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Citation for final published version:

Sims, R. , Vronskaya, M., Frizatti, A., Badarinarayan, N. , Raybould, R., Morgan, T., Gerrish, A., Denning, N., Hollingworth, P., Marshall, R., Meggy, A., Menzies, G. , Leonenko, G. , Grozeva, D. , O'Donovan, M. C. , Jones, L., Owen, M. J., Price, Vaughn, Williams, J, Cushion, T D, Bayer, A and Gallacher, J 2018. Meta-analysis of genetic association with diagnosed Alzheimer's disease identifies novel risk loci and implicates Abeta, Tau, immunity and lipid processing. [Online]. bioRxiv. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1101/294629>

Publishers page: <https://doi.org/10.1101/294629>

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Meta-analysis of genetic association with diagnosed Alzheimer's disease identifies novel risk loci and implicates Abeta, Tau, immunity and lipid processing

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Introduction

Risk for Late-onset Alzheimer's disease (LOAD), the most prevalent dementia in the elderly¹, is partially driven by genetics². To identify LOAD risk loci, we performed the largest genome-wide association meta-analysis of clinically diagnosed LOAD to date (94,437 individuals), analyzing both common and rare variants. We confirm 20 previous LOAD risk loci and identify five new genome-wide loci (*IQCK*, *ACE*, *ADAM10*, *ADAMTS1* and *WWOX*). Fine-mapping of the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) region confirms the neurological and immune-mediated disease haplotype HLA-DR15 as a risk factor for LOAD. Pathway analysis implicates the immune system and lipid metabolism, and for the first time tau binding proteins and APP metabolism, showing that genetic variants affecting APP and A β processing are not only associated with early-onset autosomal dominant AD but also with LOAD. Analysis of AD risk genes and pathways show enrichment for rare variants ($P=1.32 \times 10^{-7}$) indicating that additional rare variants remain to be identified. Finally, we also identify important genetic correlations between LOAD and other traits including family history of dementia and education.

Main Text

Our previous work identified 19 genome-wide significant common variant signals in addition to *APOE*³, that influence risk for LOAD (onset age > 65 years). These signals, combined with 'subthreshold' common variant associations, account for ~31% of the genetic variance of LOAD², leaving the majority of genetic risk uncharacterized⁴. To search for additional signals, we conducted a genome-wide association (GWAS) meta-analysis of non-Hispanic Whites (NHW) using a larger sample (17 new, 46 total datasets) from our group, the International Genomics of Alzheimer's Project (IGAP) (composed of four AD consortia: ADGC, CHARGE, EADI, and GERAD). This sample increases our previous discovery sample (Stage 1) by 29% for cases and 13% for controls (N=21,982 cases; 41,944 controls) (**Supplementary Tables 1**

and **2**, and **Supplementary Note**). To sample both common and rare variants (minor allele frequency $MAF \geq 0.01$, and $MAF < 0.01$, respectively), we imputed the discovery datasets using a 1000 Genomes reference panel consisting of 36,648,992 single-nucleotide variants, 1,380,736 insertions/deletions, and 13,805 structural variants. After quality control, 9,456,058 common variants and 2,024,574 rare variants were selected for analysis (a 63% increase from our previous common variant analysis in 2013). Genotype dosages were analyzed within each dataset, and then combined with meta-analysis (**Supplementary Figure 1, Supplementary Tables 1-3**).

The Stage 1 discovery meta-analysis produced 12 loci with genome-wide significance ($P \leq 5 \times 10^{-8}$) (**Table 1**), all of which are previously described^{3,5-12}. Genomic inflation factors were slightly inflated (lambda median=1.05; lambda regression=1.09; See **Supplementary Figure 2** for QQ-plot), however, univariate linkage disequilibrium score (LDSC) regression^{13,14} estimates indicated that the majority of this inflation was due to a polygenic signal, with the intercept being close to 1 (1.026, s.e. = 0.006). The observed heritability (h^2) of LOAD was estimated at 0.071 (0.011) using LDSC. Stage 1 meta-analysis was first followed by Stage 2 using the I-select chip we previously developed in Lambert et al.³ (including 11,632 variants, $N=18,845$; **Supplementary Table 4**) and finally Stage 3A ($N=11,666$) or Stage 3B ($N=30,511$) (for variants in regions not well captured in the I-select chip) (See **Supplementary Figure 1** for workflow). The final sample was 35,274 clinical and autopsy-documented AD cases and 59,163 controls.

Meta-analysis of Stages 1 and 2 produced 21 genome-wide significant associations ($P \leq 5 \times 10^{-8}$) (**Table 1** and **Figure 1**). Of these, 18 were previously reported as genome-wide significant in Lambert et al.³. Three other signals were not initially described in the initial IGAP GWAS: the rare R47H *TREM2* coding variant previously reported by others^{8,9,15}; *ECDH3* (rs7920721) which was recently identified as a potential genome-wide significant AD risk locus in several studies²³⁻²⁵ and *ACE* (rs138190086) (**Supplementary Figures 3-4**). In addition, seven signals showed suggestive association with a $P < 5 \times 10^{-7}$ (respectively rs593742,

rs830500, rs7295246, rs7185636, rs2632516, rs4735340, and rs10467994 for their closest gene *ADAM10*, *ADAMTS1*, *ADAMTS20*, *IQCK*, *miR142/TSP0AP1-AS1*, *NDUFAF6* and *SPPL2A*) (**Supplementary Figures 5-11**). Stage 3A and meta-analysis of all three stages for these 9 variants (excluding the *TREM2* signal; see **Supplementary Table 5** for variant list) identified five genome-wide significant loci. In addition to *ECDH3*, this included four new genome-wide AD risk signals not previously described in other clinical AD GWAS at *IQCK*, *ADAMTS1*, *ACE* and *ADAM10* (**Table 2**). *ACE* and *ADAM10* were previously reported as AD candidate genes^{16–20} that were not replicated in some subsequent studies^{19,21–24}. Two of the four other signals were close to genome-wide significance: *miR142/TSP0AP1-AS1* ($P = 5.3 \times 10^{-8}$) and *NDUFAF6* ($P = 9.2 \times 10^{-8}$) (**Table 2**). We also extended the analyses of the two loci (*NME8* and *MEF2C*) in Stage 3 that were previously genome-wide significant in our 2013 meta-analysis. These loci were not genome-wide significant in our current study and will deserve further investigations (*NME8*: $P = 2.7 \times 10^{-7}$; *MEF2C*: $P = 9.1 \times 10^{-8}$; **Supplementary Figures 12-13**). Of note, GCTA-COJO²⁵ conditional analysis of the genome-wide loci indicates that *TREM2* and three other loci (*BIN1*, *ABCA7*, and *PTK2B/CLU*) have multiple independent LOAD association signals (**Supplementary Table 6**), suggesting that the genetic variance associated with some GWAS loci is probably under-estimated.

We also selected 33 variants from Stage 1 (28 common variants and 5 rare variants in loci not well captured in the I-select chip; see methods for full selection criteria) for genotyping in Stage 3B (including populations of Stage 2 and Stage 3A). We nominally replicated a rare variant (rs71618613) within an intergenic region near *SUCLG2P4* (MAF = 0.01; $P = 6.8 \times 10^{-3}$; combined- $P = 3.3 \times 10^{-7}$) and replicated a low-frequency variant in the *TREM2* region (rs114812713, MAF=0.03, $P = 7.2 \times 10^{-3}$; combined- $P = 2.1 \times 10^{-13}$) in the gene *OARD1* that may represent an independent signal according to our conditional analysis (**Table 2, Supplementary Figures 14-15, Supplementary Tables 6 and 7**). In addition, rs62039712 in the *WWOX* locus reached genome-wide significance ($P = 3.7 \times 10^{-8}$) and rs35868327 in the *FST* locus reached

suggestive significance ($P = 2.6 \times 10^{-7}$) (**Table 2 and Supplementary Figures 16-17**). *WWOX* may play a role in AD through its interaction with Tau^{26,27}, and it's worth noting the sentinel variant (defined as variants with the lowest p-values) is just 2.4 megabases from *PLCG2*, which contains a rare variant we recently associated with AD¹⁵. Since both rs62039712 and rs35868327 were only analyzed in a restricted number of samples, these loci deserve further attention.

To evaluate the biological significance and attempt to identify the underlying risk genes for the newly identified genome-wide signals (*IQCK*, *ACE*, *ADAM10*, *ADAMTS1* and *WWOX*) and those found previously, we pursued five strategies: 1) annotation and gene-based testing for deleterious coding, loss-of-function (LOF) and splicing variants, 2) expression-quantitative trait loci (eQTL) analyses, 3) evaluation of transcriptomic expression in LOAD clinical traits (correlation with BRAAK stage²⁸ and differential expression in AD versus control brains²⁹), 4) evaluation of transcriptomic expression in AD-relevant tissues³⁰⁻³², and 5) gene cluster/pathway analyses. For the 24 signals reported here, other evidence indicates that *APOE*^{33,34}, *ABCA7*³⁵⁻³⁸, *BIN1*³⁹, *TREM2*^{8,9}, *SORL1*^{40,41}, *ADAM10*⁴², *SPI1*⁴³, and *CR1*⁴⁴ are the true AD risk gene, though there is a possibility that multiple risk genes exist in these regions⁴⁵. Because many GWAS loci are intergenic, and the closest gene to the sentinel variant may not be the actual risk gene, in these analyses, we considered all protein coding genes within ± 500 kb of the sentinel variant linkage disequilibrium (LD) regions ($r^2 \geq 0.5$) for each locus as a candidate AD gene (N = 400 genes) (**Supplementary Table 8**).

We first annotated all sentinel variants for each locus and variants in LD ($r^2 > 0.7$) with these variants in a search for deleterious coding, loss-of-function (LOF) or splicing variants. In line with findings that most causal variants for complex disease are non-coding⁴⁶, only 2% of 1,073 variants across the 24 loci (excluding *APOE*) were exonic variants, with a majority (58%) being intronic (**Supplementary Figure 18 and Supplementary Table 9**). Potentially deleterious variants include the rare R47H missense variant in *TREM2*, common missense variants in *CR1*,

SPI1, *MS4A2*, and *IQCK*, and a relatively common (MAF = 0.16) splicing variant in *IQCK*. Using results of a large whole-exome sequencing study conducted in the ADGC and CHARGE sample⁴⁷ (N = 5,740 LOAD cases and 5,096 cognitively normal controls), we also identified 10 genes located in our genome-wide loci as having rare deleterious coding, splicing or LOF burden associations with LOAD (FDR $P < 0.01$), including previously implicated rare-variant signals in *ABCA7*, *TREM2*, and *SORL1*^{15,47–53}, and additional associations with *TREML4* in the *TREM2* locus, *TAP2* and *PSMB8* in the *HLA-DRB1* locus, *PIP* in the *EPHA1* locus, *STYX* in the *FERMT2* locus, *RIN3* in the *SLC24A4* locus, and *KCNH6* in the *ACE* locus (**Supplementary Table 10**).

