



deCODE genetics

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Head of Cardiovascular Research at deCODE genetics

Nordic Biobank Conference, September 7th, 2022

Conflict of interest statement

- I am an employee of deCODE genetics / Amgen inc.

deCODE genetics

- Founded in 1998
- Iceland = 360,000 inhabitants
- Population approach:
 - Sample a large fraction of one population to study the genetics of human diversity
 - Data collected independently of questions
 - Can be mined systematically in a model-independent approach



Advantages of Iceland for genetic research

- Accessible health care data
 - Single payer health care system
 - All health care data linked to a unique personal identifier (kennitala)
- Population structure conducive for genetic research
 - Founder effects
 - Homogeneous population which reduces population stratification issues
- Genealogy database (Book of Icelanders) linking 750,000 Icelanders over several centuries
 - Allows the application of familial analysis
 - Allows determination of parent of origin

Parent-of-origin specific analysis of single variants

Table 1 | Parental-origin-specific analyses of disease-susceptibility variants

| Disease, SNP [alleles]* | | Standard case-control test | | Tests of association with parental origins | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| NCBI build 36 position, N | M, F _{con} | OR | P _‡ | Paternal allele§ | | Maternal allele§ | | 2-d.f. test | Paternal vs maternal (case only) | |
| | | | | OR | P | OR | P | P | n12:n21¶ | P |
| Breast cancer, rs3817198† [C/T] | | | | | | | | | | |
| C11 1,865,582, 1,803 | 34,909, 0.303 | 1.04 | 0.36 | 1.17 | 0.038 | 0.91 | 0.11 | 0.0040 | 437:339 | 6.2 × 10 ⁻⁴ |
| Basal-cell carcinoma, rs157935 [T/G] | | | | | | | | | | |
| C7 130,236,093, 1,118 | 37,041, 0.676 | 1.23 | 1.8 × 10 ⁻⁵ | 1.40 | 1.5 × 10 ⁻⁶ | 1.09 | 0.19 | 3.8 × 10 ⁻⁶ | 237:182 | 0.010 |
| T2D, rs2237892 [C/T] | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,251 (combined) | | 1.15 | 0.043 | 1.03 | 0.71 | 1.30 | 0.0084 | 0.027 | 116:149 | 0.054 |
| T2D, rs231362† [C/T] | | | | | | | | | | |
| C11 2,648,047, 2,173 (combined) | 33,377, 1.10 | 1.10 | 0.013 | 0.98 | 0.73 | 1.23 | 6.2 × 10 ⁻⁵ | 2.6 × 10 ⁻⁴ | 487:592 | 0.0032 |
| T2D, rs4731702 [C/T] | | | | | | | | | | |
| C7 130,083,924, 2,251 (combined) | 34,706, 1.08 | 1.08 | 0.039 | 0.99 | 0.79 | 1.17 | 0.0010 | 0.0041 | 498:578 | 0.022 |
| T2D, rs2334499 [T/C] | | | | | | | | | | |
| C11 1,653,425, 2,251 (combined) | 34,706, 1.08 | 1.08 | 0.034 | 1.35 | 4.7 × 10 ⁻¹⁰ | 0.86 | 0.0020 | 5.7 × 10 ⁻¹¹ | 659:433 | 4.1 × 10 ⁻¹¹ |

Variants with parent-of-origin specific effects detected in association analysis

In one case both the paternally transmitted and the maternally transmitted alleles associate with type 2 diabetes but with an opposite effect

> Nature. 2009 Dec 17;462(7275):868-74. doi: 10.1038/nature08625.

Parental origin of sequence variants associated with complex diseases

Augustine Kong[†], Valgerdur Steinthorsdottir, Gisli Masson, Gudmar Thorleifsson, Patrick Sulem, Soren Besenbacher, Aslaug Jonasdottir, Asgeir Sigurdsson, Kari Th Kristinsson, Adalbjorg Jonasdottir, Michael L Frigge, Arnaldur Gylfason, Pall I Olason, Sigurjon A Gudjonsson, Sverrir Sverrisson, Simon N Stacey, Bardur Sigurgeirsson, Kristrun R Benediktsdottir, Helgi Sigurdsson, Thorvaldur Jonsson, Rafn Benediktsson, Jon H Olafsson, Oskar Th Johannsson, Astradur B Hreidarsson, Gunnar Sigurdsson, DIAGRAM Consortium; Anne C Ferguson-Smith, Daniel F Gudbjartsson, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir, Kari Stefansson

deCODE facilities

The Research Center



The Recruitment Center

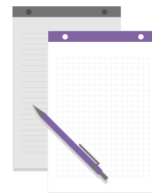
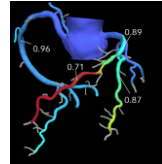


The identity protection service

Provides a communication channel between researchers at deCODE and outside collaborators in Iceland while maintaining privacy for research participants

Sources of phenotype data in the Icelandic health care system

- Landspítali – The National University Hospital
- Regional hospitals
- Imaging centers
- Blood laboratories
- Register of primary health care contacts
- Register of contacts with medical specialists in private practice
- Birth register
- Causes of death register
- Cancer register
- Prescription medicines register



Phenotype data extracted from the Icelandic health care system

- International Classification of Diseases (ICD) codes
- Procedure codes
- Medication prescriptions
- Measurements: height, weight, blood pressure, heart rate etc.
- Clinical biological traits routinely measured in blood, urine
- Clinical test data such as electrocardiogram data, hearing tests results etc
- Imaging test results and actual imaging data, including CTs, MRIs

- The data span decades (electronic and paper data)
- Many longitudinal data points

Complicated phenotypes

Resistant hypertension

Persons who filled ≥ 3 antihypertensive medications, including one diuretic, for overlapping periods lasting more than six months

and for those taking 3 drugs:

documentation of SBP or DBP $>130/90$ mmHg after initiation of the determining drug treatment combination (BP measurement taken after the date of prescription of the third drug)

VS

Controlled hypertension

Persons who filled 1 or 2 antihypertensive medications, for overlapping periods lasting more than six months

and

documentation of SBP or DBP $<130/90$ mmHg within 30 days of drugs being dispensed

Exclusion criteria: sleep apnea (ICD-10 code G47.3) 30, chronic kidney disease (CKD) 31 (determined as two independent estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) values below 60 ml/min/1.73 m² in a 3-month period), secondary hypertension (ICD-10 code I15.*), hyperaldosteronism (ICD-10 code E26), adrenal gland neoplasms (ICD-10 codes C74.0, C79.7), pulmonary heart disease (ICD-10 code I27.*) and coarctation of aorta (ICD-10 code Q25.1)

Complicated phenotypes

Resistant hypertension

Persons who filled ≥ 3 antihypertensive

medi

overlapping

Data requirement

- Longitudinal drug prescription data with dates
- Longitudinal blood pressure data with dates
- Longitudinal ICD-code data with dates
- Genotypes

Controlled hypertension

Persons who filled 1 or 2 antihypertensive

ing more

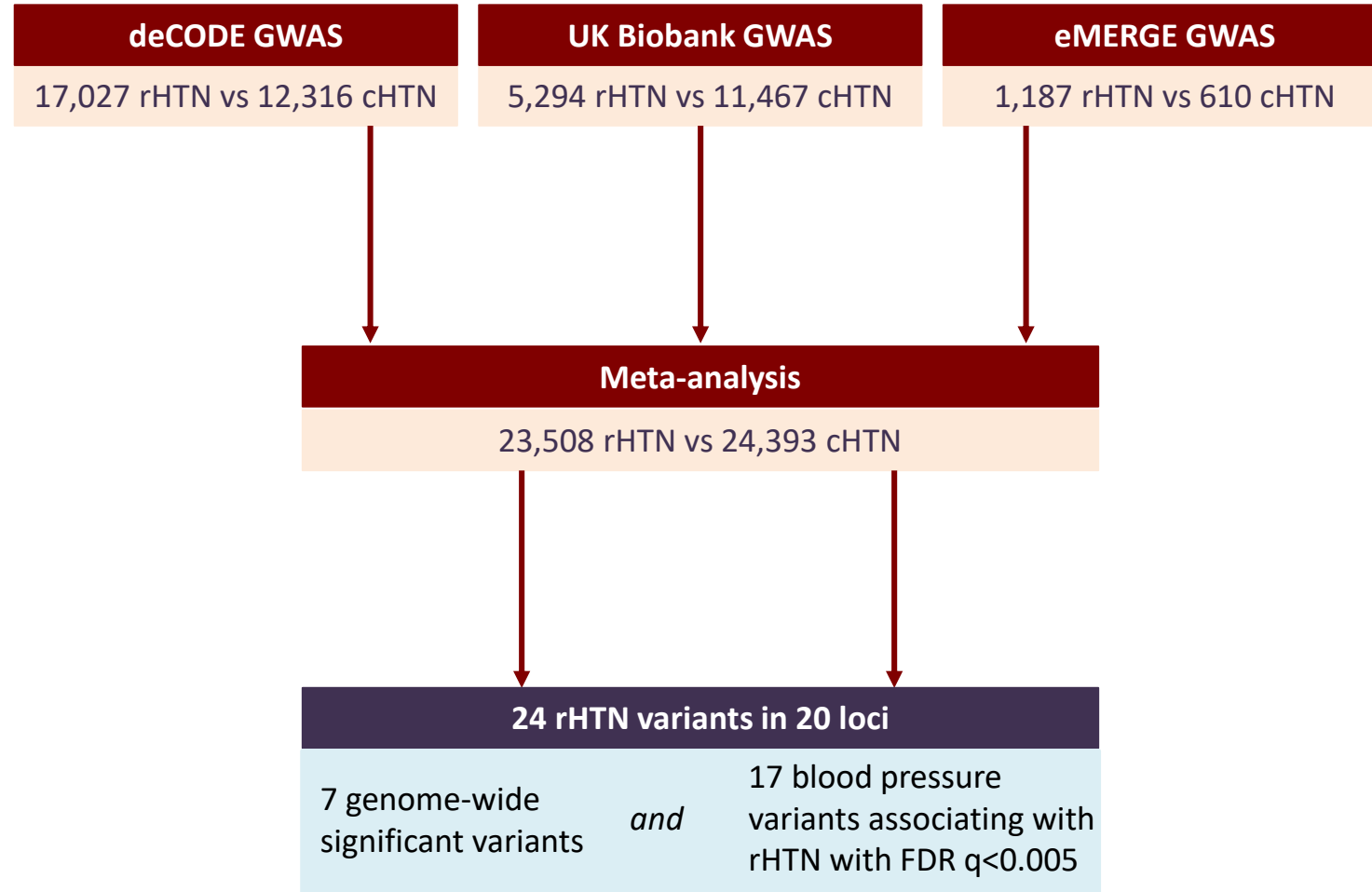
mmHg
sed

documented
after initial
combination
date

Exclusion

independent estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) values below 30 mL/min/1.73 m² in a 6-month period, secondary hypertension (ICD-10 code I15.*), hyperaldosteronism (ICD-10 code E26), adrenal gland neoplasms (ICD-10 codes C74.0, C79.7), pulmonary heart disease (ICD-10 code I27.*) and coarctation of aorta (ICD-10 code Q25.1)

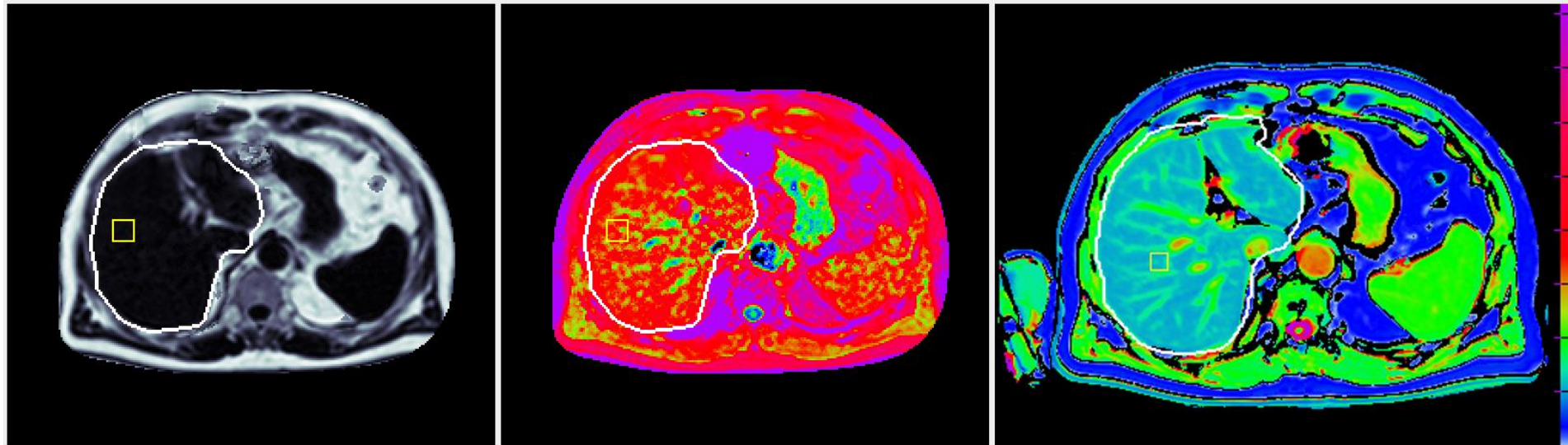
Complicated phenotypes



Extraction of information from imaging data by machine learning

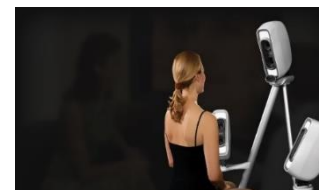
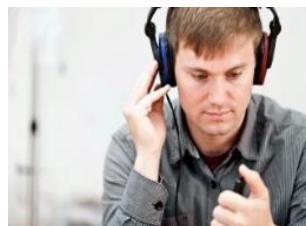
Example: Liver fat

- MR allows interrogation of water and fat contribution.
- Deep learning model used to locate the liver in MRIs.
- Enables automatic liver fat fraction, iron content and T1-mapping (measures inflammation) extraction.



| Index or ID or PN | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | pdff_roi | r2_roi | roi_posx | roi_posy | n_liverMask | n_converged | cT1_median | cT1_roi |
| 0 | 0.0527190626571932 | 41.26094184853301 | 56 | 114 | 6513.0 | 6513.0 | 628.7497787600158 | 628.6434947822602 |

The deCODE health study and other recall studies



The Recruitment Center

A splice-donor variant in *PRPH* – encoding peripherin - associates with risk of peripheral neuropathy



ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-09719-4> OPEN

A *PRPH* splice-donor variant associates with reduced sural nerve amplitude and risk of peripheral neuropathy

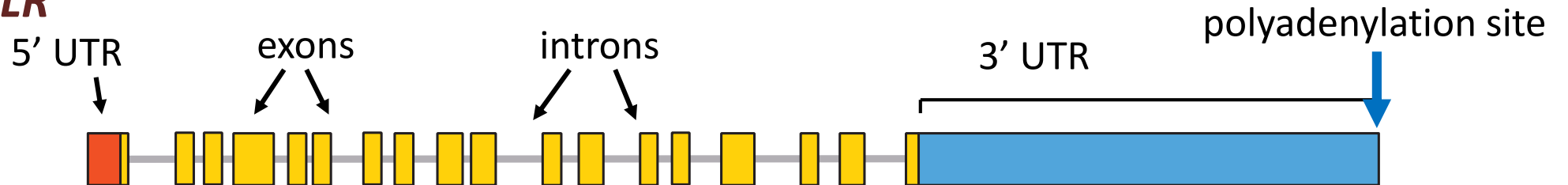
Gyda Bjornsdottir¹, Erna V. Ivarsdottir^{1,2}, Kristbjorg Bjarnadottir¹, Stefania Benonisdottir¹, Sandra Sif Gylfadottir³, Gudny A. Arnadottir¹, Rafn Benediktsson^{1,4,5}, Gisli Hreinn Halldorsson¹, Anna Helgadottir¹, Adalbjorg Jonasdottir¹, Aslaug Jonasdottir¹, Ingileif Jonsdottir^{1,4}, Anna Margret Kristinsdottir¹, Olafur Th. Magnusson¹, Gisli Masson¹, Pall Melsted^{1,2}, Thorunn Rafnar¹, Asgeir Sigurdsson¹, Gunnar Sigurdsson^{1,4,5}, Astros Skuladottir¹, Valgerdur Steinthorsdottir¹, Unnur Styrkarsdottir¹, Gudmundur Thorgeirsson^{1,4,5}, Gudmar Thorleifsson¹, Arnor Vikingsson⁵, Daniel F. Gudbjartsson^{1,2}, Hilma Holm^{1,4}, Hreinn Stefansson¹, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir^{1,4}, Gudmundur L. Norddahl¹, Patrick Sulem¹, Thorgeir E. Thorgeirsson¹ & Kari Stefansson^{1,4}

Nerve conduction (NC) studies generate measures of peripheral nerve function that can reveal underlying pathology due to axonal loss, demyelination or both. We perform a genome-wide association study of sural NC amplitude and velocity in 7045 Icelanders and find a low-frequency splice-donor variant in *PRPH* (c.996+1G>A; MAF = 1.32%) associating with decreased NC amplitude but not velocity. *PRPH* encodes peripherin, an intermediate filament (IF) protein involved in cytoskeletal development and maintenance of neurons. Through RNA and protein studies, we show that the variant leads to loss-of-function (LoF), as when over-expressed in a cell line devoid of other IFs, it does not allow formation of the normal filamentous structure of peripherin, yielding instead punctate protein inclusions. Recall of carriers for neurological assessment confirms that from an early age, homozygotes have significantly lower sural NC amplitude than non-carriers and are at risk of a mild, early-onset, sensory-negative, axonal polyneuropathy.

