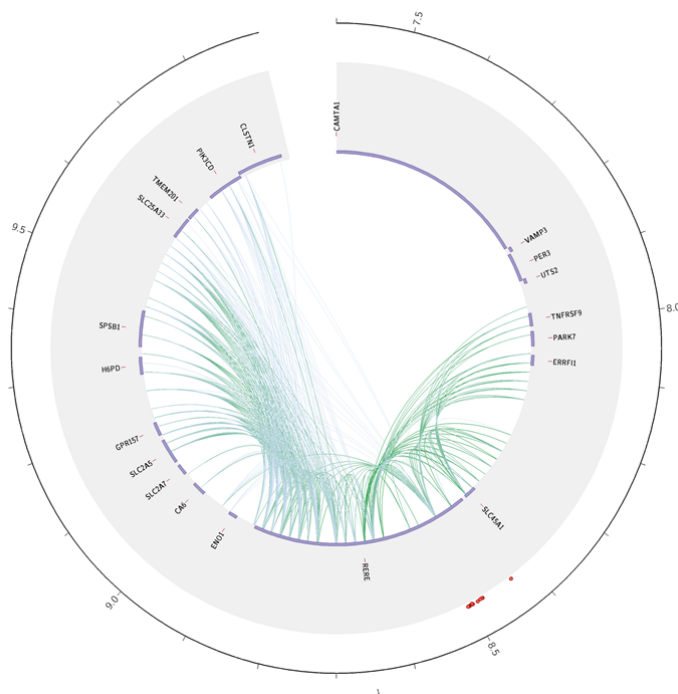
34 **Supplementary Figure 2: Leave-one-out genetic risk score analyses of PGC29.**

35 (a) Per sample R^2 at varying significance thresholds from logistic regression ($1^* < 0.05$; $2^* < 0.01$; $3^* < 0.005$;
 36 $4^* < 0.001$; $5^* < 1.0e-4$; $6^* < 1.0e-8$; $7^* < 1.0e-12$). All but one of the samples in PGC29 yielded significant differences in
 37 case-control distributions of GRS. Across all PGC29 samples, GRS explained 1.9% of variance in liability. Sample size
 38 of all PGC29 cohorts: boma (Ncas=586; Ncon=1,062); cof3 (Ncas=120; Ncon=126); col3 (Ncas=507; Ncon=1,445);
 39 edi2 (Ncas=372; Ncon=285); gens (Ncas=1,019; Ncon=1,344); gep3 (Ncas=482; Ncon=2,836); grdg (Ncas=471;
 40 Ncon=470); grnd (Ncas=830; Ncon=474); gsk2 (Ncas=880; Ncon=861); i2b3 (Ncas=806; Ncon=1,067); jjp2
 41 (Ncas=466; Ncon=1,380); mmi2 (Ncas=584; Ncon=517); mmo4 (Ncas=264; Ncon=371); nes1 (Ncas=1,494;
 42 Ncon=1,602); pfm2 (Ncas=281; Ncon=820); qi3c (Ncas=864; Ncon=579); qi6c (Ncas=499; Ncon=590); qio2
 43 (Ncas=565; Ncon=526); rad3 (Ncas=1,872; Ncon=1,528); rage (Ncas=322; Ncon=227); rai2 (Ncas=109; Ncon=340);
 44 rau2 (Ncas=223; Ncon=378); rde4 (Ncas=133; Ncon=516); roc3 (Ncas=271; Ncon=92); rot4 (Ncas=241;
 45 Ncon=1,028); shp0 (Ncas=366; Ncon=1,087); shpt (Ncas=163; Ncon=484); stm2 (Ncas=936; Ncon=934); twg2
 46 (Ncas=1,097; Ncon=2,663); (b) Relation between the number of cases and R^2 , showing the expected positive
 47 correlation. (c) Major depression GRS (from out-of-sample discovery sets) were significantly higher in cases with:
 48 earlier age at onset; more severe symptoms (based on number of criteria endorsed); Target sample PGC29; Target
 49 sample size: cases with early Age At Onset (AAO)=3,950; cases with late AAO=3,950; cases with moderate
 50 MDD=4,958; cases with severe MDD=3,976; Discovery Sample size: 23andMe (Ncas=70,813; Ncon=217,316);
 51 FMex23 (full meta-analysis excluding 23andMe and PGC29) (Ncas=43,028; Ncon=87,522); FullMeta (full meta-
 52 analysis excluding PGC29) (Ncas=113,841; Ncon=304,838); (d) Major depression GRS (from out-of-sample
 53 discovery sets) were significantly higher in cases with: recurrent compared to single episode. Error bars represent
 54 95% confidence intervals. Target sample iPsych; Target sample size: 5,574 cases of recurrent and 12,968 single
 55 episode MDD Discovery Sample size: 23andMe (Ncas=70,813; Ncon=217,316); FMex23 (full meta-analysis
 56 excluding 23andMe and iPsych) (Ncas=41,222; Ncon=95,313); FullMeta (full meta-analysis excluding iPsych)
 57 (Ncas=112,035; Ncon=312,629).