For eQTL analyses, we searched existing eQTL databases and studies for cis-acting eQTLs in a prioritized set of variants (N = 1,873) with suggestive significance or in LD with the sentinel variant in each locus. 71-99% of these variants have regulatory potential when considering all tissues according to RegulomeDB⁵⁴ and HaploReg⁵⁵, but restricting to AD-relevant tissues (via Ensembl Regulatory Build⁵⁶ and GWAS4D⁵⁷) appears to aid in regulatory variant prioritization, with probabilities for functional variants increasing substantially when using GWAS4D cell-dependent analyses with brain or monocytes for instance (these and other annotations are provided in **Supplementary Table 11**). Focusing specifically on eQTLs, we found overlapping cis-acting eQTLs for 153 of the 400 protein coding genes, with 136 eQTL-controlled genes in AD relevant tissues (i.e. brain and blood/immune cell types; see methods for details) (**Supplementary Tables 12 and 13**). For our newly identified loci, there were significant eQTLs in AD relevant tissue for: *ADAM10* in prefrontal cortex and blood, *FAM63B* in blood, and *SLTM* in putamen in the *ADAM10* locus; *ADAMTS1* in blood in the *ADAMTS1* locus; and *ACSM1* and *ANKS4B* in monocytes, *C16orf62* in blood, *GDE1* in cerebellum, and *GPRC5B*, *IQCK*, and *KNOP1* in several brain and blood tissue types in the *IQCK* locus. There were no eQTLs in AD-relevant tissues in the *WWOX* or *ACE* locus, though several eQTLs for *PSMC5* in coronary artery tissue were found for the *ACE* locus. eQTL's for genes in previously identified

loci include *BIN1* in monocytes and cerebellum, *INPP5D* in prefrontal cortex and blood, *CD2AP* in cerebellum and prefrontal cortex, and *SLC24A4* in monocytes. Co-localization analysis confirmed evidence of a shared causal variant affecting expression and disease risk in 66 genes over 20 loci, including 31 genes over 13 loci in LOAD relevant tissue (see **Supplementary Table 14 and 15** for a complete lists). Genes implicated include: *CR1* and *ABCA7* in brain (in the *CR1* and *ABCA7* loci respectively); *BIN1* (in the *BIN1* locus), *SPI1* and *MYBPC3* (both in the *SPI1* locus) in blood; *MS4A2*, *MS4A6A*, and *MS4A4A* (all at the *MS4A2* locus) in blood; and *KNOP1* (in the *IQCK* locus) and *HLA-DRB1* (in the *HLA-DRB1* locus) in both blood and brain. (**Supplementary Table 12**).

To study the differential expression of genes in brains of AD patients versus controls, we used thirteen expression studies²⁹. 58% of the 400 protein coding genes within the genome-wide loci had evidence of differential expression in at least one study (**Supplementary Table 16**). Additional comparisons to AD related gene expression sets revealed 62 genes were correlated with pathogenic stage (BRAAK) in at least one brain tissue²⁸ (44 genes in the prefrontal cortex, the most relevant LOAD tissue; 36 in cerebellum, and 1 in visual cortex). Finally, 38 genes were present in a set of 1,054 genes preferentially expressed in aged microglial cells, a gene set shown to be enriched for AD genes ($P = 4.1 \times 10^{-5}$)³². We also annotated our list of genes with Brain RNA-seq data which showed that 80% were expressed in at least one type of brain cell, and the genes were most highly expressed in fetal astrocytes (26%), followed by microglia/macrophage (15.8%), neurons (14.8%), astrocytes (11.5%) and oligodendrocytes (6.5%). When not considering fetal astrocytes, mature astrocytes (21%) and microglial cells (20.3%), the resident macrophage cell of the brain thought to play a key role in the pathologic immune response in LOAD^{9,15,58}, become the highest expressed cell type (20.3%) in the genome-wide set of genes, with 5.3% of the 400 genes showing high microglial expression (**Supplementary Table 17**; see **Supplementary Table 18** for highly expressed gene list by cell type).

We conducted pathway analyses (MAGMA⁵⁹) using five gene set resources. Analysis were conducted separately for common (MAF \geq 0.01) and rare variants (MAF < 0.01). For common variants, we detected four function clusters including: 1) APP metabolism/A β -formation (regulation of beta-amyloid formation: $P = 4.56 \times 10^{-7}$ and regulation of amyloid precursor protein catabolic process: $P = 3.54 \times 10^{-6}$), 2) tau protein binding ($P = 3.19 \times 10^{-5}$), 3) lipid metabolism (four pathways including protein-lipid complex assembly: $P = 1.45 \times 10^{-7}$), and 4) immune response ($P = 6.32 \times 10^{-5}$) (**Table 3** and **Supplementary Table 19**). Enrichment of the four pathways remains after removal of genes in the *APOE* region. When *APOE*-region genes and genes in the vicinity of genome-wide significant genes are removed, tau shows moderate association ($P = 0.027$) and lipid metabolism and immune related pathways show strong associations ($P < 0.001$) (**Supplementary Table 20**). Genes driving these enrichments (i.e. having a gene-wide $P < 0.05$) include *SCNA*, a Parkinson's risk gene that encodes alpha-synuclein, the main component of Lewy bodies, and may play a role in tauopathies^{60,61}, for the tau pathway; apolipoprotein genes (*APOM*, *APOA5*) and *ABCA1*, a major regulator of cellular cholesterol, for the lipid metabolism pathways; and 52 immune pathway genes (**Supplementary Table 21**). While no pathways were significantly enriched for rare variants, lipid and A β -pathways did have nominal significance in rare-variant-only analyses. Importantly, we also observe a highly significant correlation between common and rare pathway gene results ($P = 1.32 \times 10^{-7}$), suggesting that risk AD genes and pathways are enriched for rare variants. In fact, 50 different genes within tau, lipid, immunity and A β pathways show nominal rare-variant driven associations ($P < 0.05$) with LOAD.

To further explore the APP/A β -pathway enrichment we analyzed a comprehensive set of 335 APP metabolism genes⁶² curated from the literature. We observed significant enrichment of this gene-set in common variants ($P = 2.27 \times 10^{-4}$; $P = 3.19 \times 10^{-4}$ excluding *APOE*), with both *ADAM10* and *ACE* nominally significant drivers of this result (**Table 4** and **Supplementary Table 22 and 23**). Several 'sub-pathways' were also significantly enriched in the common-

variants including ‘clearance and degradation of A β ’ and ‘aggregation of A β ’, along with its subcategory ‘microglia’, the latter supporting microglial cells suspected role in response to A β in LOAD⁶³. Nominal enrichment for risk from rare variants was found for the pathway ‘aggregation of A β : chaperone’ and 23 of the 335 genes.

To identify candidate genes for our novel loci, we combined results from our eQTL, clinical and AD-relevant tissue expression, and gene function/pathway analyses in a priority ranking method similar to Fritsche et al.⁶⁴ (**Table 5 and Supplementary Table 24**). For our *ADAM10* signal, of the 11 genes within this locus, *ADAM10* was the top ranked gene. *ADAM10*, the most important α -secretase in the brain, is a component of the non-amyloidogenic pathway of APP metabolism⁶⁵, and sheds *TREM2*⁶⁶, an innate immunity receptor expressed selectively in microglia. Over-expression of *ADAM10* in mouse models can halt A β production and subsequent aggregation⁶⁷. Also two rare *ADAM10* mutations segregating with disease in LOAD families increased A β plaque load in “Alzheimer-like” mice, with diminished α -secretase activity from the mutations likely the causal mechanism^{17,42}. For the *IQCK* signal, which is also an obesity locus^{68,69}, *IQCK*, a relatively uncharacterized gene, was top ranked, though four of the other 11 genes in the locus have a priority rank ≥ 4 including *KNOP1* and *GPRC5B*, the latter being a regulator of neurogenesis^{70,71} and inflammatory signalling in obesity⁷². Of the 22 genes in the *ACE* locus, *PSMC5*, a key regulator of major histocompatibility complex (MHC)^{73,74}, has a top score of 4, while *DDX42*, *MAP3K3*, an important regulator of macrophages and innate immunity^{75,76}, and *CD79B*, a B lymphocyte antigen receptor sub-unit each have a score of 3. Candidate gene studies previously associate *ACE* variants with AD risk^{18,20,77}, including a strong association in the Wadi Ara, an Israeli Arab community with high risk of AD¹⁹. However, these studies yielded inconsistent results²¹, and our work is the first to report a clear genome-wide association in NHW at this locus. While our analyses did not prioritize *ACE*, it should not be rejected as a candidate gene, as its expression in AD brain tissue is associated with A β load and AD severity⁷⁸. Furthermore, CSF levels of the angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) are

associated with A β levels⁷⁹ and LOAD risk⁸⁰, and studies show ACE can inhibit A β toxicity and aggregation⁸¹. Finally, angiotensin II, a product of ACE function mediates a number of neuropathological processes in AD⁸² and is now a target for intervention in phase II clinical trials of AD⁸³. Another novel genome-wide locus reported here *ADAMTS1*, is within 665 kb of *APP* on chromosome 21. Of three genes at this locus (*ADAMTS1*, *ADAMTS5*, *CYYR1*), our analyses nominates *ADAMTS1*, as the likely risk gene, though we cannot rule out that this signal is a regulatory element for *APP*. *ADAMTS1* is elevated in Down Syndrome with neurodegeneration and AD⁸⁴ and is a potential neuroprotective gene^{85,86,87}, or a neuroinflammatory gene important to microglial response⁸⁸. Finally, *WWOX* and *MAF*, which surround an intergenic signal in an obesity associated locus⁸⁹, were both prioritized, with *MAF*, another important regulator of macrophages^{90,91}, being highly expressed in microglia in the Brain-RNA-seq database, and *WWOX*, an HDL-cholesterol and triglyceride associated gene^{92,93}, being expressed in several brain cell types, most highly in astrocytes and neurons. *WWOX* has been implicated in several neurological phenotypes⁹⁴, binds Tau and may play a critical role in regulating Tau hyperphosphorylation, neurofibrillary formation, and amyloid β aggregation^{26,27}. Intriguingly, treatment of mice with its binding partner restores memory deficits⁹⁵, hinting at its potential in neurotherapy.

For previously reported loci, named for the closest gene, applying the same approach for prioritization highlights several genes as described in **Table 5**, some of which are involved in APP metabolism (*FERMT2*, *PICALM*) or Tau toxicity (*BIN1*, *CD2AP*, *FERMT2*, *CASS4*, *PTK2B*)^{96–99}. Pathway, tissue and disease traits enrichment analysis supports the utility of our prioritization method, as the 53 prioritized genes with a score ≥ 5 are: 1) enriched in substantially more AD relevant pathways, processes, and dementia-related traits, 2) enriched in candidate AD cell types such as monocytes (adjusted- $P = 9.0 \times 10^{-6}$) and macrophages (adjusted- $P = 5.6 \times 10^{-3}$), and 3) increased in strength of associations for dementia-related traits and AD relevant pathways (**Supplementary Table 25 and 26**; see **Supplementary Figure 19**

for the interaction network of these prioritized genes). To further investigate the cell types and tissues the prioritized genes are expressed in, we performed differentially expressed gene (DEG) set enrichment analysis of the prioritized genes using GTEx¹⁰⁰ tissues, and identified significant differential expression in several potentially relevant AD tissues including: immune-related tissues (upregulation in blood and spleen), obesity-related tissue (upregulation in adipose), heart tissues (upregulation in left ventricle and atrial appendage) and brain tissues (downregulation in cortex, cerebellum, hippocampus, basal ganglia, and amygdala). Furthermore, the 53 genes are overexpressed in 'adolescence' and 'young adult' brain tissues in BrainSpan¹⁰¹, a transcriptomics atlas of the developing human brain, which is consistent with accumulating evidence suggesting AD may start decades before the onset of disease^{102,103} (**Supplementary Figure 20**; see **Supplementary Figure 21** for a tissue expression heat map for the 53 genes).