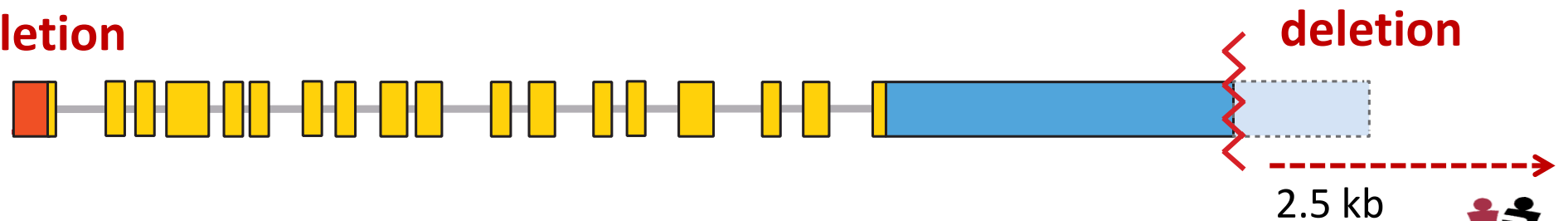
A novel deletion in *LDLR*

- Reported LOF in *LDLR* associate with higher LDL
- Novel 2.5kb deletion in the 3' UTR that associates with lower LDL

Normal *LDLR*



3'UTR with deletion



Icelandic family with *LDLR* - Gain of function

Circulation: Genomic and Precision Medicine
Volume 14, Issue 1, February 2021
<https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCGEN.120.003029>

2021



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Lifelong Reduction in LDL (Low-Density Lipoprotein) Cholesterol due to a Gain-of-Function Mutation in *LDLR*

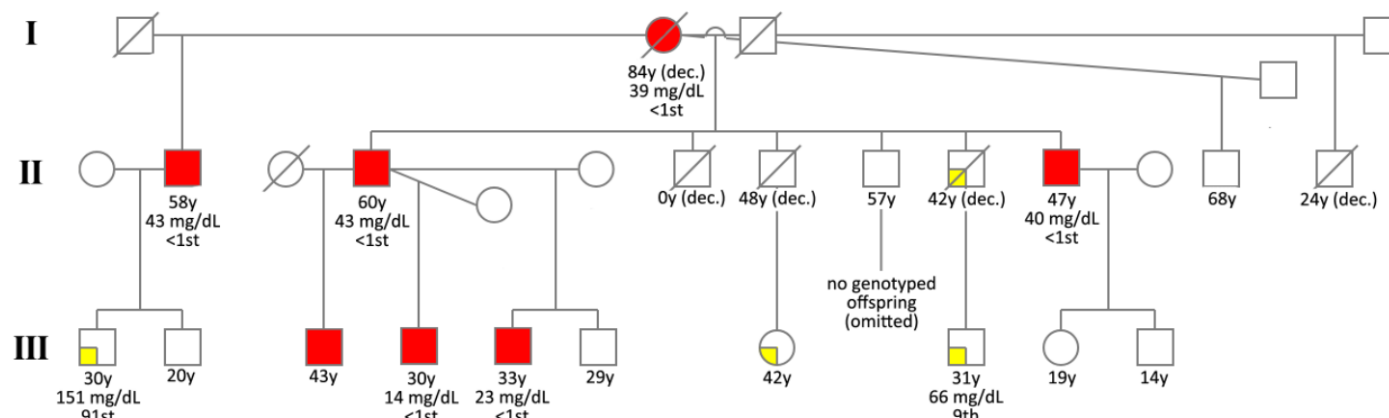
Eythor Bjornsson, MD , Kristbjorg Gunnarsdottir, MSc , Gisli H. Halldorsson, MSc, Asgeir Sigurdsson, BSc, Gudny A. Arnadottir, MSc, Hakon Jonsson, PhD, Eva F. Olafsdottir, MD, Sebastian Niehus, MSc , Birte Kehr, PhD , Gardar Sveinbjornsson, MSc, Steinunn Gudmundsdottir, MSc , Anna Helgadóttir, MD, PhD , Karl Andersen, MD, PhD , Gudmar Thorleifsson, PhD , Gudmundur I. Eyjolfsson, MD, Isleifur Olafsson, MD, PhD, Olof Sigurdardottir, MD, PhD , Jona Saemundsdottir, BSc, Ingileif Jonsdottir, PhD, Olafur Th. Magnusson, PhD, Gisli Masson, PhD , Hreinn Stefansson, PhD, Daniel F. Gudbjartsson, PhD, Gudmundur Thorgeirsson, MD, PhD , Hilma Holm, MD , Bjarni V. Halldorsson, PhD , Pall Melsted, PhD, Gudmundur L. Norddahl, PhD , Patrick Sulem, MD , Unnur Thorsteinsdottir, PhD , and Kari Stefansson, MD, PhD

BACKGROUND: Loss-of-function mutations in the LDL (low-density lipoprotein) receptor gene (*LDLR*) cause elevated levels of LDL cholesterol and premature cardiovascular disease. To date, a gain-of-function mutation in *LDLR* with a large effect on LDL cholesterol levels has not been described. Here, we searched for sequence variants in *LDLR* that have a large effect on LDL cholesterol levels.

METHODS: We analyzed whole-genome sequencing data from 43 202 Icelanders. Single-nucleotide polymorphisms and structural variants including deletions, insertions, and duplications were genotyped using whole-genome sequencing-based data. LDL cholesterol associations were carried out in a sample of >100 000 Icelanders with genetic information (imputed or whole-genome sequencing). Molecular analyses were performed using RNA sequencing and protein expression assays in Epstein-Barr virus-transformed lymphocytes.

RESULTS: We discovered a 2.5-kb deletion (del2.5) overlapping the 3' untranslated region of *LDLR* in 7 heterozygous carriers from a single family. Mean level of LDL cholesterol was 74% lower in del2.5 carriers than in 101 851 noncarriers, a difference of 2.48 mmol/L (96 mg/dL; $P=8.4 \times 10^{-8}$). Del2.5 results in production of an alternative mRNA isoform with a truncated 3' untranslated region. The truncation leads to a loss of target sites for microRNAs known to repress translation of *LDLR*. In Epstein-Barr virus-transformed lymphocytes derived from del2.5 carriers, expression of alternative mRNA isoform was 1.84-fold higher than the wild-type isoform ($P=0.0013$), and there was 1.79-fold higher surface expression of the LDL receptor than in noncarriers ($P=0.0086$). We did not find a highly penetrant detrimental impact of lifelong very low levels of LDL cholesterol due to del2.5 on health of the carriers.

CONCLUSIONS: Del2.5 is the first reported gain-of-function mutation in *LDLR* causing a large reduction in LDL cholesterol. These data point to a role for alternative polyadenylation of *LDLR* mRNA as a potent regulator of LDL receptor expression in humans.



- 7 carriers: oldest reached 84
- *De novo* mutation
- Carriers have 74% lower LDL; $P = 1.1 \times 10^{-11}$
 - Lowering similar to that of PCSK9-inhibitors
 - Lifelong very low LDL appears to be well tolerated

Core laboratories

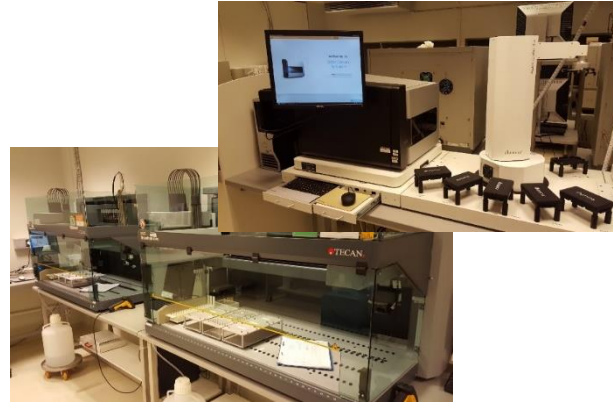


Biological materials facility

- Sample registration
- DNA/RNA isolation
- Clinical chemistry
- Hematology

Sample storage – robotic freezers

- Hamilton Verso -25°C
- Hamilton BIOS -80°C



Genotyping lab

- Infinium array genotyping
- >1,3M samples genotyped
- OmniExpress24 or GSA



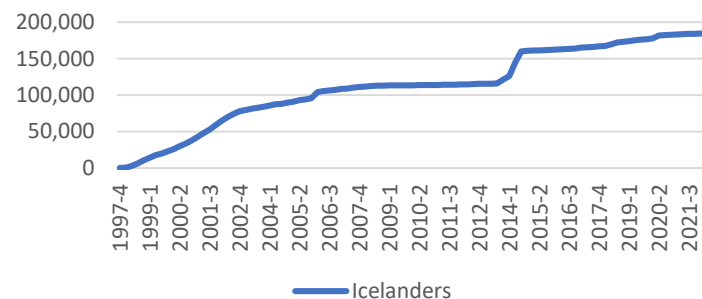
Genome sequencing lab

Whole genome / whole exome /RNA
Illumina

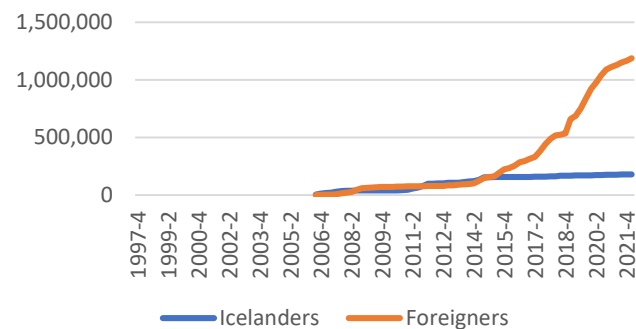
- 18 NovaSeq6000
 - 6 MiSeq
 - Throughput 14K WGS samples/month
- Oxford Nanopore (ONT)*
- 3 PromethION P48