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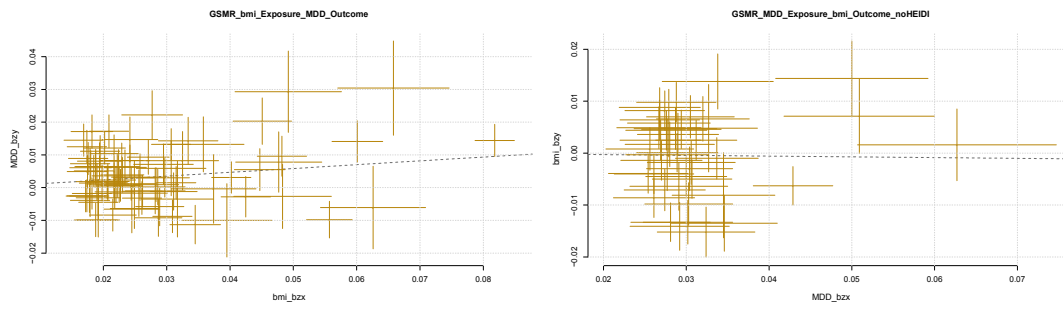


60 b)

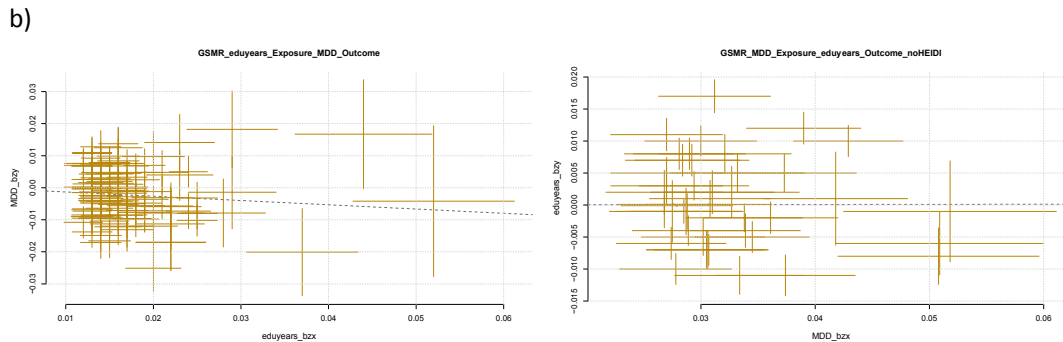
61 Supplementary Figure 3: Circular plots to illustrate DNA-DNA loops.

62 *From the outside, the tracks show hg19 coordinates in Mb, the positions of significant major depression*
63 *associations (as $-\log_{10}(P)$, outward is more significant), the names and positions of GENCODE genes, and the arcs*
64 *show significant DNA-DNA loops ($q < 1e-4$) from Hi-C on adult cortex (green) and fetal frontal cortex (blue). (a)*
65 *chr1:71.5-74.1 Mb suggesting that the two statistically independent associations in the region both implicate*
66 *NEGR1. (b) The association in RERE, in contrast, coincides with many DNA-DNA loops and may suggest that this*
67 *region contains super-enhancer elements.*