The above approach prioritized *HLA-DRB1* as the top candidate gene in the MHC locus, known for its complex genetic organization and highly polymorphic nature (see **Supplementary Figure 22** for Stage 1 results plot of region). Previous analyses in the ADGC (5,728 AD cases and 5,653 controls) has linked both HLA class I and class II haplotypes with AD risk¹⁰⁴. In order to further investigate this locus in a much larger sample, we used a robust imputation method and fine-mapping association analysis of alleles and haplotypes of HLA class I (*HLA-A*, *HLA-B*, *HLA-C*) and class II (*HLA-DRB1*, *HLA-DQA1*, *HLA-DQB1*, *HLA-DPA1*, *HLA-DPB1*) genes in 14,776 cases and 23,047 controls from our datasets (**Supplementary Table 27**) (see Methods). We found risk effects of *HLA-DQA1*01:02* (false discovery rate (FDR) $P = 0.014$), *HLA-DRB1*15:01* (FDR $P = 0.083$) and *HLA-DQB1*06:02* (FDR $P = 0.010$) (**Supplementary Table 28**). After conditioning on the sentinel variant in this region from the meta-analysis (rs78738018), association signals were lost for the three alleles suggesting that the signal observed at the variant level is due to the association of these three alleles. These alleles form the *HLA-DQA1*01:02~HLA-DQB1*06:02~HLA-DRB1*15:01* (*DR15*) haplotype, which is also

associated with AD in our sample (FDR $P = 0.013$) (**Supplementary Table 29**). When considering only 2-loci haplotypes, *HLA-DQB1*06:02~HLA-DRB1*15:01* (FDR $P = 0.013$), *HLA-DQA1*01:02~HLA-DRB1*15:01* (FDR $P = 0.013$), *HLA-DQA1*01:02~HLA-DQB1*06:02* (FDR $P = 0.013$) also show association with AD. Taken together, these results suggest a central role of the *HLA-DQA1*01:02~HLA-DQB1*06:02~HLA-DRB1*15:01* haplotype in AD risk. This haplotype was associated with risk of AD originally in a small study in the Tunisian population¹⁰⁵, and more recently in a large ADGC analysis¹⁰⁴. Intriguingly, this haplotype and its component alleles also associate with protection against diabetes¹⁰⁶, a high risk for multiple sclerosis^{107,108}, and risk or protective effects with many other immune-mediated diseases (**Supplementary Table 30**). Moreover, the associated diseases at these loci include a large number of traits queried from an HLA-specific Phewas¹⁰⁹, including neurological diseases (i.e. Parkinson's disease^{110,111}) and diseases with risk factors for AD (i.e. hyperthyroidism¹¹²), pointing to potential shared and/or interacting mechanisms and co-morbidities, a common paradigm in the MHC locus¹¹³. Two additional alleles, *HLA-DQA1*03:01* and *HLA-DQB1*03:02*, belonging to another haplotype, show protective effect on AD, but their signal was lost after conditioning on *HLA-DQA1*01:02* and the *HLA-DQA1*03:01~HLA-DQB1*03:02* haplotype is not associated with AD (FDR $P = 0.651$).

As described above, several of our genome-wide loci have potentially interesting co-morbid or pleiotropic associations with traits that may be relevant to pathology of AD. To investigate the extent of LOAD's shared genetic architecture with other traits we performed LD-score regression to estimate the genetic correlation between LOAD and 792 human diseases, traits, and behaviors^{13,114} (**Supplementary Table 31**). The common variant genetic architecture of LOAD was positively correlated with maternal family history of Alzheimer's disease/dementia ($rg = 0.81$; FDR $P = 2.79 \times 10^{-7}$), similar to a recent GWAS using family history of AD as a proxy¹¹⁵ which found maternal genetic correlation with AD to be higher than paternal AD ($rg = 0.91$ and 0.66 respectively). There is substantial overlap between these estimates as the

Marioni et al. analyses include the 2013 IGAP summary statistics and employed the same UK Biobank variable that we used for rg estimates with maternal history of dementia. While use of proxy AD cases introduces less sensitivity and specificity for true AD signals overall in comparison to clinically-diagnosed AD association analyses, the investigation did identify 17 of our 25 genome-wide loci including the *ACE* and *ADAM10* loci, suggesting that familial proxy AD studies can identify AD relevant loci. We also find significant negative correlation between AD and multiple measures of educational attainment (i.e. college completion, $rg = -0.24$; years of schooling, rg range = -0.19 to -0.24 ; cognitive scores, rg 's = -0.24 and -0.25) (FDR $P < 0.05$), supporting the theory that a greater cognitive reserve could help protect against development of LOAD¹¹⁶. The extent to which socioeconomic (ses), environmental or cultural factors contribute to the correlation between educational attainment and risk for AD is unknown, but research has shown dementia risk to be associated with lower ses status, independent of education status^{117,118}. Furthermore, we also found negative correlations at $P < 0.05$ with multiple measures of cardiovascular health (i.e. family history of high blood pressure, family history of heart disease, vascular/heart problems diagnosis) and diabetes (i.e. fasting proinsulin, basal metabolic rate, fasting insulin main effect), supporting previous research that suggested use of blood pressure and diabetic medications may reduce risk of AD¹¹⁹. In fact, use of blood pressure medication does show negative genetic correlation with AD in our study ($rg = -0.12$; $P = 0.035$), though this result does not survive FDR correction. These and other top results from this analysis (i.e. body mass index, height; see **Supplementary Table 31** for a full list of other nominally significant correlations) have been linked to AD previously^{114,119–126}, either through suggestive or significant genetic or epidemiological associations (see Kuzma et al. 2018¹²⁷ for a recent review), but the multiple measures here support and emphasize their genetic correlation with LOAD and highlight the possible genetic pleiotropy or co-morbidity of these traits with pathology of LOAD.

In conclusion, our work identifies five new genome-wide associations for LOAD and shows that GWAS data combined with high-quality imputation panels can reveal rare disease risk variants (i.e. *TREM2*). The enrichment of rare-variants in pathways associated with AD indicates that additional rare-variants remain to be identified, and larger samples and better imputation panels will facilitate identifying these rare variants. While these rare-variants may not contribute substantially to the predictive value of genetic findings, it will add to the understanding of disease mechanisms and potential drug targets. Discovery of the risk genes at genome-wide loci remains challenging, but we demonstrate that converging evidence from existing and new analyses can prioritize risk genes. We also show that APP metabolism is not only associated with early-onset but also late-onset AD, suggesting that therapies developed by studying early-onset families could also be applicable to the more common late-onset form of the disease. Pathway analysis showing tau is involved in late-onset AD supports recent evidence that tau may play an early pathological role in AD^{128–130}, and confirms that therapies targeting tangle formation/degradation could potentially affect late-onset AD. Finally, our fine-mapping analyses of HLA and genetic correlation results point to LOAD's shared genetic architecture with many immune-mediated and cognitive traits, and suggests that research and interventions that elucidate the mechanisms behind these relationships could also yield fruitful therapeutic strategies for LOAD.

Acknowledgements

ADGC. The National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging (NIH-NIA) supported this work through the following grants: ADGC, U01 AG032984, RC2 AG036528; Samples from the National Cell Repository for Alzheimer's Disease (NCRAD), which receives government support under a cooperative agreement grant (U24 AG21886) awarded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), were used in this study. We thank contributors who collected samples used in this study, as well as patients and their families, whose help and participation made this work possible; Data for this study were prepared, archived, and distributed by the National Institute on Aging Alzheimer's Disease Data Storage Site (NIAGADS) at the University of Pennsylvania (U24-AG041689-01); NACC, U01 AG016976; NIA LOAD (Columbia University), U24 AG026395, U24 AG026390, R01AG041797; Banner Sun Health Research Institute P30 AG019610; Boston University, P30 AG013846, U01 AG10483, R01 CA129769, R01 MH080295, R01 AG017173, R01 AG025259, R01 AG048927, R01AG33193, R01 AG009029; Columbia University, P50 AG008702, R37 AG015473, R01 AG037212, R01 AG028786; Duke University, P30 AG028377, AG05128; Emory University, AG025688; Group Health Research Institute, UO1 AG006781, UO1 HG004610, UO1 HG006375, U01 HG008657; Indiana University, P30 AG10133, R01 AG009956, RC2 AG036650; Johns Hopkins University, P50 AG005146, R01 AG020688; Massachusetts General Hospital, P50 AG005134; Mayo Clinic, P50 AG016574, R01 AG032990, KL2 RR024151; Mount Sinai School of Medicine, P50 AG005138, P01 AG002219; New York University, P30 AG08051, UL1 RR029893, 5R01AG012101, 5R01AG022374, 5R01AG013616, 1RC2AG036502, 1R01AG035137; North Carolina A&T University, P20 MD000546, R01 AG28786-01A1; Northwestern University, P30 AG013854; Oregon Health & Science University, P30 AG008017, R01 AG026916; Rush University, P30 AG010161, R01 AG019085, R01 AG15819, R01 AG17917, R01 AG030146, R01 AG01101, RC2 AG036650, R01 AG22018; TGen, R01 NS059873; University of Alabama at Birmingham, P50 AG016582; University of Arizona, R01 AG031581; University of California,

Davis, P30 AG010129; University of California, Irvine, P50 AG016573; University of California, Los Angeles, P50 AG016570; University of California, San Diego, P50 AG005131; University of California, San Francisco, P50 AG023501, P01 AG019724; University of Kentucky, P30 AG028383, AG05144; University of Michigan, P50 AG008671; University of Pennsylvania, P30 AG010124; University of Pittsburgh, P50 AG005133, AG030653, AG041718, AG07562, AG02365; University of Southern California, P50 AG005142; University of Texas Southwestern, P30 AG012300; University of Miami, R01 AG027944, AG010491, AG027944, AG021547, AG019757; University of Washington, P50 AG005136, R01 AG042437; University of Wisconsin, P50 AG033514; Vanderbilt University, R01 AG019085; and Washington University, P50 AG005681, P01 AG03991, P01 AG026276. The Kathleen Price Bryan Brain Bank at Duke University Medical Center is funded by NINDS grant # NS39764, NIMH MH60451 and by Glaxo Smith Kline. Support was also from the Alzheimer's Association (LAF, IIRG-08-89720; MP-V, IIRG-05-14147), the US Department of Veterans Affairs Administration, Office of Research and Development, Biomedical Laboratory Research Program, and BrightFocus Foundation (MP-V, A2111048). P.S.G.-H. is supported by Wellcome Trust, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and the Canadian Institute of Health Research. Genotyping of the TGEN2 cohort was supported by Kronos Science. The TGen series was also funded by NIA grant AG041232 to AJM and MJH, The Banner Alzheimer's Foundation, The Johnnie B. Byrd Sr. Alzheimer's Institute, the Medical Research Council, and the state of Arizona and also includes samples from the following sites: Newcastle Brain Tissue Resource (funding via the Medical Research Council, local NHS trusts and Newcastle University), MRC London Brain Bank for Neurodegenerative Diseases (funding via the Medical Research Council), South West Dementia Brain Bank (funding via numerous sources including the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), Alzheimer's Research Trust (ART), BRACE as well as North Bristol NHS Trust Research and Innovation Department and DeNDRoN), The Netherlands Brain Bank (funding via numerous sources including Stichting MS Research, Brain Net Europe, Hersenstichting Nederland Breinbrekend

Werk, International Parkinson Fonds, Internationale Stichting Alzheimer Onderzoek), Institut de Neuropatologia, Servei Anatomia Patologica, Universitat de Barcelona. ADNI data collection and sharing was funded by the National Institutes of Health Grant U01 AG024904 and Department of Defense award number W81XWH-12-2-0012. ADNI is funded by the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, and through generous contributions from the following: AbbVie, Alzheimer's Association; Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation; Araclon Biotech; BioClinica, Inc.; Biogen; Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; CereSpir, Inc.; Eisai Inc.; Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Eli Lilly and Company; EuroImmun; F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd and its affiliated company Genentech, Inc.; Fujirebio; GE Healthcare; IXICO Ltd.; Janssen Alzheimer Immunotherapy Research & Development, LLC.; Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development LLC.; Lumosity; Lundbeck; Merck & Co., Inc.; Meso Scale Diagnostics, LLC.; NeuroRx Research; Neurotrack Technologies; Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; Pfizer Inc.; Piramal Imaging; Servier; Takeda Pharmaceutical Company; and Transition Therapeutics. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research is providing funds to support ADNI clinical sites in Canada. Private sector contributions are facilitated by the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (www.fnih.org). The grantee organization is the Northern California Institute for Research and Education, and the study is coordinated by the Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study at the University of California, San Diego. ADNI data are disseminated by the Laboratory for Neuro Imaging at the University of Southern California. We thank Drs. D. Stephen Snyder and Marilyn Miller from NIA who are *ex-officio* ADGC members.

EADI. This work has been developed and supported by the LABEX (laboratory of excellence program investment for the future) DISTALZ grant (Development of Innovative Strategies for a Transdisciplinary approach to ALZheimer's disease) including funding from MEL (Metropole européenne de Lille), ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and Conseil Régional

Nord Pas de Calais. This work was supported by INSERM, the National Foundation for Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, the Institut Pasteur de Lille and the Centre National de Génotypage, the JPND PERADES, GENMED, and the FP7 AgedBrainSysBio. The Three-City Study was performed as part of collaboration between the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (Inserm), the Victor Segalen Bordeaux II University and Sanofi-Synthélabo. The Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale funded the preparation and initiation of the study. The 3C Study was also funded by the Caisse Nationale Maladie des Travailleurs Salariés, Direction Générale de la Santé, MGEN, Institut de la Longévité, Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits de Santé, the Aquitaine and Bourgogne Regional Councils, Agence Nationale de la Recherche, ANR supported the COGINUT and COVADIS projects. Fondation de France and the joint French Ministry of Research/INSERM "Cohortes et collections de données biologiques" programme. Lille Génopôle received an unconditional grant from Eisai. The Three-city biological bank was developed and maintained by the laboratory for genomic analysis LAG-BRC - Institut Pasteur de Lille. This work was further supported by the CoSTREAM project (<http://www.costream.eu/>) and funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement 667375.