Sample accumulation at deCODE

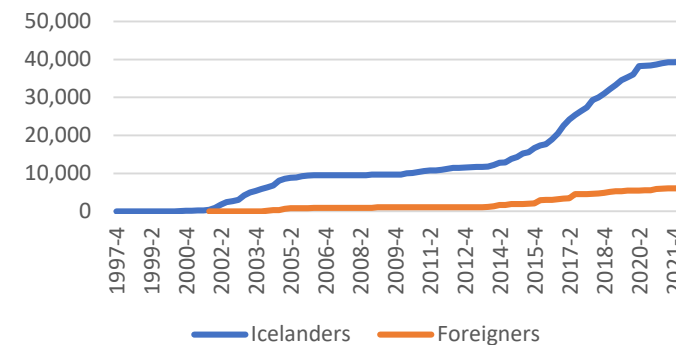
DNA Accumulation Icelanders



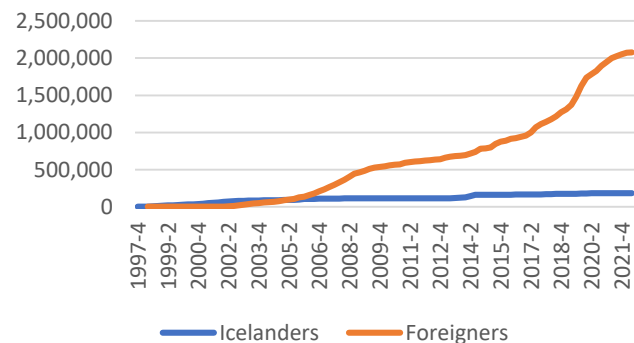
Accumulated chip typed individuals



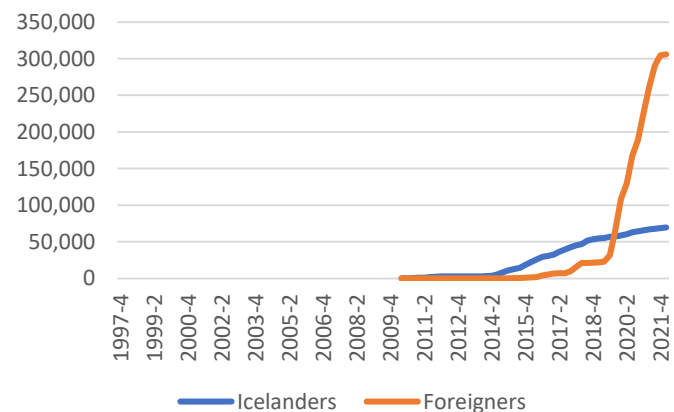
RNA Accumulation



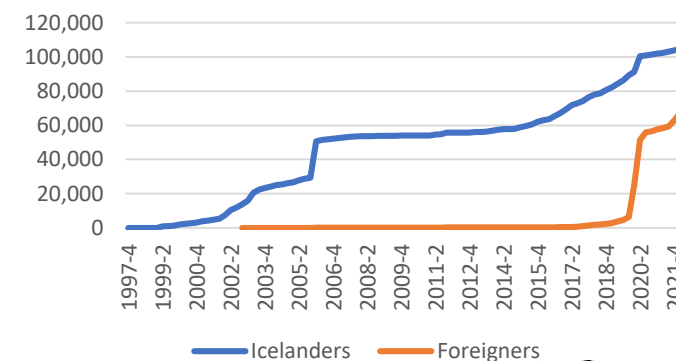
DNA Accumulation



Accumulated WGS Individuals



Serum & Plasma Accumulation



Whole genome sequencing of UK Biobank genomes

Article

The sequences of 150,119 genomes in the UK Biobank


<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-04965-x>

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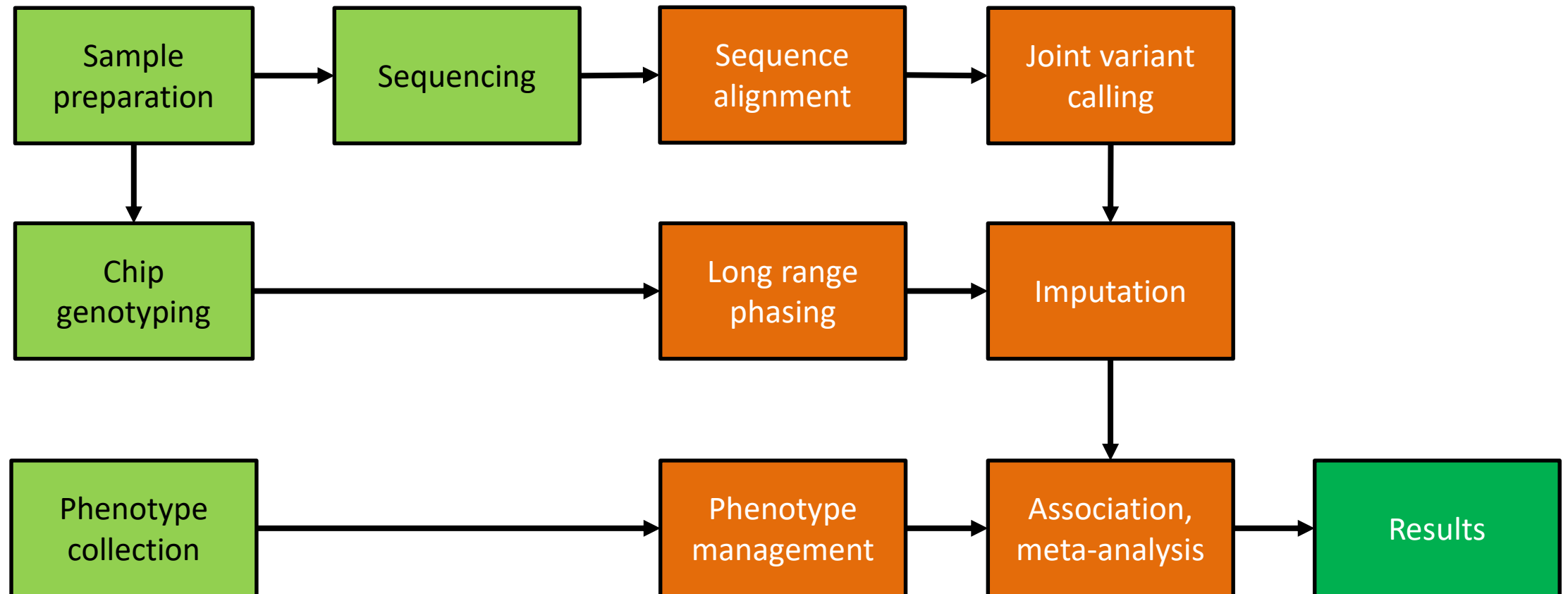
Open access

 Check for updates

Bjarni V. Halldorsson^{1,2,3,4}, Hannes P. Eggertsson¹, Kristjan H. S. Moore¹, Hannes Hauswedell¹, Ogmundur Eiriksson¹, Magnus O. Ulfarsson^{1,3}, Gunnar Palsson¹, Marteinn T. Hardarson^{1,2}, Asmundur Oddsson¹, Brynjar O. Jenson¹, Snaedis Kristmundsdottir^{1,2}, Brynja D. Sigurpalsdottir^{1,2}, Olafur A. Stefansson¹, Doruk Beyter², Guillaume Holley¹, Vinicius Tragante¹, Arnaldur Gylfason¹, Pall I. Olason¹, Florian Zink¹, Margret Asgeirsdottir¹, Sverrir T. Sverrisson¹, Brynjar Sigurdsson¹, Sigurjon A. Gudjonsson¹, Gunnar T. Sigurdsson¹, Gisli H. Halldorsson¹, Gardar Sveinbjornsson¹, Kristjan Norland¹, Unnur Styrkarsdottir¹, Droplaug N. Magnúsdóttir¹, Steinunn Snorraddottir¹, Kari Kristinsson¹, Emilia Sobech¹, Helgi Jonsson^{4,5}, Arni J. Geirsson⁴, Isleifur Olafsson⁴, Palmi Jonsson^{4,5}, Ole Birger Pedersen⁶, Christian Erikstrup^{1,6}, Søren Brunak⁶, Sisse Rye Ostrowski^{1,6,7}, DBDS Genetic Consortium⁸, Gudmar Thorleifsson¹, Frosti Jonsson¹, Pall Melsted^{1,3}, Ingileif Jonsdottir^{1,5}, Thorunn Rafnar¹, Hilma Holm¹, Hreinn Stefansson¹, Jona Saemundsdottir¹, Daniel F. Gudbjartsson^{1,3}, Olafur T. Magnusson¹, Gisli Masson¹, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir^{1,5}, Agnar Helgason^{1,2}, Hakon Jonsson¹, Patrick Sulem¹ & Kari Stefansson^{1,5,9}

Detailed knowledge of how diversity in the sequence of the human genome affects phenotypic diversity depends on a comprehensive and reliable characterization of both sequences and phenotypic variation. Over the past decade, insights into this relationship have been obtained from whole-exome sequencing or whole-genome sequencing of large cohorts with rich phenotypic data^{1–3}. Here we describe the analysis of whole-genome sequencing of 150,119 individuals from the UK Biobank¹. This constitutes a set of high-quality variants, including 585,040,410 single-nucleotide polymorphisms, representing 7.0% of all possible human single-nucleotide polymorphisms, and 58,707,036 indels. This large set of variants allows us to characterize selection based on sequence variation within a population through a depletion rank score of windows along the genome. Depletion rank analysis shows that coding exons represent a small fraction of regions in the genome subject to strong sequence conservation. We define three cohorts within the UK Biobank: a large British Irish cohort, a smaller African cohort and a South Asian cohort. A haplotype reference panel is provided that allows reliable imputation of most variants carried by three or more sequenced individuals. We identified 895,055 structural variants and 2,536,688 microsatellites, groups of variants typically excluded from large-scale whole-genome sequencing studies. Using this formidable new resource, we provide several examples of trait associations for rare variants with large effects not found previously through studies based on whole-exome sequencing and/or imputation.

Current main data flow



Sequence diversity in Iceland

- 2015: 2,636 genomes
- The majority of sequenced variants are rare
- More pronounced for protein altering variants
- Fraction of rare increases with N sequenced individuals
- By 2022: 330K WGS including 65K Icelanders

FOCUS ON GENOMES OF ICELANDERS

2015

ARTICLES

nature
genetics

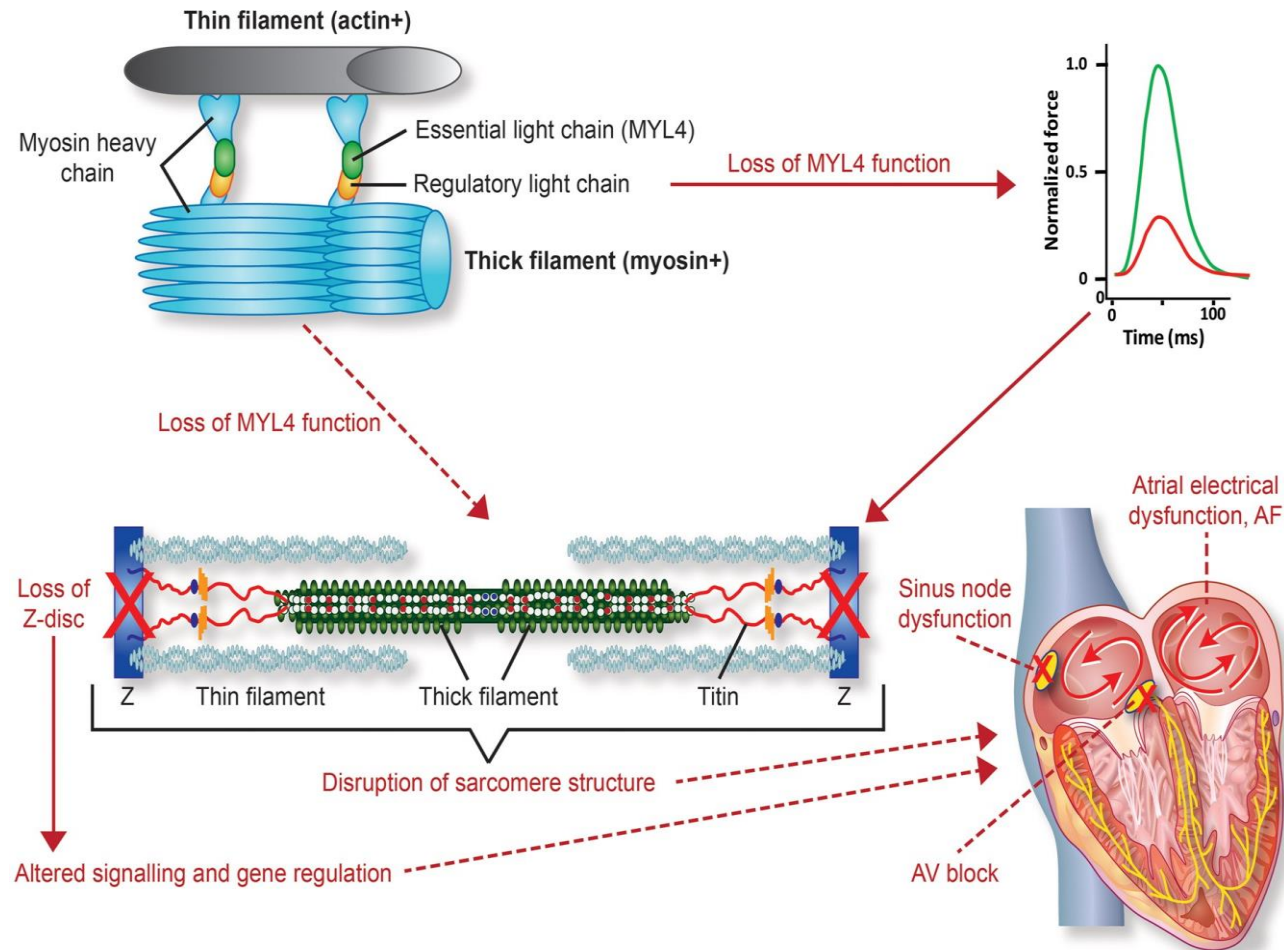
Large-scale whole-genome sequencing of the Icelandic population

Daniel F Gudbjartsson^{1,2,21}, Hannes Helgason^{1,2,21}, Sigurjon A Gudjonsson¹, Florian Zink¹, Asmundur Oddson¹, Arnaldur Gylfason¹, Soren Besenbacher³, Gisli Magnusson¹, Bjarni V Halldorsson^{1,4}, Eirikur Hjartarson¹, Gunnar Th Sigurdsson¹, Simon N Stacey¹, Michael L Frigge¹, Hilma Holm^{1,5}, Jona Saemundsdottir¹, Hafdis Th Helgadóttir¹, Hrefna Johannsdóttir¹, Gunnlaugur Sigfusson⁶, Gudmundur Thorgeirsson^{7,8}, Jon Th Sverrisson⁹, Solveig Gretarsdóttir¹, G Bragi Walters¹, Thorunn Rafnar¹, Bjarni Thjodleifsson⁷, Einar S Bjornsson^{8,10}, Sigurdur Olafsson^{8,10}, Hildur Thorarinsdóttir¹⁰, Thora Steingrimsdóttir^{8,11}, Thora S Gudmundsdóttir¹¹, Asgeir Theodors¹⁰, Jon G Jonasson^{8,12,13}, Asgeir Sigurdsson¹, Gyda Bjornsdóttir¹, Jon J Jonsson^{14,15}, Olafur Thorarensen¹⁶, Petur Ludvigsson¹⁶, Hakon Gudbjartsson^{1,2}, Gudmundur I Eyjolfsson¹⁷, Olof Sigurdardóttir¹⁸, Isleifur Olafsson¹⁹, David O Arnar^{7,8}, Olafur Th Magnusson¹, Augustine Kong^{1,2}, Gisli Masson¹, Unnur Thorsteinsdóttir^{1,8}, Agnar Helgason^{1,20}, Patrick Sulem¹ & Kari Stefansson^{1,8}

| Type | MAF | Loss of function | Moderate impact | Low impact | Other | Total |
|------|----------|--|---|---|----------------------|------------|
| | | Frameshift indel, splice acceptor or donor, stop gain or loss, initiator codon | In-frame indel, missense, splice region | Synonymous, stop retained, 3' or 5' UTR | Intronic, intergenic | |
| SNP | ≥0.5% | 602 (0.0070%) | 36,282 (0.42%) | 108,850 (1.3%) | 8,445,855 (98.3%) | 8,591,589 |
| | 0.1–0.5% | 915 (0.023%) | 29,659 (0.76%) | 59,076 (1.5%) | 3,836,528 (97.7%) | 3,926,178 |
| | <0.1% | 2,462 (0.034%) | 57,209 (0.80%) | 101,751 (1.4%) | 7,010,453 (97.7%) | 7,171,875 |
| | All | 3,979 (0.020%) | 123,150 (0.63%) | 269,677 (1.4%) | 19,292,836 (98.0%) | 19,689,642 |



Disruption of sarcomere integrity in atrial fibrillation



- Rare frameshift deletion (c.234delC) in *MYL4* causes early-onset atrial fibrillation ($P=1.7 \times 10^{-14}$)
- Fully penetrant in the homozygous state
- *MYL4* dysfunction might lead to electrical dysfunction and arrhythmias via impaired contractility and disruption of sarcomere integrity, with loss of co-ordination of contractile, structural, and signaling proteins leading to dramatic electrical consequences

- Causal variants / genes
- Syndromes within common diseases

Many associations between atrial fibrillation and coding variants in structural genes

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY
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A Missense Variant in *PLEC* Increases Risk of Atrial Fibrillation

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Encodes plectin, a cytoskeletal linking protein with a role in maintaining tissue integrity in the heart



Myosin heavy chain- α , major contractile protein, predominantly expressed in the atria

nature
genetics

A rare variant in *MYH6* is associated with high risk of sick sinus syndrome - also the most significant atrial fibrillation variant in the Icelandic data

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COMMUNICATIONS
BIOLOGY

ARTICLE

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OPEN

Coding variants in *RPL3L* and *MYZAP* increase risk of atrial fibrillation

Rosa B. Thorolfsdottir et al.[#]