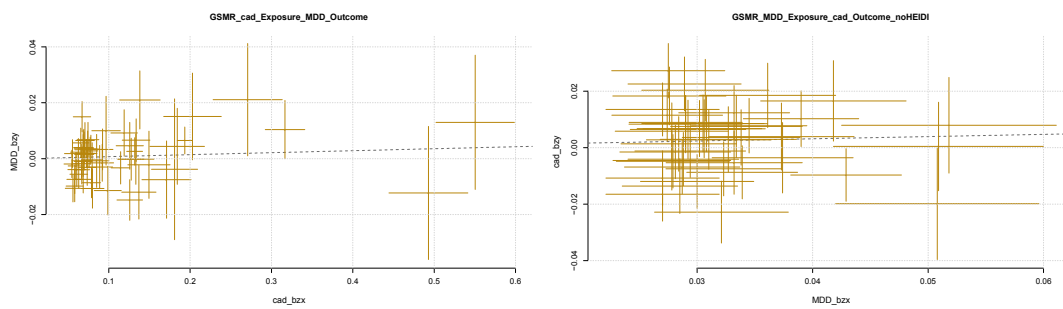
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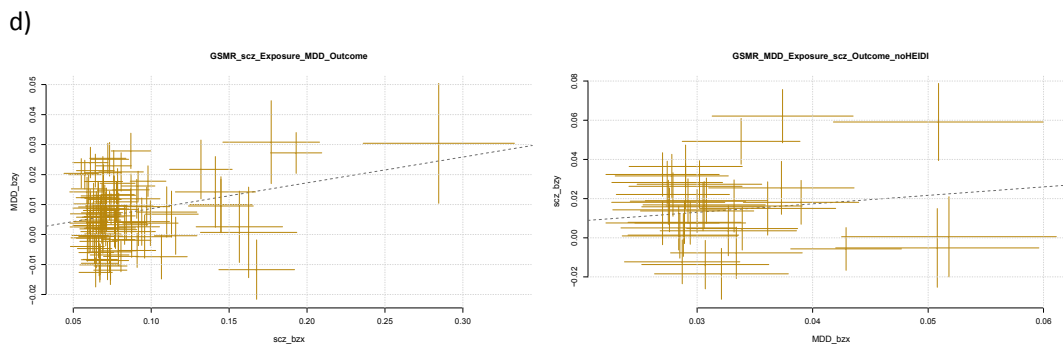
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76 **Supplementary Figure 4: Mendelian randomization analyses.**

77 *Supplementary Table 13* shows the GSMR parameter estimates and significance, and these graphs show
 78 scatterplots of the instruments for major depression and (a) BMI, (b) years of education, (c) coronary artery
 79 disease, and (d) schizophrenia. Note the regression line is included for reference, \hat{b}_{xy} are estimated as a
 80 generalized least squares estimates of $\hat{b}_{zy}/\hat{b}_{zx}$. Sample size: BMI=322,135; EduY=405,072; CAD=184,305;
 81 SCZ=(Ncas=36,989; Ncon=113,075); MDD=(Ncas=130,664; Ncon=330,470).
 82

84 **Genotyping and quality control.**

85 Genotyping procedures can be found in the primary reports for each cohort (summarized in *Supplementary*
86 *Table 3*). Individual genotype data for all PGC29 samples, GERA, and iPSYCH were processed using the PGC
87 “ricopili” pipeline (URLs) for standardized quality control, imputation, and analysis.¹ The cohorts from
88 deCODE, Generation Scotland, UK Biobank, and 23andMe were processed by the collaborating research
89 teams using comparable procedures. SNPs and insertion-deletion polymorphisms were imputed using the
90 1000 Genomes Project multi-ancestry reference panel (URLs).²

91 Quality control and imputation on the PGC29 samples were performed according to standards from the PGC.
92 The default parameters for retaining SNPs and subjects were: SNP missingness < 0.05 (before sample
93 removal); subject missingness < 0.02; autosomal heterozygosity deviation ($|F_{het}| < 0.2$); SNP missingness <
94 0.02 (after sample removal); difference in SNP missingness between cases and controls < 0.02; and SNP
95 Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium ($P > 10^{-6}$ in controls or $P > 10^{-10}$ in cases). These default parameters sufficiently
96 controlled λ and false positive findings for 16 cohorts (boma, rage, shp0, shpt, edi2, gens, col3, mmi2, qi3c,
97 qi6c, qio2, rai2, rau2, twg2, grdg, grnd). Two cohorts (gep3 and nes2) needed stricter SNP filtering and 11
98 cohorts needed additional ancestral matching (rot4, stm2, rde4) or ancestral outlier exclusion (rad2, i2b3,
99 gsk1, pfm2, jjp2, cof3, roc3, mmo4). An additional cohort of inpatient MDD cases from Münster, Germany
100 was processed through the same pipeline.