Belgium samples: Research at the Antwerp site is funded in part by the Belgian Science Policy Office Interuniversity Attraction Poles program, the Belgian Alzheimer Research Foundation, the Flemish government-initiated Flanders Impulse Program on Networks for Dementia Research (VIND) and the Methusalem excellence program, the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), and the University of Antwerp Research Fund, Belgium. The Antwerp site authors thank the personnel of the VIB Neuromics Support Facility, the Biobank of the Institute Born-Bunge and neurology departments at the contributing hospitals. The authors acknowledge the members of the BELNEU consortium for their contributions to the clinical and pathological characterization of Belgium patients and the personnel of the Diagnostic Service Facility for the genetic testing.

Finish sample collection: Financial support for this project was provided by Academy of Finland (grant number 307866), Sigrid Jusélius Foundation and the Strategic Neuroscience Funding of the University of Eastern Finland

Swedish sample collection: Financially supported in part by the Swedish Brain Power network, the Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation, the Swedish Research Council (521-2010-3134, 2015-02926), the King Gustaf V and Queen Victoria's Foundation of Freemasons, the Regional Agreement on Medical Training and Clinical Research (ALF) between Stockholm County Council and the Karolinska Institutet, the Swedish Brain Foundation and the Swedish Alzheimer Foundation".

CHARGE. Infrastructure for the CHARGE Consortium is supported in part by National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute grant HL105756 (Psaty) and RC2HL102419 (Boerwinkle) and the neurology working group by grants from the National Institute on Aging, R01 AG033193, U01 AG049505 and U01AG52409.

Rotterdam (RS). This study was funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMW) as part of the Joint Programming for Neurological Disease (JPND) as part of the PERADES Program (Defining Genetic Polygenic, and Environmental Risk for Alzheimer's disease using multiple powerful cohorts, focused Epigenetics and Stem cell metabolomics), Project number 733051021. This work was funded also by the European Union Innovative Medicine Initiative (IMI) programme under grant agreement No. 115975 as part of the Alzheimer's Disease Apolipoprotein Pathology for Treatment Elucidation and Development (ADAPTED, <https://www.imi-adapted.eu>); and the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme as part of the Common mechanisms and pathways in Stroke and Alzheimer's disease CoSTREAM project (www.costream.eu, grant agreement No. 667375). The current study is supported by the Deltaplan Dementie and Memorabel supported by ZonMW (Project number 733050814) and Alzheimer Nederland.

The Rotterdam Study is funded by Erasmus Medical Center and Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands Organization for the Health Research and Development (ZonMw), the Research Institute for Diseases in the Elderly (RIDE), the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Ministry for Health, Welfare and Sports, the European Commission (DG XII), and the Municipality of Rotterdam. The authors are grateful to the study participants, the staff from the Rotterdam Study and the participating general practitioners and pharmacists. The generation and management of GWAS genotype data for the Rotterdam Study (RS-I, RS-II, RS-III) was executed by the Human Genotyping Facility of the Genetic Laboratory of the Department of Internal Medicine, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The GWAS datasets are supported by the Netherlands Organization of Scientific Research NWO Investments (Project number 175.010.2005.011, 911-03-012), the Genetic Laboratory of the Department of Internal Medicine, Erasmus MC, the Research Institute for Diseases in the Elderly (014-93-015; RIDE2), the Netherlands Genomics Initiative (NGI)/Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) Netherlands Consortium for Healthy Aging (NCHA), project number 050-060-810. We thank Pascal Arp, Mila Jhamai, Marijn Verkerk, Lizbeth Herrera and Marjolein Peters, MSc, and Carolina Medina-Gomez, MSc, for their help in creating the GWAS database, and Karol Estrada, PhD, Yurii Aulchenko, PhD, and Carolina Medina-Gomez, MSc, for the creation and analysis of imputed data.

AGES. The AGES study has been funded by NIA contracts N01-AG-12100 and HHSN271201200022C with contributions from NEI, NIDCD, and NHLBI, the NIA Intramural Research Program, Hjartavernd (the Icelandic Heart Association), and the Althingi (the Icelandic Parliament).

Cardiovascular Health Study (CHS). This research was supported by contracts HHSN268201200036C, HHSN268200800007C, N01HC55222, N01HC85079, N01HC85080, N01HC85081, N01HC85082, N01HC85083, and N01HC85086 and grant U01HL080295 and

U01HL130114 from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), with additional contribution from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Additional support was provided by R01AG033193, R01AG023629, R01AG15928, and R01AG20098 and by U01AG049505 from the National Institute on Aging (NIA). The provision of genotyping data was supported in part by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, CTSI grant UL1TR000124, and National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease Diabetes Research Center (DRC) grant DK063491 to the Southern California Diabetes Endocrinology Research Center. A full list of CHS principal investigators and institutions can be found at <https://chs-nhlbi.org/>. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the US National Institutes of Health.

Framingham Heart Study. This work was supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Framingham Heart Study (contracts N01-HC-25195 and HHSN268201500001I). This study was also supported by grants from the National Institute on Aging: R01AG033193, U01AG049505, U01AG52409, R01AG054076 (S. Seshadri). S. Seshadri and A.L.D. were also supported by additional grants from the National Institute on Aging (R01AG049607, R01AG033040) and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (R01-NS017950, NS100605). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the US National Institutes of Health.

GR@ACE cohort. Fundació ACE We would like to thank patients and controls who participated in this project. Genome Resesarch @ Fundació ACE project (GR@ACE) is supported by Fundación bancaria “La Caixa”, Grifols SA, Fundació ACE and ISCIII. We also want to thank other private sponsors supporting the basic and clinical projects of our institution (Piramal AG, Laboratorios Echevarne, Araclon Biotech S.A. and Fundació ACE). We are indebted to Trinitat Port-Carbó legacy and her family for their support of Fundació ACE research programs. Fundació ACE collaborates with the Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red sobre

Enfermedades Neurodegenerativas (CIBERNED, Spain) and is one of the participating centers of the Dementia Genetics Spanish Consortium (DEGESCO). A.R. and M.B. are receiving support from the European Union/EFPIA Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking ADAPTED and MOPEAD projects (Grants No. 115975 and 115985 respectively). M.B. and A.R. are also supported by national grants PI13/02434, PI16/01861 and PI17/01474. Acción Estratégica en Salud integrated in the Spanish National R + D + I Plan and funded by ISCIII (Instituto de Salud Carlos III)-Subdirección General de Evaluación and the Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER- "Una manera de Hacer Europa"). Control samples and data from patients included in this study were provided in part by the National DNA Bank Carlos III (www.bancoadn.org, University of Salamanca, Spain) and Hospital Universitario Virgen de Valme (Sevilla, Spain) and they were processed following standard operating procedures with the appropriate approval of the Ethical and Scientific Committee.

GERAD/PERADES. We thank all individuals who participated in this study. Cardiff University was supported by the Wellcome Trust, Alzheimer's Society (AS; grant RF014/164), the Medical Research Council (MRC; grants G0801418/1, MR/K013041/1, MR/L023784/1), the European Joint Programme for Neurodegenerative Disease (JPND, grant MR/L501517/1), Alzheimer's Research UK (ARUK, grant ARUK-PG2014-1), Welsh Assembly Government (grant SGR544:CADR), a donation from the Moondance Charitable Foundation, and the UK Dementia Research Institute at Cardiff. Cambridge University acknowledges support from the MRC. ARUK supported sample collections at the Kings College London, the South West Dementia Bank, Universities of Cambridge, Nottingham, Manchester and Belfast. King's College London was supported by the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health and Biomedical Research Unit for Dementia at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and Kings College London and the MRC. Alzheimer's Research UK (ARUK) and the Big Lottery Fund provided support to Nottingham University. Ulster Garden Villages, AS, ARUK, American

Federation for Aging Research, NI R&D Office and the Royal College of Physicians/Dunhill Medical Trust provided support for Queen's University, Belfast. The University of Southampton acknowledges support from the AS. The MRC and Mercer's Institute for Research on Ageing supported the Trinity College group. DCR is a Wellcome Trust Principal Research fellow. The South West Dementia Brain Bank acknowledges support from Bristol Research into Alzheimer's and Care of the Elderly. The Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust supported the OPTIMA group. Washington University was funded by NIH grants, Barnes Jewish Foundation and the Charles and Joanne Knight Alzheimer's Research Initiative. Patient recruitment for the MRC Prion Unit/UCL Department of Neurodegenerative Disease collection was supported by the UCLH/UCL Biomedical Centre and their work was supported by the NIHR Queen Square Dementia BRU. LASER-AD was funded by Lundbeck SA. The Bonn group would like to thank Dr. Heike Koelsch for her scientific support. The Bonn group was funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF): Competence Network Dementia (CND) grant number 01GI0102, 01GI0711, 01GI0420. The AgeCoDe study group was supported by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research grants 01 GI 0710, 01 GI 0712, 01 GI 0713, 01 GI 0714, 01 GI 0715, 01 GI 0716, 01 GI 0717. Genotyping of the Bonn case-control sample was funded by the German centre for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), Germany. The GERAD Consortium also used samples ascertained by the NIMH AD Genetics Initiative. HH was supported by a grant of the Katharina-Hardt-Foundation, Bad Homburg vor der Höhe, Germany. The KORA F4 studies were financed by Helmholtz Zentrum München; German Research Center for Environmental Health; BMBF; German National Genome Research Network and the Munich Center of Health Sciences. The Heinz Nixdorf Recall cohort was funded by the Heinz Nixdorf Foundation (Dr. Jur. G.Schmidt, Chairman) and BMBF. Coriell Cell Repositories is supported by NINDS and the Intramural Research Program of the National Institute on Aging. We acknowledge use of genotype data from the 1958 Birth Cohort collection, funded by the MRC and the Wellcome Trust which was genotyped by the Wellcome Trust Case

Control Consortium and the Type-1 Diabetes Genetics Consortium, sponsored by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International.

The Bonn samples are part of the German Dementia Competance Network (DCN) and the German Research Network on Degenerative Dementia (KNDD), which are funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (grants KND: 01G10102, 01GI0420, 01GI0422, 01GI0423, 01GI0429, 01GI0431, 01GI0433, 04GI0434; grants KNDD: 01GI1007A, 01GI0710, 01GI0711, 01GI0712, 01GI0713, 01GI0714, 01GI0715, 01GI0716, 01ET1006B).

Markus M Nothen is a member of the German Research Foundation (DFG) cluster of excellence ImmunoSensation. Funding for Saarland University was provided by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), grant number 01GS08125 to Matthias Riemenschneider. The University of Washington was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health (R01-NS085419 and R01-AG044546), the Alzheimer's Association (NIRG-11-200110) and the American Federation for Aging Research (Carlos Cruchaga was recipient of a New Investigator Award in Alzheimer's disease). Brigham Young University was supported by the Alzheimer's Association (MNIRG-11-205368), the BYU Gerontology Program and the National Institutes of Health (R01-AG11380, R01-AG021136, P30- S069329-01, R01-AG042611). We also acknowledge funding from the Institute of Neurology, UCL, London who were supported in part by the ARUK via an anonymous donor, and by a fellowship to Dr Guerreiro. Seripa, Urbano and Masullo's participation in the study was completely supported by Ministero della Salute", I.R.C.C.S. Research Program, Ricerca Corrente 2015-2017, Linea n. 2 "Malattie complesse e terapie innovative" and by the "5 x 1000" voluntary contribution.