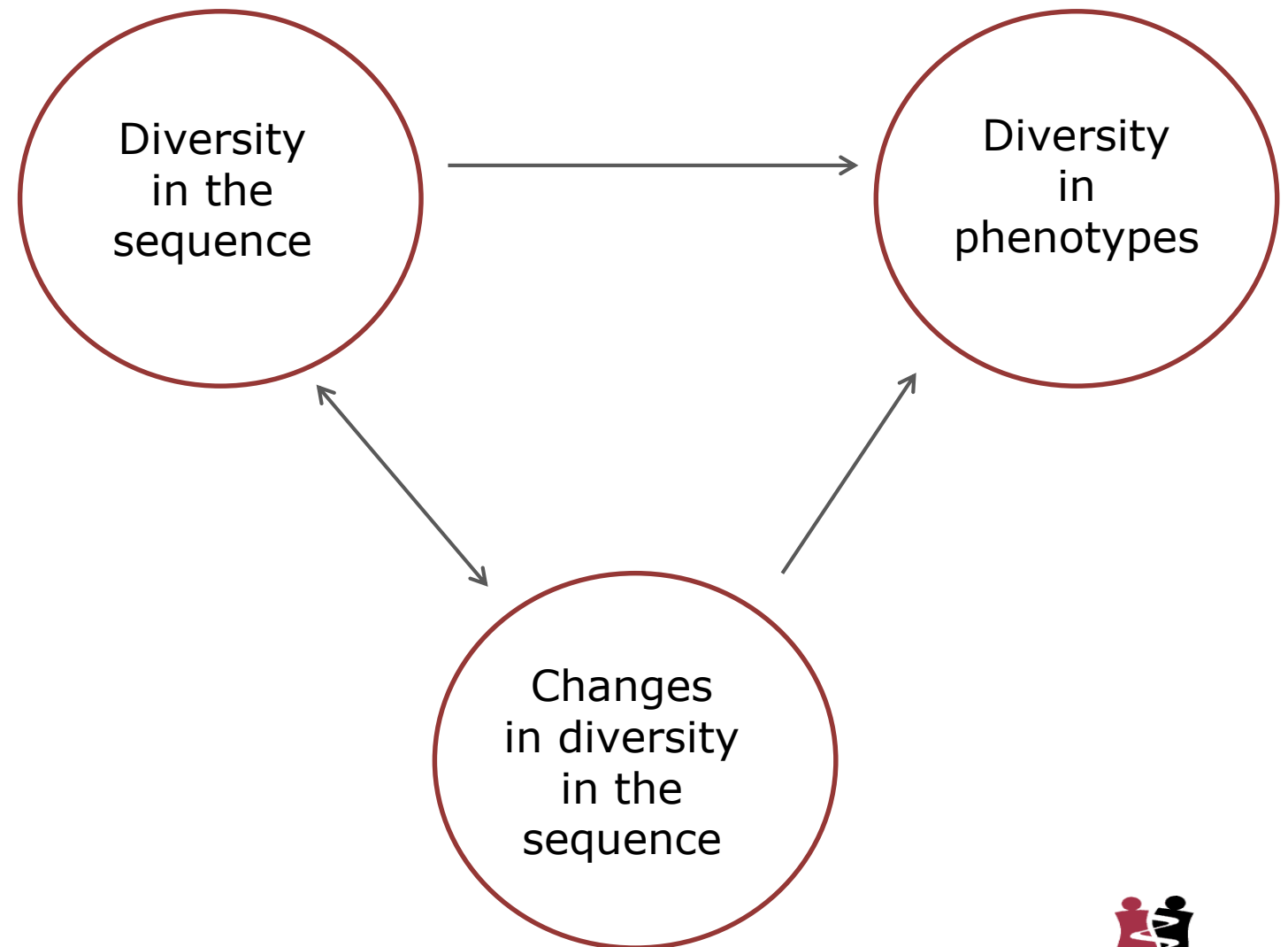
Encodes a component of the intercalated discs, a highly specialized cell–cell contact structure that enables communication between cardiomyocytes

Ribosomal protein, expressed exclusively in skeletal muscle and heart; may be a negative regulator of muscle growth

Causal variants / genes

Understanding the processes that generate sequence diversity in the human genome

- Recombinations
- Gene conversions
- De novo mutations



A high-resolution recombination map of the human genome

Augustine Kong, Daniel F. Gudbjartsson, Jesus Sainz, Gudrun M. Jonsdottir, Sigurjon A. Gudjonsson, Bjorgvin Richardsson, Sigrun Sigurdardottir, John Barnard, Bjorn Hallbeck, Gisli Masson, Adam Shlien, Stefan T. Palsson, Michael L. Frigge, Thorgerir E. Thorgerirsson, Jeffrey R. Gulcher & Kari Stefansson

Published online: 10 June 2002, doi:10.1038/ng917

Determination of recombination rates across the human genome has been constrained by the limited resolution and accuracy of existing genetic maps and the draft genome sequence. We have genotyped 5,136 microsatellite markers for 146 families, with a total of 1,257 meiotic events, to build a high-resolution genetic map meant to: (i) improve the genetic order of polymorphic markers; (ii) improve the precision of estimates of genetic distances; (iii) correct portions of the sequence assembly and SNP map of the human genome; and (iv) build a map of recombination rates. Recombination rates are significantly correlated with both cytogenetic structures (staining intensity of G bands) and sequence (GC content, CpG motifs and poly(A)/poly(T) stretches). Maternal and paternal chromosomes show many differences in locations of recombination maxima. We detected systematic differences in recombination rates between mothers and between gametes from the same mother, suggesting that there is some underlying component determined by both genetic and environmental factors that affects maternal recombination rates.

Introduction

The draft sequence of the human genome¹ has markedly advanced the understanding of human genetics. Because the available sequence is that of a reference genome, however, it does not provide insight into the genomic variability that is responsible for much of human diversity. Along with mutation, a major mechanism generating variability in the eukaryotic genome is intergenerational mixing of DNA through meiotic recombination of homologous chromosomes. The standard approach to studying rates of recombination across the genome is to build a genetic map by genotyping, with a high density of markers, a large number of individuals in families and then match this to

physical map together provide better estimates of recombination rates with respect to physical distances, which are essential to understanding the intergenerational variability of the genome. Thus, our results should facilitate the formulation and testing of hypotheses about the relationships between sequence content and recombination rate and between recombination rate and the degree of linkage disequilibrium.

Results

Data collection

We genotyped 869 individuals in 146 Icelandic families, consisting of 149 sibships and providing information on 628 male/paternal and 629 female/maternal meioses, with 5,136



Recombination, gene conversion

nature
genetics

ARTICLES

Common and low-frequency variants associated with genome-wide recombination rate

Augustine Kong^{1,2}, Gudmar Thorleifsson¹, Michael L. Frigge¹, Gisli Masson¹, D. Rasmus Villemoes¹, Erna Magnusdottir², Stefania B. Olafsdottir¹, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir^{1,3}

Meiotic recombination contributes to genetic diversity by yielding new combinations of all the genome-wide recombination counts in their gametes. Exploiting data resources in Iceland of 35,927 distinct parents and 71,929 parent-offspring pairs. Within this data set, we called events and imputed variants with sequence-level resolution from 2,261 whole genome-seq

nature
genetics

Recombination rate and reproductive success in humans

Augustine Kong¹, John Barnard², Daniel F. Gudbjartsson¹, Gudmar Thorleifsson¹, Gudrun Jonsdottir¹, Sigrun Sigurdardottir¹, Bjorgvin Richardsson¹, Jonina Jonsdottir¹, Thorger Thorgerisson¹, Michael L. Frigge¹, Neil E. Lamb³, Stephanie Sherman³, Jeffrey R. Gulcher¹ & Kari Stefansson¹

Intergenerational mixing of DNA through meiotic recombinations of homologous chromosomes during gametogenesis is a major event that generates diversity in the eukaryotic genome. We examined genome-wide microsatellite data for 23,066 individuals, providing information on recombination events of 14,140 maternal and paternal meioses each, and found a positive correlation between maternal recombination counts of an offspring and maternal age. We postulated that the recombination rate of eggs does not increase with maternal age, but that the apparent increase is the consequence of selection. Specifically, a high recombination count increased the chance of a gamete becoming a live birth, and this effect became more pronounced with advancing maternal age. Further support for this hypothesis came from our observation that mothers with high oocyte recombination rate tend to have more children. Hence, not only do recombinations have a role in evolution by yielding diverse combinations of gene variants for natural selection, but they are also under selection themselves.

however, studies in the mouse suggest that the last-formed oocytes are also the last to be ovulated.¹ In humans, a number of studies have been done to estimate recombination counts using genetic data from families (that is, parent-offspring transmissions), but none has provided convincing evidence that the recombination count in an oocyte is correlated with maternal age. A reported decrease in recombination with increasing maternal age using the Venterian Reference Pedigree² could not be replicated by further analysis using the same data source.³ Most earlier studies were based on small sample sizes and were not genome-wide investigations.⁴⁻¹¹ Two genome-wide studies^{12,13} did not detect a statistically significant age effect. Suspecting that the failures of previous studies to detect an effect were due to the lack of power, we carried out a large study using two primary resources: a genetic database with genotypic data on ~1,000 microsatellite markers typed in 70,800 individuals and a genealogy database covering the entire Icelandic nation. We used these to construct a data set consisting of 5,463 families, with 23,066 individuals genotyped (average yield >800 genotypes per person) and providing information on 14,140 maternal and paternal meioses each. These are nuclear families with two or more children, and at least one parent consanguineous (CDBs-2). Our

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ARTICLES

The rate of meiotic gene conversion varies by sex and age

Bjarni V. Halldorsson^{1,2}, Martein T. Hardarson¹, Birte Kehr¹, Unnur Styrkarsdottir¹, Arnaldur Gylfason¹, Gudmar Thorleifsson¹, Florian Zink¹, Adalbjorg Jonasdottir¹, Aslaug Jonasdottir¹, Patrick Gisli Masson¹, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir^{1,3}, Agnar Helgason^{1,4}, Augustine Kong¹, Daniel F. Kong¹ & Kari Stefansson^{1,3}

Meiotic recombination involves a combination of gene conversion and crossover events that, along with meiotic genetic diversity. Here we report the discovery of 3,176 SNP and 61 indel gene conversions. Our crossover (NCO) gene conversion rate (G) is 7.0 for SNPs and 5.8 for indels per megabase per generation. For indels, we demonstrate a 65.6% preference for the shorter allele. NCO gene conversions from mothers from fathers, and G is 2.17 times greater in mothers. Notably, G increases with the age of mothers, but not A disproportionate number of NCO gene conversions in older mothers occur outside double-strand break regions with relatively low GC content. This points to age-related changes in the mechanisms of meiotic ge

LETTER

doi:10.1038/natu

Fine-scale recombination rate differences between sexes, populations and individuals

Augustine Kong¹, Gudmar Thorleifsson¹, Daniel F. Gudbjartsson¹, Gisli Masson¹, Asgeir Sigurdsson¹, Aslaug Jonasdottir¹, G. Bragi Walters¹, Adalbjorg Jonasdottir¹, Arnaldur Gylfason¹, Kari Th. Kristinsson¹, Sigrun A. Gudjonsson¹, Michael L. Frigge¹, Jeffrey R. Gulcher¹, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir^{1,3} & Kari Stefansson^{1,3}

Meiotic recombinations contribute to genetic diversity by yielding new combinations of alleles. Recently, high-resolution recombination maps were inferred from high-density single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) data using linkage disequilibrium (LD) patterns that capture historical recombination events.^{1,2} The use of these maps has been demonstrated by the identification of recombination hotspots³ and associated motifs⁴, and the discovery that the *PRDM9* gene affects the proportion of recombinations occurring at hotspots^{5,6}. However, these maps provide no information about individual or sex differences. Moreover, locus-specific demographic factors like natural selection⁷ can bias LD-based estimates of recombination rate. Existing genetic maps based on family data avoid these shortcomings, but their resolution is limited by relatively

To perform a large, family-based recombination study, of large is to phase the genotypes of the parents when the grand are not genotyped. One solution is to use genotyped nuclear with two or more offspring, which in essence uses the children's parents. However, resolution can be diminished and dil can arise when two or more offspring have recombinations close to each other. We capitalized on recent methodological a that led to the successful determination of parental origins of o of the heterozygous genotypes of 38,167 Icelanders typed on I SNP arrays, many of them with ungenotyped parents^{8,9}. origins provide phase. We used phased haplotypes of 8,850 offspring pairs (6,041 distinct mothers) and 6,407 father-offspring pairs (4,389 distinct fathers) to identify recombinations (Fig

RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY

HUMAN GENETICS

Characterizing mutagenic effects of recombination through a sequence-level genetic map

Bjarni V. Halldorsson¹, Gunnar Palsen, Olafur A. Stefansson, Hakon Jonsson, Martein T. Hardarson, Hanne P. Eggertsson, Bjarni Gunnarsson, Aomundur Oddsson, Gisli H. Halldorsson, Florian Zink, Sigrun A. Gudjonsson, Michael L. Frigge, Gudmar Thorleifsson, Asgeir Sigurdsson, Simon N. Stacey, Patrick Sulem, Gisli Masson, Agnar Helgason, Daniel F. Gudbjartsson, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir, Kari Stefansson¹

INTRODUCTION: Diversity in the sequence of the human genome, arising from recombinations and mutations, is fundamental to human evolution and human diversity. Meiotic recombination is initiated from double-strand breaks (DSBs). DSBs occur more frequently in regions of the genome termed hotspots, and a small subset eventually gives rise to crossovers, a reciprocal exchange of large pieces between homologous chromosomes. The majority of

localized transfers of short segments between homologous chromosomes or sister chromatids, observable as gene conversions when the segment includes a heterozygous marker. Crossovers co-occurring with distal gene conversions are known as complex crossovers.

RATIONALE: Current meiotic recombination maps either have limited resolution or the events cannot be resolved to an individual

de novo mutations (DNMs) requires genetic data on a proband and its parents, and a fine resolution of these events is possible only with whole-genome sequence data. Whole-genome sequencing and DNA microarray data allowed us to identify crossovers and DNMs in families at a high resolution. We resolved crossovers at an individual level, allowing us to examine variation in crossover patterns between individuals, analyzing which crossovers are complex and how crossover patterns are influenced by age, sex, sequence variants, and epigenomic factors. It is known that the mutation rate is increased near crossovers, but the rate of DNMs near crossovers has been characterized only indirectly or at a small scale.

RESULTS: We show that a number of epigenomic factors influence crossover location, shifting crossovers from exons to enhancers. Complex crossovers are more common in females than males, and the rate of complex crossovers increases with maternal age. Maternal age also correlates with an increase in the recombination rate in general and a shift in the location of crossovers toward later-replicating regions and regions of lower GC

Sequence Variants in the *RNF212* Gene Associate with Genome-Wide Recombination Rate

Augustine Kong,^{*} Gudmar Thorleifsson, Hreinn Stefansson, Gisli Masson, Agnar Helgason, Daniel F. Gudbjartsson, Gudrun M. Jonsdottir, Sigrun A. Gudjonsson, Sverrir Sverrisson, Theodora Thorlacius, Aslaug Jonasdottir, Gudmundur A. Hardarson, Stefan T. Palsen, Michael L. Frigge, Jeffrey R. Gulcher, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir, Kari Stefansson^{*}

The genome-wide recombination rate varies between individuals, but the mechanism controlling this variation in humans has remained elusive. A genome-wide search identified sequence variants in the 4p16.3 region correlated with recombination rate in both males and females. These variants are located in the *RNF212* gene, a putative ortholog of the *ZHP-3* gene that is essential for recombinations and chiasma formation in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. It is noteworthy that the haplotype formed by two single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) associated with the highest recombination rate in males is associated with a low recombination rate in females. Consequently, if the frequency of the haplotype changes, the average recombination rate will increase for one sex and decrease for the other, but the sex-averaged recombination rate of the population can stay relatively constant.