101 Genotype imputation was performed using the pre-phasing/imputation stepwise approach implemented in
102 IMPUTE2 / SHAPEIT (chunk size of 3 Mb and default parameters). The imputation reference set consisted of
103 2,186 phased haplotypes from the 1000 Genomes Project dataset (August 2012, 30,069,288 variants, release
104 “v3.macGT1”). After imputation, we identified SNPs with very high imputation quality (INFO > 0.8) and low
105 missingness (< 1%) for building the principal components to be used as covariates in final association
106 analysis. After linkage disequilibrium pruning ($r^2 > 0.02$) and frequency filtering (MAF > 0.05), there were
107 23,807 overlapping autosomal SNPs in the data set. This SNP set was used for robust relatedness testing and
108 population structure analysis. Relatedness testing identified pairs of subjects with $\hat{\pi} > 0.2$, and one member
109 of each pair was removed at random after preferentially retaining cases over controls. Principal component
110 estimation used the same collection of autosomal SNPs.

111 Identification of identical samples is easily accomplished given direct access to individual genotypes.³ Two
112 concerns are the use of the same control samples in multiple studies (e.g., GAIN or WTCCC controls)^{4,5} and
113 inclusion of closely related individuals. For cohorts where the PGC central analysis team had access to
114 individual genotypes (PGC29 and GERA), we used SNPs directly genotyped on all platforms to compute
115 empirical relatedness, and excluded one of each duplicated or relative pair (defined as $\hat{\pi} > 0.2$). Within all
116 other cohorts (deCODE, Generation Scotland, iPSYCH, UK Biobank, 23andMe, and CONVERGE), identical and
117 relative pairs were identified and resolved using similar procedures. Identical individuals between PGC29,
118 iPSYCH, UK Biobank, and Generation Scotland were identified using genotype-based checksums (URLs),⁶ and
119 an individual on the collaborator’s side was excluded. Checksums were not available for the deCODE and
120 23andMe cohorts. Related pairs are not detectable by the checksum method but we did not find evidence of
121 important overlap using LD score regression (the intercept between pairs of cohorts ranged from -0.01 to
122 +0.01 with no evidence of important sample overlap).

123 **Cohort comparability.**

124 *Supplementary Table 3* summarizes the numbers of cases and controls in PGC29 and the six expanded
125 cohorts. The most direct and important way to evaluate the comparability of these cohorts for a GWA meta-
126 analysis is using SNP genotype data.^{7,8}

127 First, there was no indication of important sample overlap. This was directly evaluated as part of genotype
128 quality control (see below), and confirmed as the LDSC regression intercepts between pairs of cohorts were
129 always near zero.

130 Second, **Supplementary Table 3** and **Supplementary Fig. 1** show h_{SNP}^2 on the liability scale for each cohort.
131 In h_{SNP}^2 methodology, the direct estimate is of variation explained in case-control status in the cohort, which
132 are then transformed to the liability scale using an estimate of lifetime risk. Therefore, these estimates
133 should be viewed as benchmarking rather than precise as lifetime risk estimate depends on the cohort and
134 the transformation depends on the level of screening of controls.⁹ These estimates demonstrate that
135 common SNPs genome-wide contribute to variation but are not a suitable statistic for drawing strong
136 conclusions about impact of phenotyping strategies. The h_{SNP}^2 estimates range from 0.08 (SE 0.01) to 0.26
137 (SE 0.14) (for lifetime risk $K=0.15$) but the confidence intervals largely overlap (**Supplementary Fig. 1**).

138 Third, **Supplementary Table 3b** shows the r_g values for all pairs of cohorts. In contrast to h_{SNP}^2 , r_g estimates
139 are not dependent on estimates of lifetime risk. The median r_g was 0.80 (interquartile range 0.67-0.96), and
140 the upper 95% confidence interval on r_g included 0.75 for all pairwise comparisons. These results indicate
141 that the common variant genetic architecture of the cohorts overlap strongly, and provide critical support
142 for the full meta-analysis of all cohorts.

143 For the PGC29 samples we could evaluate the comparability of the samples using individual level SNP
144 genotype data.^{7,8} The sample sizes were too small to evaluate the common variant genetic correlations (r_g)
145 between all pairs of PGC29 samples (>3,000 subjects per sample are recommended). As an alternative, we
146 used “leave one out” genetic risk scores (GRS, described below). We repeated this procedure by leaving out
147 each PGC29 sample in turn so that we could evaluate the similarity of the common-variant genetic
148 architectures of each sample to the rest of the cohort. **Supplementary Fig. 2A** and **Supplementary Table 4**
149 shows that all but one of the samples in the PGC29 cohort yielded significant differences in case-control GRS
150 distributions.