AddNeuromed is supported by InnoMed, an Integrated Project funded by the European Union Sixth Framework programme priority FP6-2004-LIFESCIHEALTH-5, Life Sciences, Genomics

and Biotechnology for Health. We are grateful to the Wellcome Trust for awarding a Principal Research Fellowship to Rubensztein (095317/Z/11/Z). Matthias Riemenschneider was funded by the BMBF NGFN Grant 01GS08125. BN supported by FondazioneCassa di Risparmio di Pistoia e Pescia (grants 2014.0365, 2011.0264 and 2013.0347). Harald Hampel is supported by the AXA Research Fund, the “Fondation partenariale Sorbonne Université” and the “Fondation pour la Recherche sur Alzheimer”, Paris, France. Ce travail a bénéficié d'une aide de l'Etat “Investissements d'avenir” ANR-10-IAIHU-06. The research leading to these results has received funding from the program “Investissements d'avenir” ANR-10-IAIHU-06 (Agence Nationale de la Recherche-10-IA Agence Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire-6. The research leading to these results has received funding from the program “Investissementsd' avenir” ANR-10-IAIHU-06 (Agence Nationale de la Recherche-10-IA Agence Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire-6. The Santa Lucia Foundation and the Fondazione Ca' Granda IRCCS Ospedale Policlinico, Italy, acknowledge the Italian Ministry of Health (grant RC 10.11.12.13/A). We acknowledge Maria A Pastor (Department of Neurology, University of Navarra Medical School and Neuroimaging Laboratory, Center for Applied Medical Research, Pamplona, Spain), for providing DNA samples.

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Competing Interests statement

D. Blacker is a consultant for Biogen, Inc. R.C.P. is a consultant for Roche, Inc., Merck, Inc., Genentech, Inc., Biogen, Inc., and Eli Lilly. A.R.W. is a former employee and stockholder of Pfizer, Inc., and a current employee of the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Orphan Disease Center in partnership with the Loulou. A.M.G. is a member of the scientific advisory board for Denali Therapeutics. N.E.-T. is a consultant for Cytos. J. Hardy holds a collaborative grant with Cytos cofunded by the Department of Business (Biz). F.J. acts as a consultant for Novartis, Eli Lilly, Nutricia, MSD, Roche, and Piramal. Neither J. Morris nor his family own stock or have equity interest (outside of mutual funds or other externally directed accounts) in any pharmaceutical or biotechnology company. J. Morris is currently participating in clinical trials of antidementia drugs from Eli Lilly and Company, Biogen, and Janssen. J. Morris serves as a consultant for Lilly USA. He receives research

support from Eli Lilly/Avid Radiopharmaceuticals and is funded by NIH grants P50AG005681, P01AG003991, P01AG026276, and UF01AG032438.

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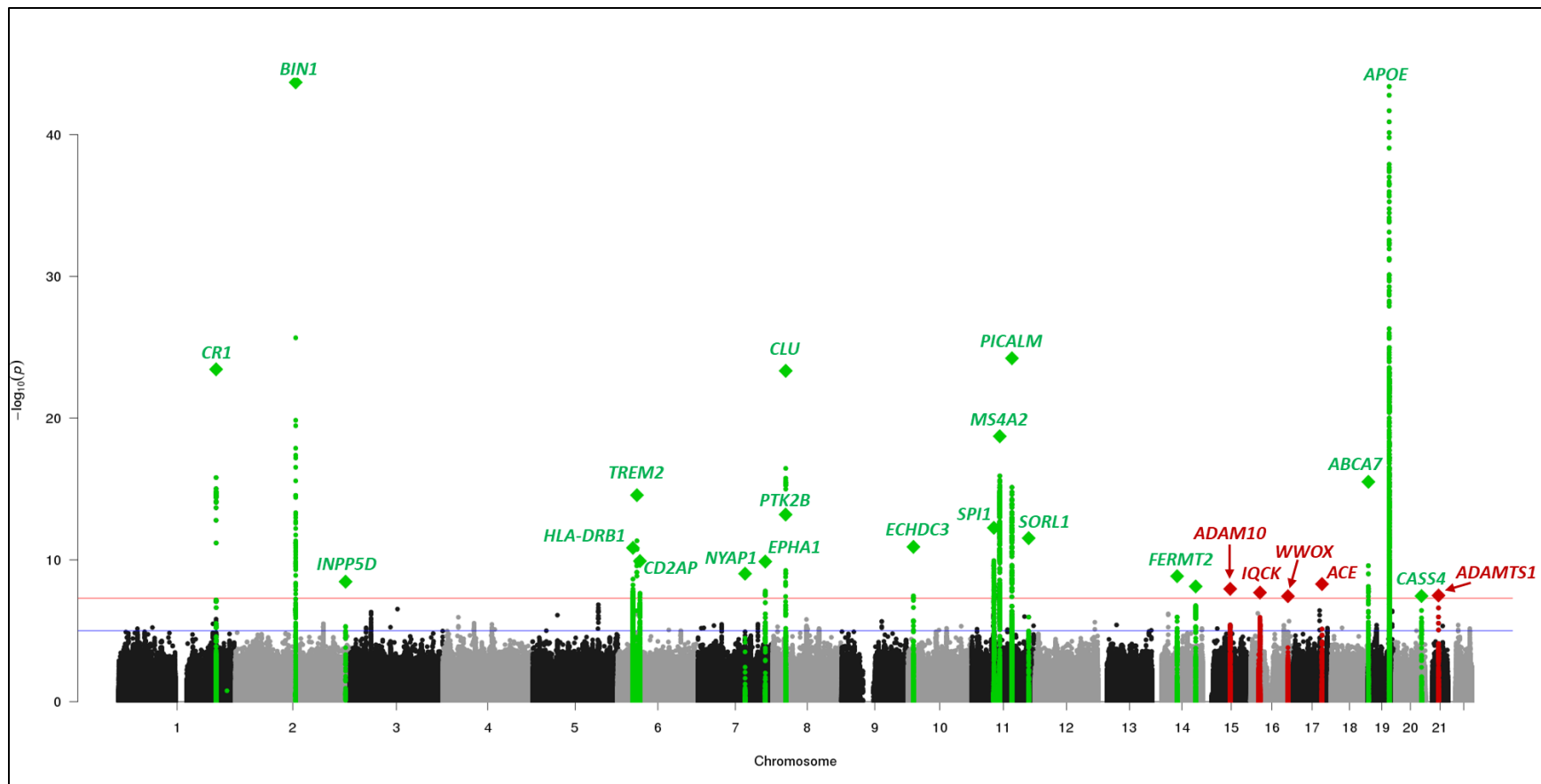


Figure 1. Manhattan plot of meta-analysis of Stage 1, 2 and 3 results for genome-wide association with Alzheimer's disease. The threshold for genome-wide significance ($P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) is indicated by the red line, while the blue line represents the suggestive threshold ($P < 1 \times 10^{-5}$). Loci previously identified by the Lambert et al. 2013 IGAP GWAS are shown in green, and newly associated loci are shown in red. Loci are named for the closest gene to the sentinel variant for each locus. Diamonds represent variants with the smallest P values for each genome-wide locus.

Meta-analysis of genetic association with diagnosed Alzheimer's disease identifies novel risk loci and implicates Abeta, Tau, immunity and lipid processing - Tables

Table 1. Summary of discovery stage 1, stage 2 and overall meta-analyses results for identified loci reaching genome-wide significance after stages 1 and 2.

Variant ^a	Chr.	Position ^b	Closest gene ^c	Major/minor alleles	MAF ^d	Stage 1 Discovery (n=63,926)		Stage 2 (n=18,845)		Overall Stage 1 + Stage 2 (n=82,771)		
						OR (95% CI) ^e	P	OR (95% CI) ^e	P	OR (95% CI) ^e	Meta P	I ² (%), P ^f
Previous genome-wide significant loci still reaching significance												
rs4844610	1	207802552	CR1	C/A	0.187	1.16 (1.12-1.20)	8.2 x 10 ⁻¹⁶	1.20 (1.13-1.27)	3.8 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.17 (1.13-1.21)	3.6 x 10 ⁻²⁴	0, 8 x 10 ⁻¹
rs6733839	2	127892810	BIN1	C/T	0.407	1.18 (1.15-1.22)	4.0 x 10 ⁻²⁸	1.23 (1.18-1.29)	2.0 x 10 ⁻¹⁸	1.20 (1.17-1.23)	2.1 x 10 ⁻⁴⁴	15, 2 x 10 ⁻¹
rs10933431	2	233981912	INPP5D	C/G	0.223	0.90 (0.87-0.94)	2.6 x 10 ⁻⁷	0.92 (0.87-0.97)	3.2 x 10 ⁻³	0.91 (0.88-0.94)	3.4 x 10 ⁻⁹	0, 8 x 10 ⁻¹
rs9271058	6	32575406	HLA-DRB1	T/A	0.270	1.10 (1.06-1.14)	5.1 x 10 ⁻⁸	1.11 (1.06-1.17)	5.7 x 10 ⁻⁵	1.10 (1.07-1.13)	1.4 x 10 ⁻¹¹	10, 3 x 10 ⁻¹
rs75932628	6	41129252	TREM2	C/T	0.008	2.01 (1.65-2.44)	2.9 x 10 ⁻¹²	2.50 (1.56-4.00)	1.5 x 10 ⁻⁴	2.08 (1.73-2.49)	2.7 x 10 ⁻¹⁵	0, 6 x 10 ⁻¹
rs9473117	6	47431284	CD2AP	A/C	0.280	1.09 (1.05-1.12)	2.3 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.11 (1.05-1.16)	1.0 x 10 ⁻⁴	1.09 (1.06-1.12)	1.2 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	0, 6 x 10 ⁻¹
rs12539172	7	100091795	NYAP1 ^g	C/T	0.303	0.93 (0.91-0.96)	2.1 x 10 ⁻⁵	0.89 (0.84-0.93)	2.1 x 10 ⁻⁶	0.92 (0.90-0.95)	9.3 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	0, 8 x 10 ⁻¹
rs10808026	7	143099133	EPHA1	C/A	0.199	0.90 (0.87-0.94)	3.1 x 10 ⁻⁸	0.91 (0.86-0.96)	1.1 x 10 ⁻³	0.90 (0.88-0.93)	1.3 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	0, 5 x 10 ⁻¹
rs73223431	8	27219987	PTK2B	C/T	0.367	1.10 (1.07-1.13)	8.3 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.11 (1.06-1.16)	1.5 x 10 ⁻⁵	1.10 (1.07-1.13)	6.3 x 10 ⁻¹⁴	0, 6 x 10 ⁻¹
rs9331896	8	27467686	CLU	T/C	0.387	0.88 (0.85-0.91)	3.6 x 10 ⁻¹⁶	0.87 (0.83-0.91)	1.7 x 10 ⁻⁹	0.88 (0.85-0.90)	4.6 x 10 ⁻²⁴	3, 4 x 10 ⁻¹
rs3740688	11	47380340	SPI1 ^h	T/G	0.448	0.91 (0.89-0.94)	9.7 x 10 ⁻¹¹	0.93 (0.88-0.97)	1.2 x 10 ⁻³	0.92 (0.89-0.94)	5.4 x 10 ⁻¹³	4, 4 x 10 ⁻¹
rs7933202	11	59936926	MS4A2	A/C	0.391	0.89 (0.86-0.92)	2.2 x 10 ⁻¹⁵	0.90 (0.86-0.95)	1.6 x 10 ⁻⁵	0.89 (0.87-0.92)	1.9 x 10 ⁻¹⁹	27, 5 x 10 ⁻²
rs3851179	11	85868640	PICALM	C/T	0.356	0.89 (0.86-0.91)	5.8 x 10 ⁻¹⁶	0.85 (0.81-0.89)	6.1 x 10 ⁻¹¹	0.88 (0.86-0.90)	6.0 x 10 ⁻²⁵	0, 8 x 10 ⁻¹
rs11218343	11	121435587	SORL1	T/C	0.040	0.81 (0.76-0.88)	2.7 x 10 ⁻⁸	0.77 (0.68-0.87)	1.8 x 10 ⁻⁵	0.80 (0.75-0.85)	2.9 x 10 ⁻¹²	7, 3 x 10 ⁻¹
rs17125924	14	53391680	FERMT2	A/G	0.093	1.13 (1.08-1.19)	6.6 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.15 (1.06-1.25)	5.0 x 10 ⁻⁴	1.14 (1.09-1.18)	1.4 x 10 ⁻⁹	8, 3 x 10 ⁻¹
rs12881735	14	92932828	SLC24A4	T/C	0.221	0.92 (0.88-0.95)	4.9 x 10 ⁻⁷	0.92 (0.87-0.97)	4.3 x 10 ⁻³	0.92 (0.89-0.94)	7.4 x 10 ⁻⁹	0, 6 x 10 ⁻¹
rs3752246	19	1056492	ABCA7	C/G	0.182	1.13 (1.09-1.18)	6.6 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	1.18 (1.11-1.25)	4.7 x 10 ⁻⁸	1.15 (1.11-1.18)	3.1 x 10 ⁻¹⁶	0, 5 x 10 ⁻¹
rs429358	19	45411941	APOE	T/C	0.216	3.32 (3.20-3.45)	1.2 x 10 ⁻⁸⁸¹	APOE region not carried forward to replication stage				
rs6024870	20	54997568	CASS4	G/A	0.088	0.88 (0.84-0.93)	1.1 x 10 ⁻⁶	0.90 (0.82-0.97)	9.0 x 10 ⁻³	0.88 (0.85-0.92)	3.5 x 10 ⁻⁸	0, 9 x 10 ⁻¹
New genome-wide significant loci reaching significance												
rs7920721	10	11720308	ECDH3	A/G	0.389	1.08 (1.05-1.11)	1.9 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.07 (1.02-1.12)	3.2 x 10 ⁻³	1.08 (1.05-1.11)	2.3 x 10 ⁻⁹	0, 8 x 10 ⁻¹
rs138190086	17	61538148	ACE	G/A	0.020	1.29 (1.15-1.44)	7.5 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.41 (1.18-1.69)	1.8 x 10 ⁻⁴	1.32 (1.20-1.45)	7.5 x 10 ⁻⁹	0, 9 x 10 ⁻¹
Previous genome-wide significant loci not reaching significance												
rs190982	5	88223420	MEF2C	A/G	0.390	0.95 (0.92-0.97)	2.8 x 10 ⁻⁴	0.93 (0.89-0.98)	2.7 x 10 ⁻³	0.94 (0.92-0.97)	2.8 x 10 ⁻⁶	0, 6 x 10 ⁻¹
rs4723711	7	37844263	NME8	A/T	0.356	0.95 (0.92-0.98)	2.7 x 10 ⁻⁴	0.91 (0.87-0.95)	1.0 x 10 ⁻⁴	0.94 (0.91-0.96)	2.8 x 10 ⁻⁷	0, 5 x 10 ⁻¹