Recombination generates part of the diversity that fuels evolution. In humans, it has been suggested that recombination rate must be highly regulated⁽¹⁾, as too little recombination can lead to inaccurate disjunction and aneuploidy^(2,3), whereas ectopic exchange can lead to chromosomal rearrangements⁽⁴⁾. Some regions in the genome, known as hotspots, have much higher recombination rate per physical distance unit than the genome as a whole. By using high-density single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) data, from which historical recom

bination events can be inferred, and sperm data, substantial advances have been made in the understanding of local recombination rate⁽⁵⁻¹⁷⁾. Furthermore, male and female recombination patterns are different in both genome-wide and regional recombination rates^(12,13). It is also firmly established that genome-wide recombination rate varies substantially among women^(12,13), and there have been hints that this also is true in men⁽¹⁴⁻¹⁶⁾.

Previously, we genotyped a large number of families with a genome-wide microsatellite set of ~1000 markers. This work allowed us to estimate the recombination rate for thousands of men and women and demonstrated that maternal recombination rate increases with the age of the mother

and that there is a positive correlation between the number of children and the recombination rate of a woman⁽¹⁷⁾. A common inversion on chromosome 17q21.31 was also identified that associates with recombination rate and fertility of women⁽¹⁸⁾. Here, we performed a genome-wide scan for variants associated with recombination rate by genotyping with the Illumina Hap300 chip 1887 males and 1702 females with recombination rate estimates [see (19) for a description of study groups]. After quality filtering, 309,241 SNPs were tested for association with recombination frequencies. Male and female recombination rates were studied separately with weighted regression where the weight of a person was proportional to the number of children used to estimate recombination rate. We fitted an additive model with the estimated recombination rate regressed on the number of an allele (0, 1, or 2) a person carried. The results were then adjusted for relatedness between individuals and potential population stratification with the method of genomic control⁽²⁰⁾. Specifically, standard errors of the effect estimates resulting from the regressions were multiplied by a factor of 1.041 for males and 1.067 for females corresponding to dividing the chi-square test statistics by an adjustment factor of 1.084 = 1.041² and 1.138 = 1.067² [see (19) for quality control and statistical analysis].

For the recombination rate of males, three SNPs achieved genome-wide significance ($P < 1.6 \times 10^{-11}$, fig. S1). They were rs3796619 ($P = 1.1 \times 10^{-11}$), rs1670533 ($P = 1.8 \times 10^{-11}$), and rs2045065 ($P = 1.6 \times 10^{-11}$), which were all located within a small region in strong linkage disequilibrium (LD) on chromosome 4p16.3 (Fig. 1). The same three SNPs were also associated with the female recombination rate (Table 1). The last two SNPs achieved genome-wide significance; no

increase in recombination rate up to 35 loci at 35 loci and/or the are coding as some of the location in only one of the. Many of the encode the

recombination of 682 base we a direct that DNMs the same region. Further genetic variants and high- of the minants of

Full article online: doi:10.1038/nature09363. Science 363, 1043

De novo mutations

ARTICLE

doi:10.1038/nature11396

1 Rate of *de novo* mutations and the 2 importance of father's age to disease risk

Augustine Kong¹, Michael L. Frigge¹, Gisli Masson¹, Soren Besenbacher^{1,2}, Patrick Sulem¹, Gisli Magnusson¹, Sigurjon A. Gudjonsson¹, Asgeir Sigurdsson¹, Aslaug Jonasdottir¹, Adalbjorg Jonasdottir¹, Wendy S. W. Wong³, Gunnar Sigurdsson¹, G. Bragi Walters¹, Stacy Steinberg¹, Hannes Helgason¹, Gudmar Thorleifsson¹, Daniel F. Gudbjartsson¹, Agnar Helgason^{1,4}, Olafur Th. Magnusson¹, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir^{1,5} & Kari Stefansson^{1,5}

Mutations generate major import genomes of 7 father's age o diversity in m child. The eff doubling ever the remaining age on the ris

LETTER

doi:10.10

Parental influence on human germline *de novo* mutations in 1,548 trios from Iceland

Hákon Jónsson¹, Patrick Sulem¹, Birte Kehr¹, Snaedis Kristmundsdottir¹, Florian Zink¹, Eiríkur Hjartarson¹, Marteinn T. Hardarson¹, Kristjan E. Hjorleifsson¹, Hannes P. Eggertsson¹, Sigurjon Axel Gudjonsson¹, Lucas D. Ward¹, Gudny A. Arnadottir¹, Einar A. Helgason¹, Hannes Helgason¹, Arnaldur Gylfason¹, Adalbjorg Jonasdottir¹, Aslaug J Thorunn Rafnar¹, Mike Frigge¹, Simon N. Stacey¹, Olafur Th. Magnusson¹, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir^{1,2}, Gisli Masson¹, Augustine Kong^{1,3}, Bjarni V. Halldorsson^{1,4}, Agnar Helgason^{1,5}, Daniel F. Gudbjartsson^{1,3} & Kari Stefansson^{1,2}

The characterization of mutational processes that generate sequence diversity in the human genome is of paramount importance both to medical genetics^{1,2} and to evolutionary studies³. To understand how the age and sex of transmitting parents affect *de novo* mutations, here we sequence 1,548 Icelanders, their parents, and, for a subset of 225, at least one child, to 35× genome-wide coverage. We find 108,778 *de novo* mutations, both single nucleotide polymorphisms and indels, and determine the parent of origin of 42,961. The number of *de novo* mutations from mothers increases by 0.37 per year of age (95% CI 0.32–0.43), a quarter of the 1.51 per year from

maternal origin¹⁷, and show strand concordance¹⁸. advances, our knowledge on how sex differences in g opment and maintenance affect their mutability is lin differences in the rate and class of DNMs transmitted fathers, we analysed whole-genome sequencing (W 14,688 Icelanders with an average of 35× coverage (Dat This set contained 1,548 trios, used to identify 108,778 high-quality DNMs (101,377 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs); Methods and Fig. 1), resulting in an average of 70.3 DNMs per proband.

LETTERS

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41588-018-0259-9

nature
genetics

Multiple transmissions of *de novo* mutations in families

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De novo muta rare diseases in mosaicism o tions can caus ling pairs from by siblings (s DNM recurrence

nature
genetics

ARTICLES

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41588-020-00755-1

Check for updates

Differences between germline genomes of monozygotic twins

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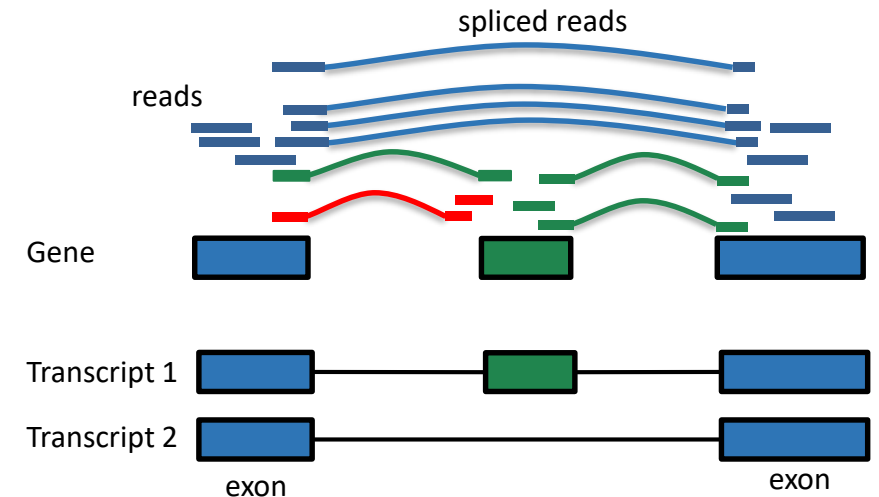
Despite the important role that monozygotic twins have played in genetics research, little is known about their genomic differences. Here we show that monozygotic twins differ on average by 5.2 early developmental mutations and that approximately 15% of monozygotic twins have a substantial number of these early developmental mutations specific to one of them. Using the parents and offspring of twins, we identified pre-twinning mutations. We observed instances where a twin was formed from a single cell lineage in the pre-twinning cell mass and instances where a twin was formed from several cell lineages. CpG>TpG mutations increased in frequency with embryonic development, coinciding with an increase in DNA methylation. Our results indicate that allocations of cells during development shapes genomic differences between monozygotic twins.

RNA sequencing at deCODE (transcriptomics)

- Whole blood (n=17,848) – 88% of individuals have WGS data
- Adipose (n=770)
- Lymphoblast (n=235)
- Heart (n=182)
- Cell sorted whole blood (n=935 individuals, n=557 with all subtypes)
 - CD4+ T-cells (n=837)
 - CD8+ T-cells (n=807)
 - B cells (n=758)
 - Neutrophils (n=730)
 - Monocytes (n=884)

Molecular phenotypes from RNA-sequencing

- Phenotypes from RNA-seq reads
- Expression (eQTLs): How much RNA is observed for each gene
- Splicing (sQTLs): What is the fraction of reads that use a specific junction



Total expression = 15 reads

Red junction = $1/8$

Green junction = $3/8$

Blue junction = $4/8$

Proteomics

Large-scale integration of the plasma proteome with genetics and disease

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V. Halldorsson^{1,3}, Brynjar O. Jensson¹, Florian Zink¹, Olafur Th. Magnusson¹, Run Fridriksdottir¹, rjon A. Gudjonsson¹, Simon N. Stacey¹, Solvi Rognvaldsson¹, runn A. Olafsdottir^{1,4}, Valgerdur Steinthorsdottir¹, Vinicius Tragante¹, nn Stefansson¹, Ingileif Jonsdottir^{1,4}, Hilma Holm¹, id^{1,6}, Jona Saemundsdottir¹, Gudmundur L. Norddahl¹, Sigrun H. Lund¹, inur Thorsteinsdottir^{1,4} and Kari Stefansson^{1,4}✉

NATURE GENETICS

ARTICLES

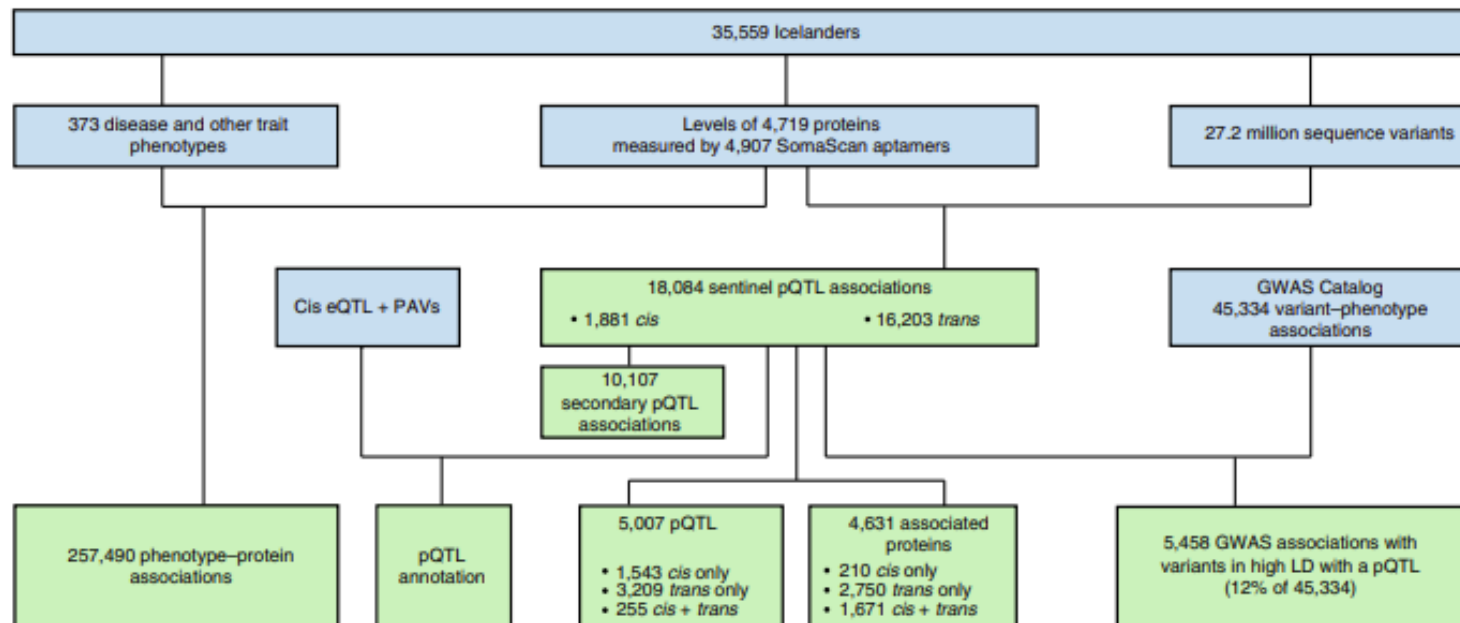


Fig. 1 | Study design and main results. Sentinel variant, most significant variant for a given protein in the region; pQTL, set of variants in high LD ($r^2 > 0.80$) with associations with levels of one or more proteins; eQTL, variants associated with gene expression. Blue boxes show input data, while green boxes show results.

the gap between the genome and diseases. Here we describe genome-wide association levels measured with 4,907 aptamers in 35,559 Icelanders. We found 18,084 associations of proteins in plasma (protein quantitative trait loci; pQTL), of which 19% were with rare ($P < 1\%$). We tested plasma protein levels for association with 373 diseases and other traits. We integrated pQTL and genetic associations with diseases and other traits and associations in the GWAS Catalog are with variants in high linkage disequilibrium with pQTL. Sentinel drug targets with variants that influence levels of possible biomarkers. Combining genomics, we provide a valuable resource that can be used to improve understanding of drug discovery and development.