151 Because around half of the major depression cases were identified by self-report (i.e., diagnosis or
152 treatment for clinical depression by a medical professional), we further evaluated the comparability of the
153 23andMe cohort with the other cohorts (full meta-analysis excluding 23andMe, “FMex23”) as detailed in
154 **Supplementary Table 5**. At the most stringent level, of 11 SNPs reaching genome-wide significance in the
155 23andMe cohort, three replicate in FMex23 (at $P < 0.05/11$ comparisons). In the FMex23 cohorts, all five
156 genome-wide significant loci replicate in 23andMe (at $P < 0.05/5$ comparisons). Next, of the independent loci
157 associated at $P < 10^{-6}$ in 23andMe, 19/44 (43%) had $P < 0.05$ in FMex23 ($P=8.0 \times 10^{-14}$). Of the independent loci
158 associated at $P < 10^{-6}$ in FMex23, 13/24 (54%) had $P < 0.05$ in 23andMe ($P=1.8 \times 10^{-11}$). Expanding these
159 analyses further, we observed highly significant sign-test concordances at all tested P -value thresholds with
160 23andMe as the discovery sample and FMex23 as the target sample and vice versa. We repeated GRS
161 analyses with 23andMe or FMex23 as discovery samples and the results showed significance (but explained
162 less variance in out-of-sample prediction than when combined (**Fig. 2**). Moreover, GRS in 23andMe and
163 FMex23 were higher in those with more severe MDD (**Supplementary Fig. 2**). We interpret these results as
164 supporting this meta-analysis of GWA results for these seven cohorts. Sample size appeared to be a more
165 potent determinant of the significance than how these phenotypes were assessed.

166 **Trans-ancestry comparison with the Chinese CONVERGE cohort.**

167 The Han Chinese CONVERGE study¹⁰ included clinically ascertained females with severe, recurrent MDD, and
168 is the largest non-European MDD GWA to date. Neither of the two genome-wide significant loci in
169 CONVERGE had SNP findings ± 250 kb with $P < 1 \times 10^{-6}$ in the full European major depression results. We used
170 LDSC with an ancestry-specific LD reference for within ancestry estimation, and POPCORN¹¹ for trans-
171 ancestry estimation. In the CONVERGE sample, h_{SNP}^2 was reported as 20-29%.¹² Its r_g with the seven
172 European major depression cohorts was 0.33 (SE 0.03).¹³ For comparison, r_g for CONVERGE with European
173 results for schizophrenia was 0.34 (SE 0.05) and 0.45 (SE 0.07) for bipolar disorder. The weighted mean r_g
174 between the CONVERGE cohort with the seven cohorts using was 0.31 (SE 0.03). These r_g estimates should
175 be interpreted in light of the estimates of r_g within European MDD cohorts which are variable (**Table S3**).

176 Common genetic risk variants for complex biomedical conditions are likely to be shared across ancestries.
177 ^{14,15} However, lower r_g have been reported likely reflecting different LD patterns by ancestry. For example,

178 European-Chinese r_g estimates were below one for ADHD (0.39, SE 0.15),¹⁶ rheumatoid arthritis (0.46, SE
179 0.06),¹¹ and type 2 diabetes (0.62, SE 0.09),¹¹ and reflect population differences in LD and population-
180 specific causal variants.

181 The discovery rate for major depression (44 associations per 135,458 cases or 1:3,078 cases) is similar to that
182 for severe, recurrent MDD in the CONVERGE study (2 per 5,303 cases or 1:2,650 cases).

183 **Definition of independent loci**

184 The full criteria used for identifying independent loci are:

- 185 • All SNPs were high-quality (imputation INFO score ≥ 0.6 and allele frequencies ≥ 0.01 and ≤ 0.99).
- 186 • We used “clumping” to convert MDD-associated SNPs to associated regions. We identified an index
187 SNP with the smallest P -value in a genomic window and other SNPs in high LD with the index SNP
188 using PLINK (--clump-p1 1e-4 --clump-p2 1e-4 --clump-r2 0.1 --clump-kb 3000). This retained SNPs
189 with association $P < 0.0001$ and $r^2 < 0.1$ within 3 Mb windows. Only one SNP was retained from the
190 extended MHC region due to its exceptional LD.
- 191 • We used bedtools (URLs) to combine partially or wholly overlapping clumps within 50 kb.
- 192 • We reviewed all regional plots, and removed two singleton associations (i.e., only one SNP
193 exceeding genome-wide significance).
- 194 • We conducted conditional analyses. To identify independent associations within a 10 Mb region, we
195 re-evaluated all SNPs in a region conditioning on the most significantly associated SNP using
196 summary statistics¹⁷ (superimposing the LD structure from the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities
197 Study sample).