^aVariants showing the best level of association after meta-analysis of stages 1 and 2.

^bBuild 37, assembly hg19.

^cBased on position of top SNP in reference to the refSeq assembly

^dAverage in the discovery sample.

^eCalculated with respect to the minor allele.

^fCochran's Q test

^gPreviously the ZCWPW1 locus.

^hPreviously the CELF1 locus.

Table 2. Summary of discovery Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 (A and B), and overall meta-analyses results of potential novel loci. Novel loci were defined as loci not reported in Lambert et al. 2013 with 1) a Stage 1+2 Meta $P < 5 \times 10^{-7}$ (9 variants after excluding *TREM2*) (Stage 3A), or 2) a MAF < 0.05 and Stage 1 $P < 1 \times 10^{-5}$ or MAF ≥ 0.05 and Stage 1 $P < 5 \times 10^{-6}$ for genome regions not covered on the Stage 2 custom array (Stage 3B).

Stage 3A						Stage 1 + 2 (n=82,771)		Stage 3A (n=11,666)		Overall (n=94,437)	
SNP^a	Chr.	Position^b	Closest gene^c	Major/Minor allele	MAF^e	OR (95% CI)^f	P	OR (95% CI)^f	P	OR (95% CI)^f	Meta P
rs4735340	8	95976251	<i>NDUFAF6</i>	T/A	0.476	0.94 (0.92-0.96)	3.4×10^{-7}	0.92 (0.83-1.02)	9.7×10^{-2}	0.94 (0.92-0.96)	9.2×10^{-8}
rs7920721 ^g	10	11720308	<i>ECHDC3</i>	A/G	0.390	1.08 (1.05-1.11)	2.30×10^{-9}	1.11 (1.04-1.18)	1.5×10^{-3}	1.08 (1.06-1.11)	1.8×10^{-11}
rs7295246	12	43967677	<i>ADAMTS20</i>	T/G	0.413	1.07 (1.04-1.09)	2.7×10^{-7}	1.02 (0.96-1.09)	4.5×10^{-1}	1.06 (1.04-1.08)	3.9×10^{-7}
rs10467994	15	51008687	<i>SPPL2A</i>	T/C	0.333	0.97 (0.87-1.08)	3.9×10^{-7}	0.97 (0.87-1.08)	6.2×10^{-1}	0.94 (0.92-0.96)	4.3×10^{-7}
rs593742	15	59045774	<i>ADAM10</i>	A/G	0.295	0.93 (0.91-0.96)	1.3×10^{-7}	0.91 (0.85-0.98)	1.5×10^{-2}	0.93 (0.91-0.95)	6.8×10^{-9}
rs7185636	16	19808163	<i>IQCK</i>	T/C	0.180	0.92 (0.89-0.95)	8.4×10^{-8}	0.94 (0.86-1.01)	1.1×10^{-1}	0.92 (0.89-0.95)	2.4×10^{-8}
rs2632516	17	56409089	<i>MIR142/TSPOAP1-AS1^d</i>	G/C	0.440	0.94 (0.92-0.96)	2.3×10^{-7}	0.91 (0.82-1.01)	7.5×10^{-2}	0.94 (0.91-0.96)	5.3×10^{-8}
rs138190086	17	61538148	<i>ACE</i>	G/A	0.020	1.32 (1.20-1.45)	7.45×10^{-9}	1.17 (0.92-1.48)	2.1×10^{-1}	1.30 (1.19-1.42)	5.3×10^{-9}
rs2830500	21	28156856	<i>ADAMTS1</i>	C/A	0.308	0.93 (0.91-0.96)	7.3×10^{-8}	0.95 (0.88-1.02)	1.3×10^{-1}	0.93 (0.91-0.96)	2.6×10^{-8}
Stage 3B						Stage 1 (n=63,926)		Stage 3B (n=30,511)^h		Overall (n=94,437)^h	
SNP^a	Chr.	Position^b	Closest gene^c	Major/Minor allele	MAF^e	OR (95% CI)^f	P	OR (95% CI)^f	P	OR (95% CI)^f	Meta P
rs71618613	5	29005985	<i>SUCLG2P4</i>	A/C	0.010	0.68 (0.57-0.80)	9.8×10^{-6}	0.76 (0.63-0.93)	6.8×10^{-3}	0.71 (0.63-0.81)	3.3×10^{-7}
rs35868327	5	52665230	<i>FST</i>	T/A	0.013	0.69 (0.59-0.80)	7.8×10^{-7}	0.58 (0.29-1.17)	0.126	0.68 (0.59-0.79)	2.6×10^{-7}
rs114812713	6	41034000	<i>OARD1</i>	G/C	0.030	1.35 (1.24-1.47)	4.5×10^{-12}	1.23 (1.06-1.42)	7.2×10^{-3}	1.32 (1.22-1.42)	2.1×10^{-13}
rs62039712	16	79355857	<i>WVVOX</i>	G/A	0.116	1.17 (1.10-1.23)	1.2×10^{-7}	1.14 (0.96-1.36)	0.129	1.16 (1.10-1.23)	3.7×10^{-8}

^aSNPs showing the best level of association after meta-analysis of stages 1, 2 and 3.

^bBuild 37, assembly hg19.

^cBased on position of top SNP in reference to the refSeq assembly.

^dVariant is annotated to both gene features.

^eAverage in the discovery sample.

^fCalculated with respect to the minor allele.

^gRecently identified as a LOAD locus in two separate 2017 studies

^hSample sizes for these loci are smaller (Overall n=89,769 for *SUCLG2P4*, 65,230 for *LOC257396,FST*, and 69,898 for *WVVOX*)

Table 3. Significant pathways (q-value≤0.05) from MAGMA pathway analysis for common SNV and rare SNV subsets.

Pathway	N genes in pathway in dataset	Common SNVs P*	Common SNVs q-value	Rare SNVs P*	Rare SNVs q-value	Pathway description
GO:65005	20	1.45E-07*	9.53E-04	6.76E-02	8.42E-01	protein-lipid complex assembly
GO:1902003	10	4.56E-07*	1.49E-03	4.94E-02	8.42E-01	regulation of beta-amyloid formation
GO:32994	39	1.16E-06*	2.54E-03	1.78E-02	8.17E-01	protein-lipid complex
GO:1902991	12	3.54E-06*	5.80E-03	5.66E-02	8.42E-01	regulation of amyloid precursor protein catabolic process
GO:43691	17	5.55E-06*	6.75E-03	3.08E-02	8.17E-01	reverse cholesterol transport
GO:71825	35	6.18E-06*	6.75E-03	1.27E-01	8.42E-01	protein-lipid complex subunit organization
GO:34377	18	1.64E-05*	1.53E-02	1.82E-01	8.42E-01	plasma lipoprotein particle assembly
GO:48156	10	3.19E-05*	2.61E-02	7.77E-01	8.54E-01	tau protein binding
GO:2253	382	6.32E-05*	4.60E-02	2.09E-01	8.42E-01	activation of immune response

*Significant after FDR-correction (q-value≤0.05)

Table 4. Top results of pathway analysis of Aβ-beta centered biological network from Campion et al (see Supplementary Table 12 for full results).

Category	Subcategory	N Genes	Common SNVs P 0kb	Common SNVs P 35kb-10kb	Rare SNVs P 0kb	Rare SNVs P 35kb-10kb
Aβ -centered biological network (all genes)	--	331	2.27E-04*	1.54E-04*	8.26E-01	5.19E-01
Clearance and degradation of Aβ	--	74	2.18E-04*	3.27E-03	3.13E-01	5.11E-01
Clearance and degradation of Aβ	Microglia	47	2.24E-04*	1.83E-02	2.49E-01	6.87E-01
Aggregation of Aβ	--	35	7.09E-04*	9.93E-03	9.02E-02	1.68E-01
Aggregation of Aβ	Miscellaneous	21	1.08E-03*	3.38E-02	9.53E-02	1.90E-01
APP processing and trafficking	Clathrin/caveolin-dependent endocytosis	10	1.19E-03	1.15E-02	3.64E-01	1.84E-01
Mediator of Aβ toxicity	--	51	3.82E-02	4.69E-02	5.89E-01	5.70E-01
Mediator of Aβ toxicity	Calcium homeostasis	6	6.90E-02	1.21E-01	3.96E-01	2.54E-01
Mediator of Aβ toxicity	Miscellaneous	3	7.61E-02	2.35E-02	9.79E-01	7.61E-01
Clearance and degradation of Aβ	Enzymatic degradation of Aβ	15	7.77E-02	2.63E-02	6.10E-01	2.95E-01
Mediator of Aβ toxicity	Tau toxicity	20	9.03E-02	3.48E-01	7.17E-01	6.85E-01
Aggregation of Aβ	Chaperone	9	1.52E-01	3.09E-01	1.98E-01	1.13E-02

*Significant after Bonferroni correction for 33 pathway sets tested

Table 5. Top prioritized genes of 400 genes located in genome-wide significant loci. The criteria include: 1) deleterious coding, loss-of-function or splicing variant in gene, 2) significant gene-based test, 3) expression in a tissue relevant to AD (astrocytes, neurons, microglia/macrophages, oligodendrocytes), 4) HuMi microglial-enriched gene, 5) having an eQTL effect on the gene in any tissue, in AD relevant tissue, and/or a co-localized eQTL, 6) being involved in a biological pathway enriched in AD (from the current study), 7) expression correlated with BRAAK stage, and 8) differential expression in 1+ Alzheimer disease (AD) study. Novel genome-wide loci from the current study are listed first, followed by known genome-wide loci. Each category is assigned equal weight of 1, with the priority score equaling the sum of all categories. Colored fields indicate the gene meets the criteria. Genes with a priority score ≥ 4 are listed for each locus. If no gene reached a score of ≥ 5 in a locus, then the top ranked gene(s) is listed.