Integration of genomic, transcriptomic, and proteomic data

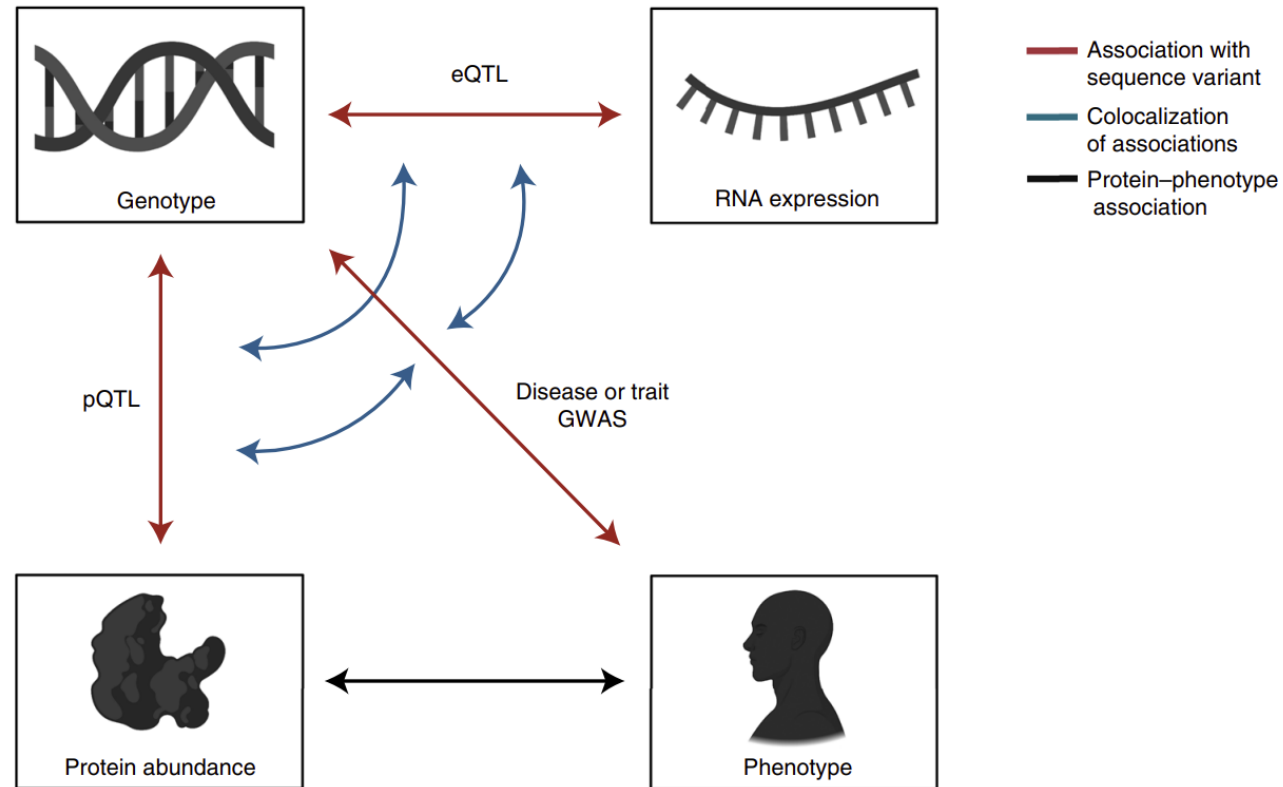
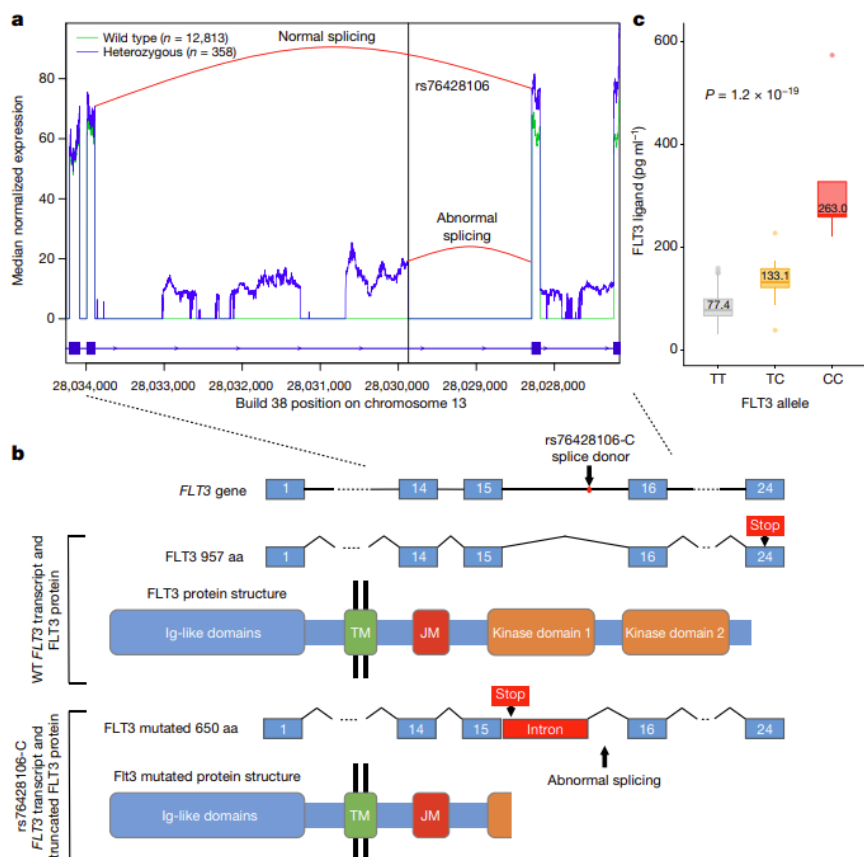


Fig. 2 | The concepts of pQTL, eQTL and colocalization with disease-associated variants. Schematic in which associations between sequence variants and protein level, RNA expression and phenotypes are shown as red arrows. Colocalization of associations are shown as blue arrows. Protein-phenotype associations are shown as black arrows.

FLT3 stop mutation increases FLT3 ligand level and risk of autoimmune thyroid disease



- *FLT3* intron variant rs76428106-C (AF 1.4%) associates with AITD
- The variant also associates with other autoimmune diseases (SLE, RF/anti-CCP+, celiac disease)
- RNA sequencing data demonstrated that the variant creates a novel splice site that generates a truncated protein (loss of function effect)
- The variant is associated with higher plasma levels of the FLT3 ligand (effect=0.49 SD, $P=3.8 \times 10^{-47}$), seen in Somascan data and replicated with ELISA

Proteins for prediction

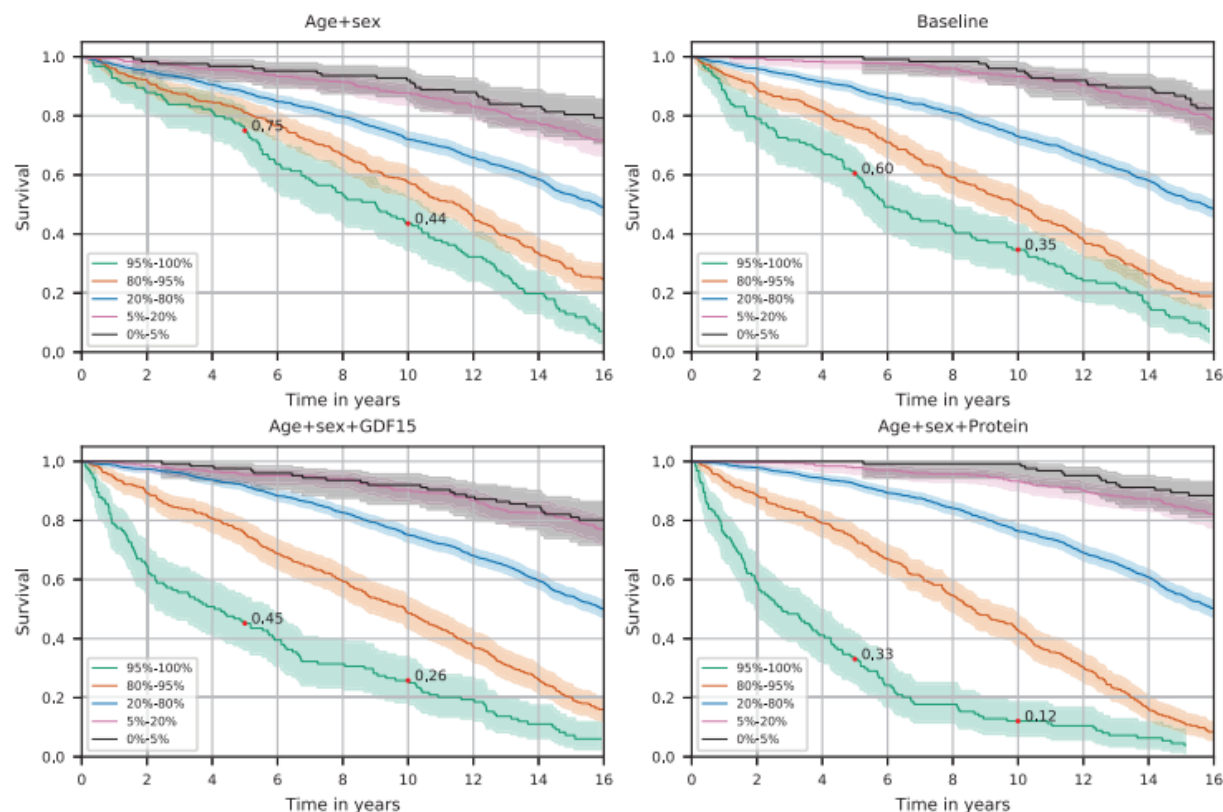


Fig. 2 Survival of 60-80 years old participants. The Kaplan-Meier curves for 2488 participants are split by quantiles of predicted 10-year risk by each model, demonstrating the different survival rates in the different risk groups. The colored areas represent 95% confidence intervals. The red dots show survival after 5 and 10 years.

communications biology

ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-021-02289-6>

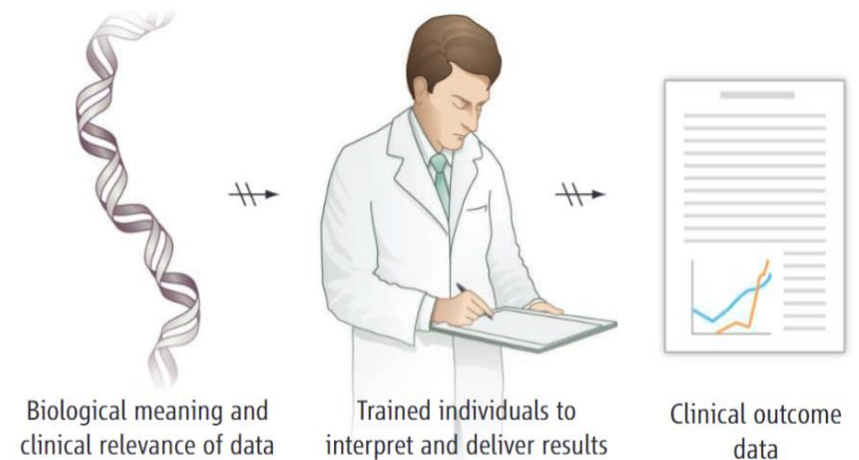
OPEN

Predicting the probability of death using proteomics

Thjodbjorg Eiriksdottir¹, Steinthor Ardal¹, Benedikt A. Jonsson¹, Sigrun H. Lund¹, Erna V. Ivarsdottir¹, Kristjan Norland¹, Egil Ferkingstad¹, Hreinn Stefansson¹, Ingileif Jonsdottir^{1,2,3}, Hilma Holm¹, Thorunn Rafnar¹, Jona Saemundsdottir¹, Gudmundur L. Norddahl¹, Gudmundur Thorgeirsson^{1,2,3}, Daniel F. Gudbjartsson^{1,2}, Patrick Sulem¹, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir^{1,2}, Kari Stefansson^{1,2} & Magnus O. Ulfarsson^{1,2}✉

Clinical sequencing at deCODE

- Benefits from ongoing research at deCODE
 - Large normative set
- 1200 families of rare disease cases referrals received
 - Clinical whole genome sequencing (30x)
 - WGS of trios (affected offspring + both parents)
- Solved 1/3 of cases: Half *de novo*, half recessive
- Clinical sequencing report
 - Detailed interpretation (extensive report)
 - Detection of pathogenic/likely pathogenic variants for the relevant condition



Adapted from Science, 2012

Homozygous for LOF in *CYBC1*

- Stop-gained Tyr2Ter in *CYBC1*
 - Associates with risk of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) under recessive model in Iceland
 - Novel cause of chronic granulomatous disease (colitis + infections)
- *CYBC1*
 - An uncharacterized gene in humans at the time
 - Homozygous knockout mice die from infections



ARTICLE

DOI: 10.1038/s41467-018-06964-x

OPEN

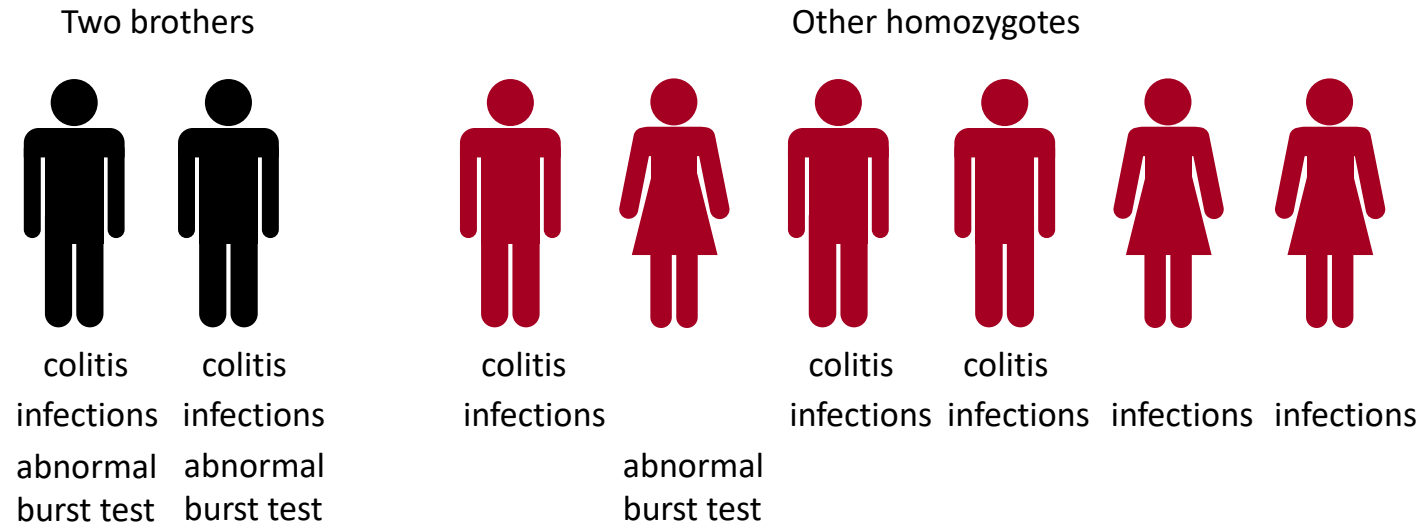
A homozygous loss-of-function mutation leading to *CYBC1* deficiency causes chronic granulomatous disease

Gudny A. Arnadottir¹, Gudmundur L. Norddahl¹, Steinunn Gudmundsdottir¹, Arna B. Agustsdottir¹, Snaevar Sigurdsson¹, Brynjar O. Jensson¹, Kristbjorg Bjarnadottir¹, Fannar Theodors¹, Stefania Benonisdottir¹, Erna V. Ivarsdottir^{1,2}, Asmundur Oddsson¹, Ragnar P. Kristjansson¹, Gerald Sulem¹, Kristjan F. Alexandersson¹, Thorhildur Juliusdottir¹, Kjartan R. Gudmundsson¹, Jona Saemundsdottir¹, Adalbjorg Jonasdottir¹, Aslaug Jonasdottir¹, Asgeir Sigurdsson¹, Paolo Manzanillo¹, Sigurjon A. Gudjonsson¹, Gudmundur A. Thorisson¹, Olafur Th. Magnusson¹, Gisli Masson¹, Kjartan B. Orvar^{3,4}, Hilma Holm¹, Sigurdur Bjornsson^{3,4}, Reynir Arngrimsson^{5,6}, Daniel F. Gudbjartsson^{1,2}, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir^{1,6}, Ingileif Jonsdottir^{1,6}, Asgeir Haraldsson^{6,7}, Patrick Sulem¹ & Kari Stefansson^{1,6}

| Gene | Position (hg38) | Mutation | AF Iceland | Phenotype | P-value (recessive) | OR/effect (recessive) |
|-------|-----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| CYBC1 | Chr17:82449249 | P.Tyr2Ter | 0.76% | IBD | 8.3×10^{-8} | 67.6 |