198 **Brief review of four key loci, *OLFM4*, *NEGR1*, *RBFOX1* and *LRFN5***

199 The two most significant SNPs are located in or near *OLFM4* and *NEGR1*, which were previously associated
200 with obesity and body mass index.¹⁸⁻²³ *OLFM4* (olfactomedin 4) has diverse functions outside the CNS
201 including myeloid precursor cell differentiation, innate immunity, anti-apoptotic effects, gut inflammation,
202 and is over-expressed in diverse common cancers.²⁴ Many olfactomedins also have roles in
203 neurodevelopment and synaptic function;²⁵ e.g., latrophilins form trans-cellular complexes with neurexins²⁶
204 and with *FLRT3* to regulate glutamatergic synapse number.²⁷ *Olfm4* was highly upregulated after spinal
205 transection, possibly related to inhibition of subsequent neurite outgrowth.²⁸ *NEGR1* (neuronal growth
206 regulator 1) influences axon extension and synaptic plasticity in cortex, hypothalamus, and hippocampus,²⁹⁻
207 ³¹ and modulates synapse formation in hippocampus^{32,33} via regulation of neurite outgrowth.^{34,35} High
208 expression, modulated by nutritional state, is seen in brain areas relevant to feeding, suggesting a role in
209 control of energy intake.³⁶ The same SNP alleles are associated with increased risk of obesity and MDD (see
210 also Mendelian randomization analyses below) and are associated with *NEGR1* gene expression in brain
211 (***Supplementary Table 6***). The associated SNPs may tag two upstream common deletions (8 and 43 kb) that
212 delete transcription factor binding sites,³⁷ although reports differ on whether the signal is driven by the
213 shorter¹⁸ or the longer deletion.²² Thus, the top two associations are in or near genes that influence BMI
214 and may be involved in neurite outgrowth and synaptic plasticity.

215 Notable associations reported here include *RBFOX1* and *LRFN5*. There are independent associations with
216 major depression at both the 5' and the 3' ends of *RBFOX1* (1.7 Mb, RNA binding protein fox-1 homolog 1).
217 This convergence makes it a strong candidate gene. Fox-1 regulates the expression of thousands of genes,
218 many of which are expressed at synapses and enriched for autism-related genes.³⁸ The Fox-1 network
219 regulates neuronal excitability and prevents seizures.³⁹ It directs splicing in the nucleus and binds to 3' UTRs
220 of target mRNAs in the cytoplasm.^{39,40} Of particular relevance, Fox-1 participates in the termination of the
221 corticotropin releasing hormone response to stress by promoting alternative splicing of the PACAP receptor
222 to its repressive form.⁴¹ Thus, *RBFOX1* as a risk gene for major depression may be consistent with chronic
223 hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis hyperactivation reported in MDD.⁴² *LRFN5* (leucine rich repeat and
224 fibronectin type III domain containing 5) encodes adhesion-like molecules involved in synapse formation.

225 Common SNPs in *LRFN5* were associated with depressive symptoms in older adults in a gene-based GWA
226 analysis.⁴³ *LRFN5* induces excitatory and inhibitory presynaptic differentiation in contacting axons and
227 regulates synaptic strength.^{44,45} *LRFN5* also limits T-cell response and neuroinflammation (CNS “immune
228 privilege”) by binding to herpes virus entry mediator; a *LRFN5*-specific monoclonal antibody increases
229 activation of microglia and macrophages by lipopolysaccharide and exacerbates mouse experimental
230 acquired encephalitis;⁴⁶ thus, reduced expression (the predicted effect of eQTLs in LD with the associated
231 SNPs) could increase neuroinflammatory responses.