Evidence Type				Exonic		Tissue Expression		eQTL		Pathway	Clinical Expression		
Locus	Number of Genes in Locus	Prioritized Gene(s)	Priority Score	Coding or Splicing Change	Rare Variant Burden	LOAD Tissue Expression	Microglia-enriched Gene	AD-relevant tissue eQTL	eQTL in any tissue type	Evidence of colocalization	Enriched Pathway	BRAAK Stage Association	DEG Evidence
				Novel genome-wide loci									
<i>ADAM10</i>	11	<i>ADAM10</i>	5										
<i>IQCK</i>	12	<i>IQCK</i>	6										
<i>ACE</i>	22	<i>PSMC5</i>	4										
<i>ADAMTS1</i>	3	<i>ADAMTS1</i>	4										
<i>WWOX</i>	3	<i>MAF</i>	2										
		<i>WWOX</i>	2										
Known genome-wide loci													
<i>CR1</i>	12	<i>CR1</i>	7										
		<i>CD55</i>	6										
		<i>YOD1</i>	5										
<i>BIN1</i>	9	<i>BIN1</i>	6										
<i>INPP5D</i>	11	<i>INPP5D</i>	7										
<i>HLA-DRB1</i> [†]	46	<i>HLA-DRB1</i>	7										
		<i>PSMB8</i>	7										
		<i>C4A</i>	6										
		<i>GPSM3</i>	6										
		<i>HLA-DPA1</i>	6										
		<i>HLA-DQA1</i>	6										
		<i>HLA-DRA</i>	6										
		<i>HLA-DRB5</i>	6										
<i>PSMB9</i>	6												
<i>TREM2</i>	21	<i>TREM2</i>	6										
<i>CD2AP</i>	8	<i>CD2AP</i>	5										
<i>NYAP1</i>	53	<i>AGFG2</i>	6										
		<i>PILRA</i>	6										
		<i>EPHB4</i>	5										
		<i>C7orf43</i>	5										
		<i>GAL3ST4</i>	5										
		<i>ZKSCAN1</i>	5										
<i>EPHA1</i>	23	<i>FAM131B</i>	5										
<i>PTK2B</i>	6	<i>PTK2B</i>	5										
<i>CLU</i>	8	<i>CLU</i>	6										
<i>ECHDC3</i>	8	<i>ECHDC3</i>	4										
<i>SPI1</i>	23	<i>PSMC3</i>	6										
		<i>ACP2</i>	5										
		<i>C1QTNF4</i>	5										
		<i>CELF1</i>	5										
		<i>MTCH2</i>	5										
		<i>NDUFS3</i>	5										
		<i>NUP160</i>	5										
		<i>SPI1</i>	5										
<i>MS4A2</i>	24	<i>MS4A6A</i>	8										
		<i>MS4A7</i>	6										
		<i>MS4A4A</i>	5										
<i>PICALM</i>	13	<i>EED</i>	5										
		<i>PICALM</i>	5										
<i>SORL1</i>	4	<i>SORL1</i>	5										
<i>FERMT2</i>	9	<i>STYX</i>	5										
<i>SLC24A4</i>	10	<i>RIN3</i>	7										
<i>ABCA7</i>	50	<i>ABCA7</i>	7										
		<i>HMHA1</i>	6										
		<i>CNN2</i>	5										
		<i>WDR18</i>	5										
<i>CASS4</i>	11	<i>CASS4</i>	5										

[†]Genes with rank 6 or above are shown only. An additional 4 genes in *HLA-DRB1* have a priority rank of 5.

Meta-analysis of genetic association with diagnosed Alzheimer's disease identifies novel risk loci and implicates Abeta, Tau, immunity and lipid processing - Methods

Samples. All stage I meta-analysis samples are from four Consortia: the Alzheimer's Disease Genetics Consortium (ADGC), the Cohorts for Heart and Aging Research in Genomic Epidemiology (CHARGE) Consortium, the European Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (EADI), and the Genetic and Environmental Risk in Alzheimer's Disease (GERAD) Consortium. Summary demographics of all 46 case-control studies from the four consortia are described in **Supplementary Tables 1 and 2**. Written informed consent was obtained from study participants or, for those with substantial cognitive impairment, from a caregiver, legal guardian or other proxy. Study protocols for all cohorts were reviewed and approved by the appropriate institutional review boards. Further details of all cohorts can be found in the **Supplementary Note**.

Pre-imputation genotype chip quality control. Standard quality control (QC) was performed on all datasets individually, including exclusion of individuals with low call rate, individuals with a high degree of relatedness and variants with low call rate. Individuals with non-European ancestry according to principal components (PCs) analysis of ancestry informative markers were excluded from the further analysis.

Imputation and pre-analysis quality control. Following genotype chip QC, each dataset was phased and imputed with data to the 1000 Genomes Project (phase 1 integrated release 3, March 2012)¹ using SHAPEIT/IMPUTE2^{2,3} or MaCH/Minimac^{4,5} software (**Supplementary Table 3**). All reference population haplotypes were used for the imputation as this method improves accuracy of imputation for low-frequency variants⁶. Common variants (MAF \geq 0.01%) with an r^2 or an information measure $<$ 0.40 from MaCH and IMPUTE2 were excluded from further analyses. Rare variants (MAF $<$ 0.01%) with a 'global' weighted imputation quality score of $<$ 0.70 were also excluded from analyses. This score was calculated by weighting each variants MACH/IMPUTE2 imputation quality score by study sample size and combining these weighted scores for use as a post-analysis filter. We also required the presence of each variant in 30% of AD cases and 30% of controls across all datasets.

Stage 1 Association Analysis and Meta-analysis. The Stage 1 discovery meta-analysis was followed by Stage 2, and Stage 3 (A and B) replication analyses. Stage 2 was data from a custom array with 11,632 assays selected as variants with $P < 10^{-3}$ from our 2013 work⁷. Genotypes were determined for 8,362 cases and 10,483 controls (**Supplementary Table 4**). Stage 3A was

conducted for variants selected as novel loci from meta-analyses of Stages 1 and 2 with $P < 5 \times 10^{-7}$ (9 variants) and variants that were previously significant ($P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) that were not genome-wide significant after Stages 1 and 2 (2 variants) (4,930 cases and 6,736 controls) (**Supplementary Table 5**). Stage 3B, which combined samples from Stage 2 and 3A, analysis was conducted for variants with $MAF < 0.05$ and $P < 1 \times 10^{-5}$ or variants with $MAF \geq 0.05$ and $P < 5 \times 10^{-6}$ from genome regions not covered on the Stage 2 custom array (13,292 cases and 17,219 controls) (**Supplementary Table 7**). For Stages 1, 2, and 3, samples did not overlap.

Stage 1 single variant-based association analysis was conducted on genotype dosages modeling for an additive genotype model and adjusting for age (defined as age-at-onset for cases and age-at-last exam for controls), sex and population substructure using PCs⁸. The score test was implemented on all case-control datasets. This test was shown to be optimal for meta-analysis of rare variants due to its balance between power and control of type 1 error⁹. Family datasets were tested using the R package GWAF¹⁰, with generalized estimating equations (GEE) implemented for common variants ($MAF \geq 0.01$), and a general linear mixed effects model (GLMM) implemented for rare variants ($MAF < 0.01$), per internal data showing behavior of test statistics for GEE was fine for common variants but inflated for rare variants, while GLMM controlled this rare variant inflation. Variants with regression coefficient $|\beta| > 5$ or P value equal to 0 or 1 were excluded from further analysis.

Within-study results for Stage 1 were meta-analyzed in METAL¹¹ using an inverse-variance based model with genomic control. The meta-analysis was split into two separate analyses based on the study sample size, with all studies being included in the analysis of common variants ($MAF \geq 0.01$), and only studies with a total sample size of 400 or greater being included in the rare variant ($MAF < 0.01$) analysis. We also conducted a second meta-analysis in METAL using a sample-size weighted meta-analysis model. Results of this model were compared to the inverse-variance weighted meta-analysis, and results that differed by more than 3 logs on both P -values were removed from further analysis. Regression coefficients for rare variants can at times be unstable¹², and this step attempted to control for these problematic variants by using a second method of meta-analysis that may be less sensitive to certain properties of rare variant analysis. In total, 11 variants were removed through this comparison, and most results showed very little difference in P -values between the two methods. An additional 106 variants with high heterogeneity between studies (defined as $I^2 > 75$) were removed. Figures for association signals were generated with LocusZoom software¹³. Genome-wide summary statistics are available from The National Institute on Aging Genetics of Alzheimer's Disease (NIAGADS) website

(<https://www.niagads.org/>). These analyses were conducted by two independent consortia (ADGC and EADI) and then cross-validated.

Stage 1 summary statistics quality control and analysis. Genomic inflation was calculated for lambda in the GenABEL package¹⁴. In addition, we performed linkage-disequilibrium score (LDSC) regression via LD Hub v1.9.0^{15,16} to calculate the LD-score-regression intercept and derive a heritability estimate for the inverse-variance weighted meta-analysis summary statistics. The *APOE* region (Chr19:45,116,911-46,318,605) was removed to calculate the intercept. Removal of the *APOE* region reduced the heritability estimate slightly from 0.071 (s.e. = 0.011) to 0.0637 (s.e. = 0.009).

LDSC was also employed via the LD-Hub web server to obtain genetic correlation estimates (rg)¹⁷ between LOAD and a wide range of other disorders, diseases, and human traits, including 518 UK BioBank traits¹⁸. UK BioBank is a large long-term study begun in 2006 in the United Kingdom (UK) which is investigating the contributions of genetic predisposition and environmental exposure (i.e. nutrition, lifestyle, medications) to the development of disease. Approximately 500,000 volunteers aged 40 to 69 have been enrolled in the study, with the stated goal of following their health indicators and exposures for 30 years or more after enrollment. While volunteers in the study are generally healthier than the overall UK population¹⁹, its large size and comprehensive data collection make the study an invaluable resource for researchers looking to interrogate the combined effect of genetics and environmental factors on disease. Prior to analyses in LD-Hub we removed all SNPs with extremely large effect sizes including the MHC (Chr6:26,000,000-34,000,000) and *APOE* region (Chr19:45,116,911-46,318,60) as outliers can overly influence the regression analyses. A total of 1,180,989 variants were used in the correlation analyses. Statistical significance of the genetic correlations was estimated using a 5% Benjamini-Hochberg false discovery rate (FDR)-corrected *P*-values.

GCTA²⁰ COJO was used to conduct conditional analysis of the Stage 1 summary statistics and using 28,730 unrelated individuals from the ADGC as a reference panel for calculation of linkage disequilibrium (LD). Methods for how the ADGC reference dataset was created are described elsewhere^{21,22}. LDLink²³ was used to assess LD, using all 5 CEU populations as the reference for calculations.

Stage 2 and 3 genotyping, quality control, and analysis. Datasets for Stage 2 analysis were obtained from previous genotyping from Lambert et al. 2013⁷ using Illumina iSelect technology. The I-select chip has a total of 11,632 single nucleotide variants passing quality control available

for analysis. 1,633 variants were located in the 24 genome-wide loci (defined by the LD-blocks of the sentinel variants; excluding the *APOE* region), with an average of 68 variants per locus. The most well covered loci were the *HLA-DQB1* locus (763 variants), *M24A2* locus (202 variants), and *PICALM* locus (156 variants); the least covered loci were the *MAF* locus (0 variant), *ADAMTS1* locus (4 variants), and the *INPP5D* locus (5 variants). Eleven variants from Stage 3A were genotyped using Taqman technology. Stage 3B included 23 variants included as part of Sequenom MassArray iPLEX panels and 10 additional variants genotyped using Taqman technology.