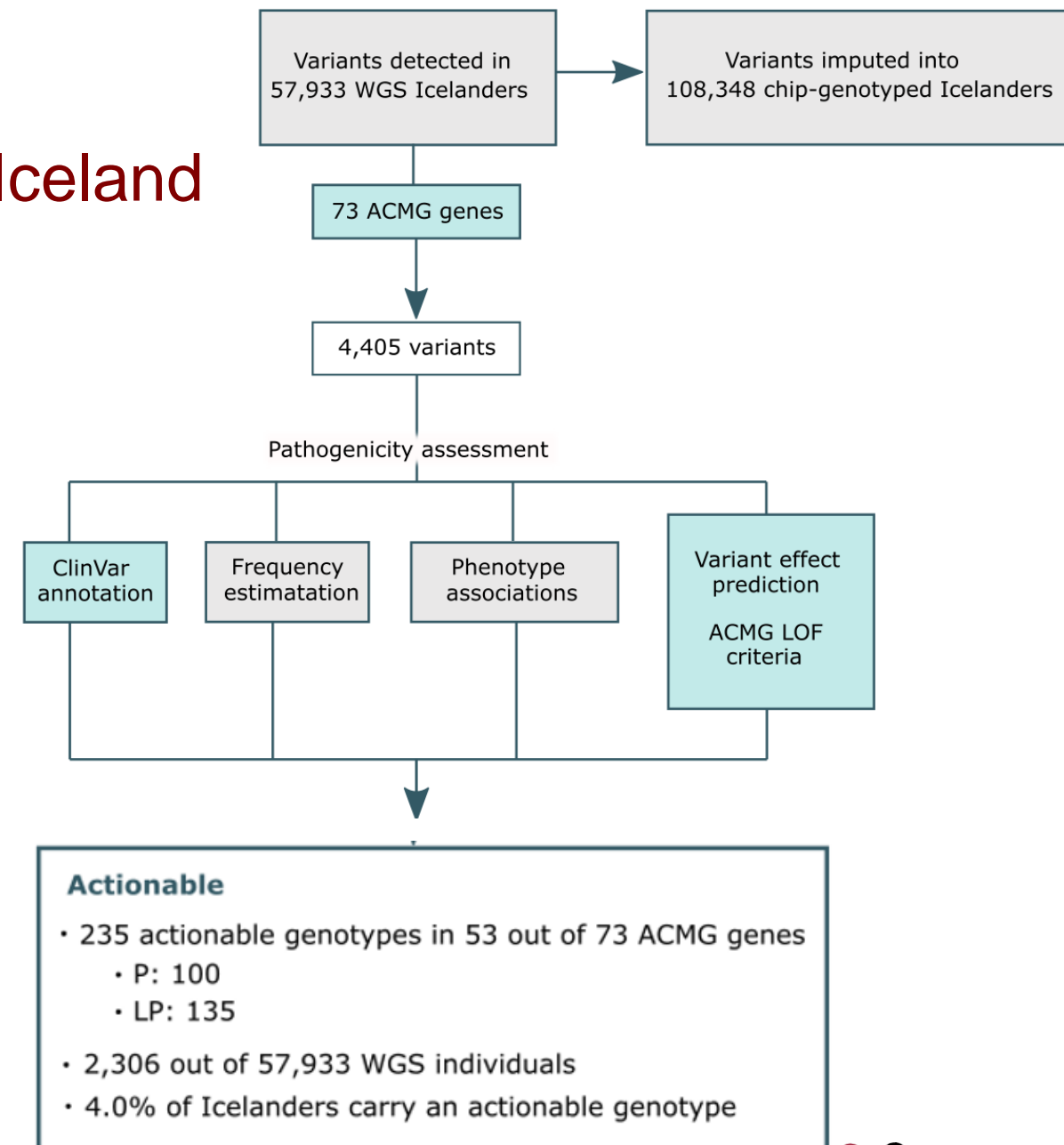
Eight homozygous Icelanders

- Phenotyping of homozygous Icelanders identified from genotype dataset allows:
 - Collection of samples to confirm abnormal burst test
 - Deep phenotyping



Medically actionable genotypes in Iceland

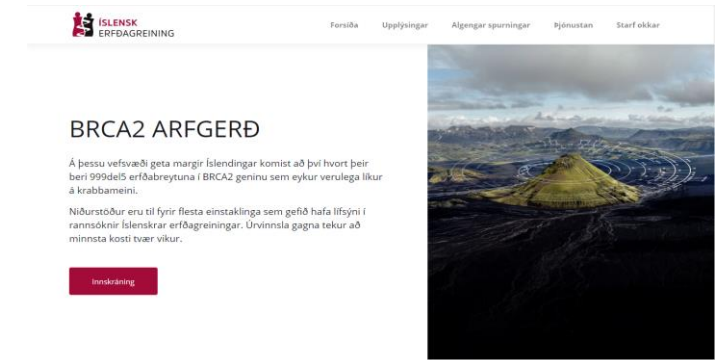
- Coding or splice variants from 57,933 WGS Icelanders
- Individual inspection of variants in 73 genes (ACMG)
- Manual curation and classification
- 1 in 25 WGS Icelanders (4%) carry an actionable genotype



The Icelandic *BRCA2* founder mutation

Return of results of actionable findings

- One founder mutation in *BRCA2* - 999del5 has reached a high frequency in Iceland
- 1 in 140 Icelanders
- Returning genotype since 2018
- Confirmed by two genotyping methods
- More request from women than men



| Age | Women Neg | Women Pos | Men Neg | Men Pos |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| 20-29 | 1703 | 27 | 405 | 15 |
| 30-39 | 5818 | 50 | 1559 | 32 |
| 40-49 | 6976 | 77 | 2079 | 38 |
| 50-59 | 6502 | 34 | 1999 | 45 |
| 60-69 | 4938 | 26 | 1755 | 45 |
| 70-79 | 1595 | 11 | 914 | 20 |
| 80+ | 141 | 1 | 130 | 2 |
| Total | 27.673 | 226 | 8.841 | 197 |
| Positive | 423 | | | |
| Total | 37 K | | | |

REVIEW ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-018-0261-x>

OPEN

A scientometric review of genome-wide association studies

Melinda C. Mills¹ & Charles Rahal¹

This scientometric review of genome-wide association studies (GWAS) from 2005 to 2018 (3639 studies; 3508 traits) reveals extraordinary increases in sample sizes, rates of discovery and traits studied. A longitudinal examination shows fluctuating ancestral diversity, still predominantly European Ancestry (88% in 2017) with 72% of discoveries from participants recruited from three countries (US, UK, Iceland). US agencies, primarily NIH, fund 85% and women are less often senior authors. We generate a unique GWAS H-Index and reveal a tight social network of prominent authors and frequently used data sets. We conclude with 10 evidence-based policy recommendations for scientists, research bodies, funders, and editors.

REVIEW ARTICLE

COMMUNICATIONS BIOLOGY | <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-018-0261-x>

Table 4 The top 10 most prominent GWAS authors

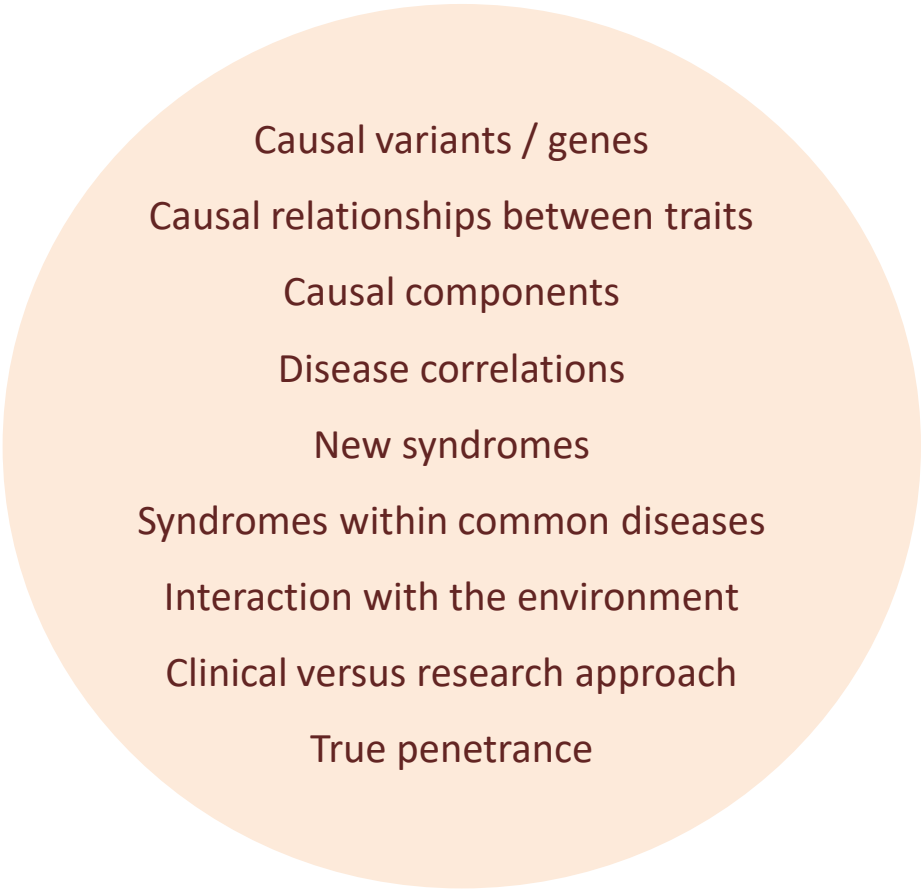
| Name author | N-papers | Citation count | GWAS H-index | Network betweenness | Network centrality | Country | Institution |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Kári Stefánsson | 177 | 27568 | 84 | 0.020 | 0.308 | Iceland | deCODE genetics |
| Unnur Þorsteinsdóttir | 142 | 23633 | 77 | 0.006 | 0.241 | Iceland | deCODE genetics |
| Albert Hofman | 267 | 25534 | 76 | 0.013 | 0.345 | U.S. | University of Harvard |
| André G. Uitterlinden | 280 | 23337 | 76 | 0.018 | 0.367 | Netherlands | Erasmus MC |
| Cornelia M van Duijn | 188 | 20879 | 71 | 0.008 | 0.294 | Netherlands | Erasmus MC |
| Gudmar Thorleifsson | 119 | 20408 | 70 | 0.006 | 0.232 | Iceland | deCODE Genetics |
| Christian Gieger | 166 | 22562 | 70 | 0.011 | 0.272 | Germany | Helmholtz Zentrum München |
| Panos Deloukas | 109 | 20323 | 68 | 0.009 | 0.233 | U.K. | Queen Mary University of London |
| H-Erich Wichmann | 112 | 20266 | 68 | 0.007 | 0.220 | Germany | Helmholtz Zentrum München |
| Fernando Rivadeneira | 198 | 17976 | 65 | 0.009 | 0.282 | Netherlands | Erasmus MC |

Automated and manual (web search) curation of details regarding authors ranked within the 10 highest GWAS H-Index (an estimate of the importance, significance, and broad impact of a scientist's cumulative GWAS-related research contributions). N-Papers refer to the number of times the author features as an author (at any position) within the Catalog. Information on citations comes from PubMed Central. Betweenness and Degree centrality calculated with Network-X. All characters converted to ASCII to ensure maximum matches of the same authors across papers

In terms of the ratio of the number of observations contributed by a country relative to the population of the country²⁶, Iceland is by far the largest (19.13), followed by the United Kingdom (0.32).

Genetics of cardiovascular disease at deCODE for 25 years

| DISEASES | TRAITS |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Hypertension | Systolic pressure |
| Resistant hypertension | Diastolic pressure |
| Type 2 diabetes | Blood sugar |
| Coronary artery disease | Non-HDL-C |
| Atrial fibrillation | LDL-C |
| Heart failure | Triglycerides |
| Abdominal aortic aneurysm | HDL-C |
| Ischemic stroke | Plant sterols |
| Intracranial aneurysm | Lp(a) |
| Aortic stenosis | Heart rate |
| Venous thromboembolism | PR traits |
| Sick sinus syndrome | QRS traits |
| Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy | QT interval |
| Dilated cardiomyopathy | BMI |
| Familial hypercholesterolemia | Lean mass |
| Coarctation of the aorta | Fat mass |
| Sudden cardiac death | Fat distribution |
| | Smoking |



Common  rare diseases

Common  rare variants

Genetic data suggest that both dietary cholesterol and dietary phytosterol contribute directly to atherogenesis

Table 3 Disparate effects of genetic risk scores for non-high density lipoprotein cholesterol on the risk of coronary artery disease

| | | GRS-other | | | GRS-ABCG5/8 | | | GRS-NPC1L1 | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|--------------|------------------------|--|--------------|-----------------------|---|--------------|----------------------|
| | | Non-HDL cholesterol variants, outside <i>ABCG5/8</i> and <i>NPC1L1</i> loci | | | Non-HDL cholesterol variants at <i>ABCG5/8</i> locus | | | Non-HDL cholesterol variants at <i>NPC1L1</i> locus | | |
| Cases/controls | | OR | 95% CI | P | OR | 95% CI | P | OR | 95% CI | P |
| Iceland | 19 074/124 037 | 1.47 | (1.37, 1.59) | 1.3×10^{-23} | 1.96 | (1.48, 2.58) | 2.0×10^{-6} | 1.89 | (1.18, 3.01) | 0.0079 |
| Denmark | 33 603/148 707 | 1.64 | (1.54, 1.75) | 7.3×10^{-55} | 2.30 | (1.63, 3.26) | 2.5×10^{-6} | 2.94 | (1.73, 5.00) | 7.2×10^{-5} |
| UK Biobank | 32 867/375 698 | 1.51 | (1.45, 1.58) | 3.3×10^{-81} | 1.96 | (1.63, 2.35) | 4.9×10^{-13} | 1.64 | (1.13, 2.37) | 0.0087 |
| Combined | 85 544/648 442 | 1.54 | (1.49, 1.59) | 1.1×10^{-154} | 2.01 | (1.75, 2.31) | 9.8×10^{-23} | 1.95 | (1.51, 2.52) | 2.6×10^{-7} |
| GRS- <i>ABCG5/8</i> vs. GRS-other | | | | | | | | P_{het} (for difference in effects on CAD) | | |
| GRS- <i>NPC1L1</i> vs. GRS-other | | | | | | | | 2.4×10^{-4} | | |
| | | | | | | | | 0.067 | | |

The effects on CAD are given per 1 mmol/L of genetically elevated non-HDL cholesterol levels.

CAD, coronary artery disease; CI, confidence interval; GRS, genetic risk score; HDL, high-density lipoprotein; OR, odds ratio.

P_{het} : P -value for heterogeneity in effects.