232 **Genetic risk score (GRS) analysis**

233 To demonstrate the validity of our GWAS results, we conducted a series of GRS prediction analyses. The
234 GWA summary statistics identified associated SNP alleles and effect sizes which were used to calculate GRS
235 for each individual in a target sample (i.e., the sum of the count of risk alleles weighted by the natural log of
236 the odds ratio of the risk allele). In some analyses the target sample had been included as part of PGC29;
237 here, the discovery samples were meta-analyzed excluding this cohort. As in the PGC schizophrenia report,¹
238 we excluded uncommon SNPs (MAF < 0.1), low-quality variants (imputation INFO < 0.9), indels, and SNPs in
239 the extended MHC region (chr6:25-34 Mb). We then LD pruned and “clumped” the data, discarding variants
240 within 500 kb of, and in LD $r^2 > 0.1$ with the most associated SNP in the region. We generated GRS for
241 individuals in target subgroups for a range of P-value thresholds (P_T : 5×10^{-8} , 1×10^{-6} , 1×10^{-4} , 0.001, 0.01, 0.05,
242 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, 1.0).

243 For each GRS analysis, five ways of evaluating the regression of phenotype on GRS are reported
244 (**Supplementary Table 4**). 1) The significance of the case-control score difference from logistic regression
245 including ancestry PCs and a study indicator (if more than one target dataset was analyzed) as covariates. 2)
246 The proportion of variance explained (Nagelkerke’s R^2) computed by comparison of a full model (covariates +
247 GRS) to a reduced model (covariates only). It should be noted that these estimates of R^2 reflect the
248 proportion of cases in the case-control studies where this proportion may not reflect the underlying risk of in
249 the population. 3) The proportion of variance on the liability scale explained by the GRS R^2 was calculated
250 from the difference between full and reduced linear models and was then converted to the liability scale of
251 the population assuming lifetime risk of 15%. These estimates should be approximately comparable across
252 target sample cohorts, whatever the proportion of cases in the sample. 4) Area under the receiver operator
253 characteristic curve (AUC; R library pROC) was estimated in a model with no covariates¹ where AUC can be
254 interpreted as the probability of a case being ranked higher than a control. 5) Odds ratio for 10 GRS decile
255 groups (these estimates also depend on both risk of MDD in the population and proportion of cases in the
256 sample). We evaluated the impact of increasing sample size of the discovery sample GWA (**Fig. 2**) and also
257 using the schizophrenia GWA study¹ as the discovery sample. We also undertook GRS analysis for a target
258 sample of MDD cases and controls not included in the meta-analysis (a clinical inpatient cohort of MDD
259 cases and screened controls collected in Münster, Germany).

260 We conducted GRS analyses based on prior hypotheses from epidemiology of MDD using clinical measures
261 available in some cohorts (if needed, the target sample was removed from the discovery GWA). We used
262 GRS constructed from $P_T=0.05$, selected as a threshold that gave high variance explained across cohorts.
263 First, we used GRS analyses to test for higher mean GRS in cases with younger age at onset (AAO) of MDD
264 compared to those with older AAO in PGC29. To combine analyses across samples, we used within-sample
265 standardized GRS residuals after correcting for ancestry principal components. Heterogeneity in AAO in
266 PGC29 has been noted,⁴⁷ which may reflect study specific definitions of AAO (e.g., age at first symptoms,
267 first visit to general practitioner, or first diagnosis). Following Power et al.,⁴⁷ we divided AAO into octiles
268 within each cohort and combined the first three octiles into the early AAO group and the last three octiles
269 into the late AAO group.

270 Second, we tested for higher mean GRS for cases in the PGC29 samples with clinically severe MDD
271 (endorsing ≥ 8 of 9 DSM MDD criteria) compared to those with “moderate” MDD (endorsing 5-7 of 9 MDD
272 criteria) following Verduijn et al.⁴⁸ Sample sizes are given in **Supplementary Table 3**. Third, using iPSYCH as
273 the target sample, we tested for higher mean GRS in recurrent MDD cases (ICD-10 F33, N=5,574) compared

274 to those with single episode MDD cases (ICD-10 F32, N=12,968) in analyses that included ancestry principal
275 components and genotyping batch as covariates. Finally, following Verduijn et al.⁴⁸ using the NESDA sample
276 (PGC label “nes1”, an ongoing longitudinal study of depressive and anxiety disorders) as the target sample ,
277 we constructed clinical staging phenotypes in which cases were allocated to one of three stages: Stage 2 (n =
278 388) first episode MDD; stage 3 (n = 562) recurrent/relapse episode MDD; stage 4 (n = 705)
279 persistent/unremitting chronic MDD, with an episode lasting longer than 2 years before baseline interview
280 and/or $\geq 80\%$ of the follow-up time with depressive symptoms. We tested for higher mean GRS in stage IV
281 cases compared to stage II MDD cases.

282 **Mendelian randomization (MR) analyses.**

283 We used MR⁴⁹ to investigate the relationships between major depression and correlated traits.
284 Epidemiological studies show that MDD is associated with environmental and life event risk factors as well as
285 multiple diseases, yet it remains unclear whether such trait outcomes are causes or consequences of MDD
286 (or prodromal MDD). Genetic variants are present from birth, and hence are far less likely to be confounded
287 with environmental factors than in epidemiological studies.

288 Briefly in MR analyses, we take genome-wide significant SNPs for the exposure trait and test for a directional
289 relationship with effect sizes of these SNPs estimated in the outcome trait. Under pleiotropy, SNPs may be
290 associated in the same direction in the two traits (consistent with the genetic correlation estimated from
291 genome-wide SNPs), but causality would generate a directional relationship in the size of effect sizes (which
292 is plausibly less likely under pleiotropy alone). A check for reverse causality takes genome-wide significant
293 SNPs from major depression and tests for a directional relationship of effect sizes estimated in the exposure
294 trait.

295 We conducted bi-directional MR analysis for four traits: years of education (EDY)⁵⁰, body mass index (BMI)⁵¹,
296 coronary artery disease (CAD)⁵², and schizophrenia (SCZ)⁵³. We denote z as a genetic variant (i.e., a SNP) that
297 is significantly associated with x , an exposure or putative causal trait for y (the disease/trait outcome). The
298 effect size of x on y can be estimated using a two-step least squares (2SLS)⁵⁴ approach: $\hat{\beta}_{xy} = \hat{\beta}_{zy} / \hat{\beta}_{zx}$,
299 where $\hat{\beta}_{zx}$ is the estimated effect size for the SNP-trait association the exposure trait, and $\hat{\beta}_{zy}$ is the effect
300 size estimated for the same SNP in the GWAS of the outcome trait.

301 Since SNP-trait effect sizes are typically small, power is increased by using multiple associated SNPs which
302 allows simultaneous investigation of pleiotropy driving the epidemiologically observed trait associations.
303 Causality of the exposure trait for the outcome trait implies a consistent relationship between the SNP
304 association effect sizes of the exposure associated SNPs in the outcome trait.

305 We conducted bi-directional MR analysis for four traits: years of education (EDY)⁵⁵, body mass index (BMI)
306 ¹⁸, coronary artery disease (CAD)⁵⁶, and schizophrenia (SCZ)¹. Briefly, we denote z as a genetic variant (i.e., a
307 SNP) that is significantly associated with x , an exposure or putative causal trait for y (the disease/trait
308 outcome). The effect size of x on y can be estimated using a two-step least squares (2SLS)⁵⁷ approach:
309 $\hat{\beta}_{xy} = \hat{\beta}_{zy} / \hat{\beta}_{zx}$, where $\hat{\beta}_{zx}$ is the estimated effect size for the SNP-trait association the exposure trait, and
310 $\hat{\beta}_{zy}$ is the effect size estimated for the same SNP in the GWAS of the outcome trait.

311 Since SNP-trait effect sizes are typically small, power is increased by using multiple associated SNPs which
312 allows simultaneous investigation of pleiotropy driving the epidemiologically observed trait associations.
313 Causality of the exposure trait for the outcome trait implies a consistent relationship between the SNP
314 association effect sizes of the exposure associated SNPs in the outcome trait.

315 We used generalized summary statistics-based MR (GSMR) to estimate $\hat{\beta}_{xy}$ and its standard error from
316 multiple SNPs associated with the exposure trait at a genome-wide significance level. We conducted bi-
317 directional GSMR analyses for each pair of traits, and report results after excluding SNPs that fail the HEIDI-
318 outlier heterogeneity test (which is more conservative than excluding SNPs that have an outlying association
319 likely driven by locus-specific pleiotropy). GSMR is more powerful than inverse-weighted MR (IVW-MR) and
320 MR-Egger because it takes account of the sampling variation of both $\hat{\beta}_{zx}$ and $\hat{\beta}_{zy}$. GSMR also accounts for

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