Understanding the behaviour of SARS-CoV-2

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Spread of SARS-CoV-2 in the Icelandic Population

D.F. Gudbjartsson, A. Helgason, H. Jonsson, O.T. Magnusson, P. Melsted, G.L. Norddahl, J. Saemundsdottir, A. Sigurdsson, P. Sulem, A.B. Agustsdottir, B. Eiriksdottir, R. Fridriksdottir, E.E. Gardarsdottir, G. Georgsson, O.S. Gretarsdottir, K.R. Gudmundsson, T.R. Gunnarsdottir, A. Gylfason, H. Holm, B.O. Jensson, A. Jonasdottir, F. Jonsson, K.S. Josefsdottir, T. Kristjansson, D.N. Magnusdottir, L. le Roux, G. Sigmundsdottir, G. Sveinbjornsson, K.E. Sveinsdottir, M. Sveinsdottir, E.A. Thorarensen, B. Thorbjornsson, A. Löve, G. Masson, I. Jonsdottir, A.D. Möller, T. Gudnason, K.G. Kristinsson, U. Thorsteinsdottir, and K. Stefansson

ABSTRACT

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

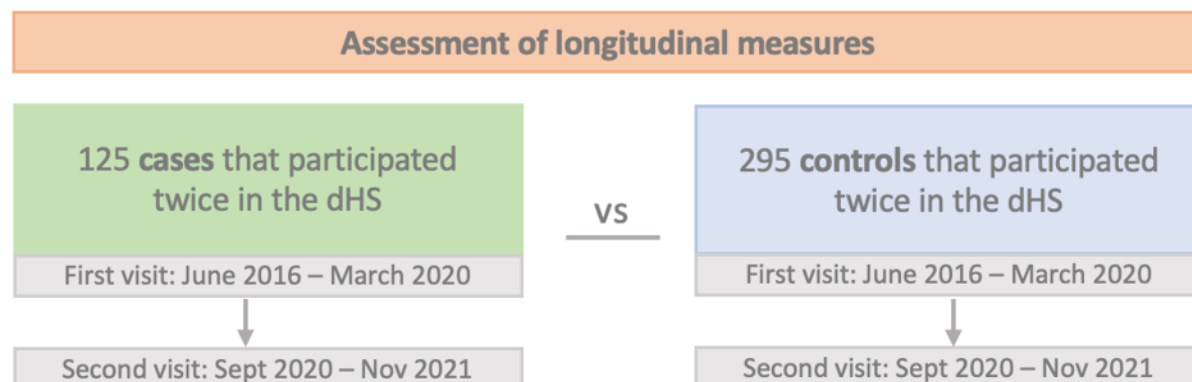
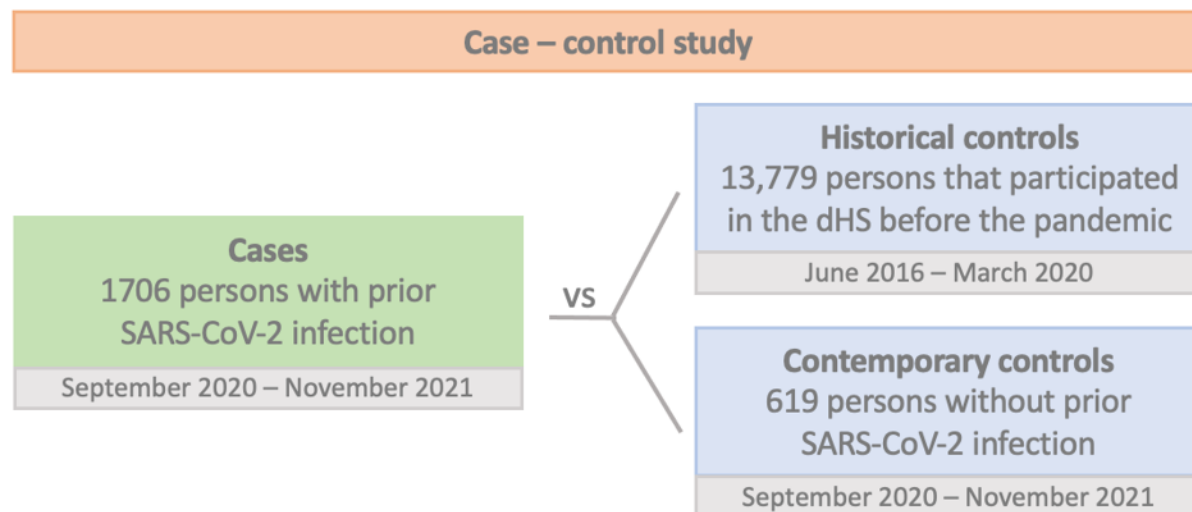
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Humoral Immune Response to SARS-CoV-2 in Iceland

D.F. Gudbjartsson, G.L. Norddahl, P. Melsted, K. Gunnarsdottir, H. Holm, E. Eythorsson, A.O. Arnthorsson, D. Helgason, K. Bjarnadottir, R.F. Ingvarsson, B. Thorsteinsdottir, S. Kristjansdottir, K. Birgisdottir, A.M. Kristinsdottir, M.I. Sigurdsson, G.A. Arnadottir, E.V. Ivarsdottir, M. Andresdottir, F. Jonsson, A.B. Agustsdottir, J. Berglund, B. Eiriksdottir, R. Fridriksdottir, E.E. Gardarsdottir, M. Gottfredsson, O.S. Gretarsdottir, S. Gudmundsdottir, K.R. Gudmundsson, T.R. Gunnarsdottir, A. Gylfason, A. Helgason, B.O. Jensson, A. Jonasdottir, H. Jonsson, T. Kristjansson, K.G. Kristinsson, D.N. Magnusdottir, O.T. Magnusson, L.B. Olafsdottir, S. Rognvaldsson, L. le Roux, G. Sigmundsdottir, A. Sigurdsson, G. Sveinbjornsson, K.E. Sveinsdottir, M. Sveinsdottir, E.A. Thorarensen, B. Thorbjornsson, M. Thordardottir, J. Saemundsdottir, S.H. Kristjansson, K.S. Josefsdottir, G. Masson, G. Georgsson, M. Kristjansson, A. Moller, R. Palsson, T. Gudnason, U. Thorsteinsdottir, I. Jonsdottir, P. Sulem, and K. Stefansson

ABSTRACT

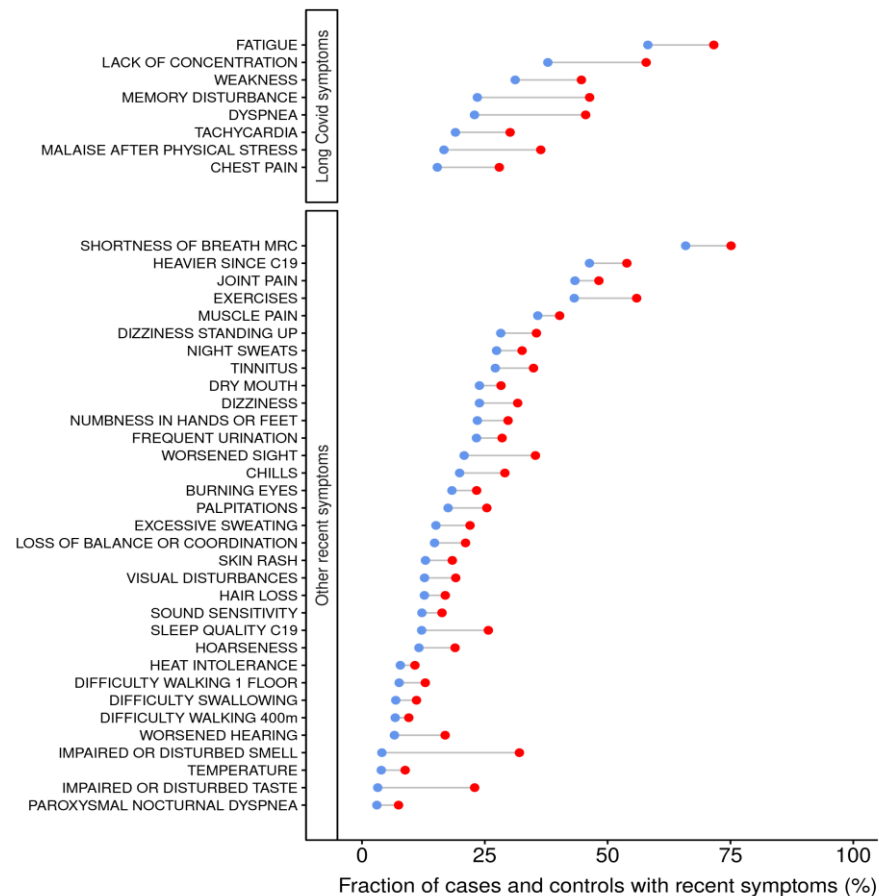
Symptoms, physical measures and cognitive tests after SARS-CoV-2 infection in a large population-based case-control study



| Overview of data collected for cases and controls in the study | | |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Self-reported data | Questionnaires | General health and lifestyle factors GAD-7* (anxiety), PHQ-9* (depression) PSS* (stress), SHAI* (health anxiety) SWLS* (life satisfaction), 36-SF* (health measure), SIQR* (fatigue) C19Q*: Symptoms during last 4 weeks |
| | Measurements | Height, Weight, BMI Blood pressure, Heart rate Oxygen saturation Body composition, Grip strength Smell test, Taste test*, Hearing test Spirometry, Ambulatory sleep test Cardiopulmonary exercise test |
| | Cognitive tests | Digit coding Letter and category fluency WMS logical memory* Spatial working memory Trail making tests WMS reasoning & word comprehension |
| Objective measures | Blood tests | Complete blood count Electrolytes, CRP Thyroid function tests Liver and kidney tests Cardiac biomarkers Lipids, glucose Sex hormones |

Symptoms, physical measures and cognitive tests after SARS-CoV-2 infection in a large population-based case-control study

Subjective measures



Objective measures

Cases were more likely than controls to have

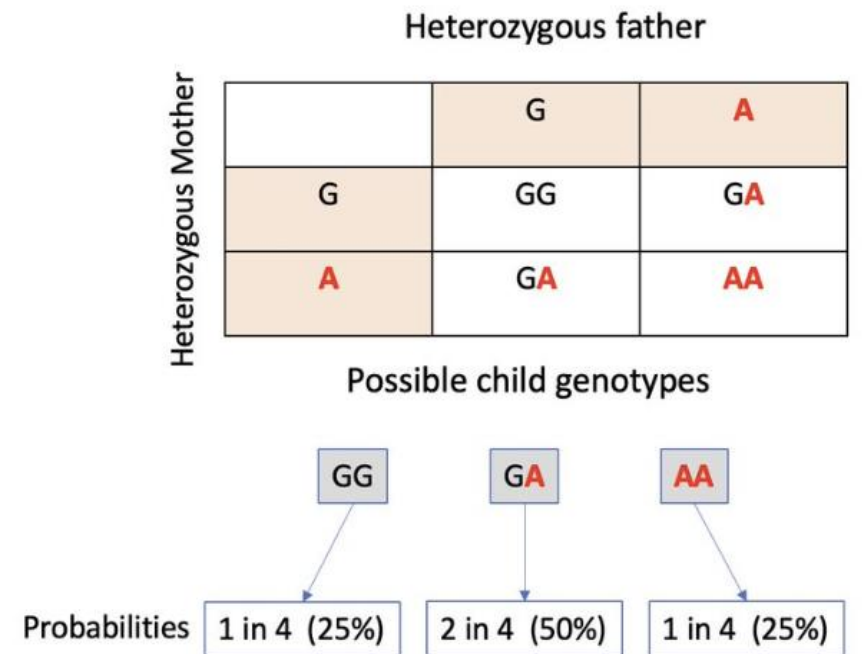
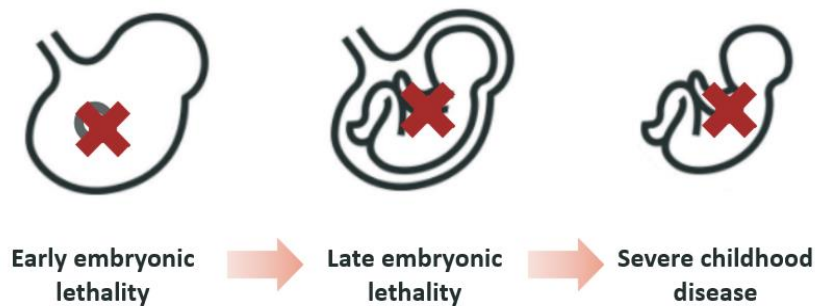
- measured impairment in smell and taste
- lower grip strength
- poorer immediate and delayed memory recall



Thank you

Deficit of homozygous loss-of-function genotypes

- A deficit of homozygous genotypes will appear if associated with:
 - Incompatibility with early embryonic development (early miscarriage)
 - Incompatibility with late embryonic/fetal development (late miscarriage, stillbirth)
 - A severe condition (early death; severe disease)



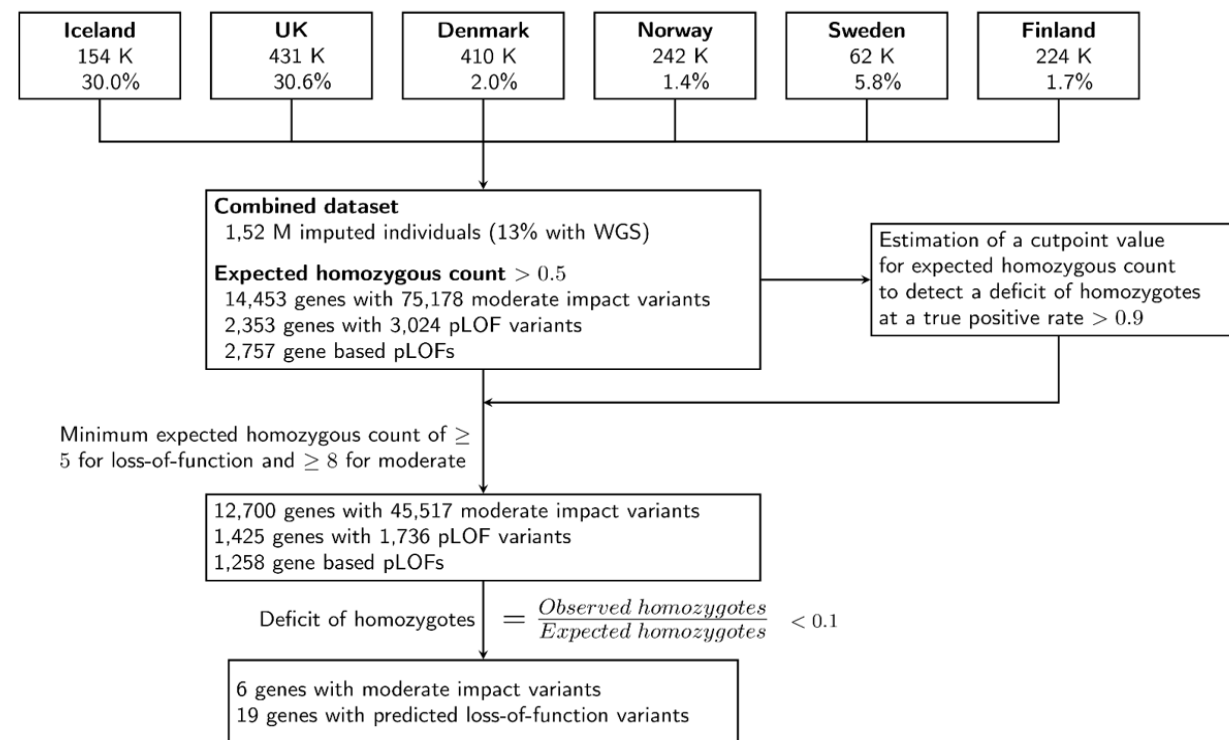
Hardy Weinberg equation

$$p^2 + 2pq + q^2 = 1$$

Deficit of homozygosity among 1.5 million individuals and causes of recessive lethality

- 1.5 M genotyped individuals in 6 countries
- 25 genes for lethality of homozygotes
 - Including 13 not known for recessive condition
- Genes with deficit of homozygosity are over-represented among genes
 - Essential for growth of human cell lines
 - Orthologous to mouse genes affecting viability

Datasets
N imputed
% with WGS



LETTERS 2015 FOCUS ON GENOMES OF ICELANDERS
nature
genetics

Identification of a large set of rare complete human knockouts

Patrick Sulem^{1,6}, Hannes Helgason^{1,2,6}, Asmundur Oddsson¹, Hreinn Stefansson¹, Sigurjon A Gudjonsson¹, Florian Zink¹, Eiríkur Hjartarson¹, Gunnar Th Sigurdsson¹, Adalbjorg Jonasdottir¹, Aslaug Jonasdottir¹, Asgeir Sigurdsson¹, Olafur Th Magnusson¹, Augustine Kong^{1,2}, Agnar Helgason^{1,3}, Hilma Holm^{1,4}, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir^{1,5}, Gisli Masson¹, Daniel F Gudbjartsson^{1,2} & Kari Stefansson^{1,5}

Submitted 2022