Per sample quality checks for genetic sex and relatedness were performed in PLINK. Individuals not matching their reported sex or showing a high degree of relatedness (IBD value of 0.98 or greater) were removed from the analysis. A panel of ancestry-informative markers (AIMs), was used to perform PCA analysis with SMARTPCA from EIGENSOFT 4.2 software²⁴, and individuals with non-European ancestry were excluded. Variant quality control was also performed separately in each country including removal of variants missing in more than 10% of individuals, having a Hardy-Weinberg P value in controls lower than 1×10^{-6} , or a P value for missingness between cases and controls lower than 1×10^{-6} . Please see Lambert et al. for a more detailed description of the QC procedures followed in Stage 2 analysis. After quality control, 18,845 individuals (8,362 cases and 10,483 controls) were available for the stage 2 analysis. The same quality control measures were applied to data for the Stage 3B variants attained from follow-up genotyping.

Selection of variants for Stage 3B follow-up genotyping. In order to prioritize variants for genotyping in Stage 3B, we first selected all MAF < 0.05 variants with $P < 1 \times 10^{-5}$ or MAF ≥ 0.05 variants with $P < 5 \times 10^{-6}$ in novel loci not covered in the iSelect genotyping from Stage 2 of Lambert et al.⁷ A total of 180 variants were considered for follow up due to meeting the *P*-value criteria and not being in an IGAP 2013 locus. 88 of these variants were in a region covered in the replication genotyping chip from 2013 and thus were removed from further consideration. 33 loci remained after their removal, with 19 loci having only one prioritized variant, which we selected for genotyping. Remaining variants in 14 regions with multiple prioritized variants were then annotated with GWAVA²⁵ and CADD²⁶ scores (using ANNOVAR²⁷), Ensembl Variant Effect Predictor (VEP) Consequences (using Ensembl VEP²⁸), GWAS4D²⁹, RegulomeDB³⁰, and FANTOM5³¹ (using NIAGADS GenomicsDB) in order to rank their functional potential. A CADD score > 10, GWAVA score > 0.5, FATHHM > 0.5, RegulomeDB score < 5 and GWAS4D top p-value score were considered 'functional' in the ranking. The top ranked variant for functional

potential for each locus with multiple variants was selected for further genotyping and analysis. Removal of 59 variants in regions with multiple variants left 33 total variants for follow-up genotyping.

Stage 2 and 3 analyses. Per study analysis for Stage 2 and Stage 3 followed the same analysis procedures described for Stage 1, except covariate adjustments per cohort, where all analyses were adjusted on sex and age apart from the Italian, Swedish, and Gr@ACE cohorts, which were also adjusted for PCs. Within-study results for were meta-analyzed in METAL¹¹ using an inverse-variance based model.

Characterization of gene(s) and non-coding features in associated loci. We determined the basepair (bp) boundaries of the search space for potential gene(s) and non-coding features in each of the 24 associated loci (excluding *APOE*) using the ‘proxy search’ mechanism in LDLink²³. LDLink uses 1000 genomes genotypes to calculate LD for a selected population; in our case all five European population were selected (CEU, TSI, FIN, GBR, and IBS). The boundaries for all variants in LD ($r^2 \geq 0.5$) with the top associated variant from the stage 2 meta-analysis for each region $\pm 500\text{kb}$ of the ends of the LD blocks (as expression quantitative trait loci (eQTL) controlled genes are typically less than 500kb from their controlling variant³²) were input into the UCSC genome browser’s ‘Table Browser’ for RefSeq³³ and GENCODEv24³⁴ genes at each associated locus. The average size of the LD blocks was 123kb.

Identification of potentially causal coding or splicing variants. To identify deleterious coding or splicing variants that may represent causal variants for our genome-wide loci we first used SNIPA³⁵ to identify variants in high LD (defined as $r^2 > 0.7$) with the sentinel variants of the 24 genome-wide loci (excluding *APOE*) ($N=1,073$). The sentinel variants were defined as the variant with the lowest *P* in each genome-wide locus. We then used Ensembl VEP³⁶ for annotation of the set of sentinel variants and their proxies. We used BLOSUM62³⁷, SIFT³⁸, Polyphen-2³⁹, CADD²⁶, Condel⁴⁰, MPC⁴¹, and Eigen⁴² to predict the pathogenicity of protein-altering exonic variants and MaxEntScan to predict the splicing potential of variants. Splicing variants with high splicing potential according to MaxEntScan⁴³ and protein coding variants predicted to be deleterious by two or more programs were considered to be potentially causal variants for a locus. It should be noted that while we do include rare variants from imputation in our analyses, we may be missing many rare causal variants in this study.

Identification of genes with rare-variant burden via gene-based testing. We used the summary statistics results of a large whole-exome sequencing (WES) study of LOAD, the

Alzheimer's Disease Sequencing Project (ADSP) case-control study (N = 5,740 LOAD cases and 5,096 cognitively normal controls of NHW ancestry) to identify genes within our genome-wide loci that may contribute to the association signal through rare deleterious coding, splicing or loss-of-function (LOF) variants. The individuals in the ADSP study largely overlap with individuals in the ADGC and CHARGE cohorts included in our Stage 1 meta-analysis. All 445 protein coding genes within our LD defined genome-wide loci were annotated with the gene-based results from this study. Complete details of the analysis can be found in Bis et al. 2018⁴⁴. Briefly, SKAT-O gene-based testing was implemented with seqMeta⁴⁵ using multiple models of adjustment (model 0: PC and sequencing center adjusted; model 1: age, sex, PC and sequencing center adjusted; model 2: age, sex, PC, *APOE* and sequencing center adjusted). Only rare (MAF < 0.05), predicted functional and LOF variants were included in the analyses which employed Ensembl VEP consequence categories (high and moderate) and CADD annotation for filtering of variants for inclusion in the SKAT-O analyses. Four annotation models were considered: 1) only rare variants with "HIGH" (splicing or LOF variants) or "MODERATE" (inframe insertions/deletions, missense variants, and predicted protein altering variants) VEP consequences, 2) only rare variants with "HIGH" VEP consequences, 3) only rare variants with CADD Phred scores > 15 (the median value for all possible canonical splice site changes and non-synonymous variants), and 4) only rare variants with CADD Phred scores > 20. The CADD "Phred-scaled" score is obtained from a ranking of all ~8.6 billion variants from the GRCh37/hg19 reference in terms of magnitude and then transforming these ranks to Phred scores, allowing for example a cutoff of the top 0.1% predicted deleterious variants, which is equivalent to our CADD Phred > 20 cutoff. We corrected the results of these models for the 455 genome-wide loci gene list results using a 1% FDR P as a cutoff for significance.

Regulatory variant and eQTL analysis. To identify potential functional risk variants and genes at each associated locus we first annotated a list of prioritized variants from the 24 associated loci (excluding *APOE*) (N=1,873). This variant list combined variant in LD with the sentinel variants ($r^2 \geq 0.5$) using INFERNO⁴⁶ LD-expansion (N=1,339) and variants with suggestive significance ($P < 10^{-5}$) and LD ($r^2 \geq 0.5$) with the sentinel variants for the 24 associated loci (excluding *APOE*) (N=1,421 variants). We then identified variants with regulatory potential in this set of variants using four programs that incorporate various annotations to identify likely regulatory variants: RegulomeDB³⁰, HaploReg v4.1^{47,48}, GWAS4D²⁹, and the Ensembl Regulatory Build⁴⁹. We used the ChromHMM (Core 15-state model) as "source epigenomes" for the HaploReg analyses. We used immune (Monocytes-CD14+, GM12878 lymphoblastoid, HSMM myoblast) and brain (NH-A astrocytes) for the Ensembl Regulatory Build analyses. We then used the list of 1,873 prioritized

variants to search for genes functionally linked via eQTLs in LOAD relevant tissues including various brain tissue types and blood tissue types, including all immune-related cell types, most specifically myeloid cells (macrophages and monocytes) and B-lymphoid cells, cell types implicated in LOAD and neurodegeneration by a number of recent studies⁵⁰⁻⁵³. While their specificity may be lower for identifying AD risk eQTLs, we included whole blood cell studies in our AD relevant tissue class due to their high correlation of eQTLs with AD relevant tissues (70% with brain⁵⁴; 51-70% for monocytes and lymphoblastoid cell lines (LCL) respectively⁵⁵) and their large sample sizes which allow for increased discovery power. The eQTL databases and studies searched included: BRAINEAC⁵⁶ (12 brain regions), GTEx v7 (48 tissues)⁵⁷, BIOSQTL⁵⁸, CommonMind Consortium (dorsolateral prefrontal cortex)⁵⁹, and xQTLServer⁶⁰ (all via FUMA⁶¹); the NESDA NTR Conditional eQTL Catalog (whole blood)⁶²; and Fairfax et al. 2012 (monocytes and B Cells)⁶³, Gibbs et al. 2010 (frontal cortex, pons)⁶⁴, Lappalainen et al. 2013 (LCL)⁶⁵, Montgomery et al. 2010 (LCL)⁶⁶, MuTHER (Adipose, LCL, skin)⁶⁷, and Zeller et al. 2010 (monocytes)⁶⁸ (all via exSNP⁶⁹). An additional eQTL overlap search was conducted with INFERNO⁴⁶, where 44 GTEx v6 tissues were searched, with prioritization on the INFERNO tissue classes of brain and blood (see **Supplementary Table 13 for sample sizes of each database/study**).

Formal co-localization testing of our summary Stage 1 results was also conducted using 1) COLOC⁷⁰ via INFERNO, and 2) Summary Mendelian Randomization (SMR)-Heidi analysis⁷¹. The approximate bayes factor (ABF), which was used to assess significance in the INFERNO COLOC analysis, is a summary measure that provides an alternative to the P-value for the identification of associations as significant. SMR)-Heidi analysis, which employs a heterogeneity test (HEIDI test) to distinguish pleiotropy or causality (a single genetic variant affecting both gene expression and the trait) from linkage (two distinct genetic variants in LD, one affecting gene expression and one affecting trait), was also employed for co-localization analysis. Genes located less than 1Mb of the GWAS sentinel variants that pass a 5% Benjamini-Hochberg FDR-corrected p-SMR significance threshold and a p-HEIDI > 0.05 threshold were considered significant. The Westra eQTL⁷² summary data and Consortium for the Architecture of Gene Expression (CAGE) eQTL summary data was used for analysis. These datasets, conducted in whole blood, are the largest eQTL studies conducted to date (Westra: discovery phase N = 5,311, replication phase N = 2,775; CAGE: N = 2,765), and while there is some overlap in samples between the two datasets, CAGE provides finer coverage. Recent studies have shown significant overlap (50-70%) between brain and blood eQTL's⁵⁴. The ADGC reference panel dataset referenced above for GCTA COJO analysis was used for LD calculations.

Human brain gene expression analyses. We also evaluated gene expression of all candidate genes in the associated loci, defined as all genes within $\pm 500\text{kb}$ of the sentinel variant LD regions ($r^2 \geq 0.5$) (see **Supplementary Table 8** for a complete list of genes searched), using differential AD gene expression results from AlzBase⁷³, brain tissue expression from the Brain-RNAseq Database (<http://www.brainrnaseq.org/>^{74,75}), and the HuMi_Aged gene set⁷⁶, a set of genes preferentially expressed in aged human brain by microglia. This set of genes was established through RNAseq expression analysis of aged human microglial cells from 10 post-mortem brains, and is enriched for AD genes ($P = 4.1 \times 10^{-5}$)⁷⁶. AlzBase includes transcription data from brain and blood from aging, non-dementia, mild cognitive impairment, early stage AD and late stage AD. Please see ALZBase (<http://alz.big.ac.cn/alzBase/Document>) for a complete list of studies included in the search. Correlation values for the BRAAK stage expression were taken from the Zhang et al. 2013⁷⁷ study of 1,647 post-mortem brain tissues from LOAD patients and nondemented subjects.

Pathway Analysis. Pathway analyses were performed with MAGMA⁷⁸, which performs SNP-wise gene analysis of summary statistics with correction for LD between variants and genes to test whether sets of genes are jointly associated with a phenotype (i.e. LOAD), compared to other genes across the genome. Adaptive permutation was used to produce an empirical p-value and a FDR-corrected q-value. Gene-sets used in the analyses were from GO^{79,80}, KEGG^{81,82}, REACTOME^{83,84}, BIOCARTA, and MGI⁸⁵ pathways. Analyses were restricted to gene sets containing between 10 and 500 genes, a total of 10,861 sets. Variants were restricted to common variants ($\text{MAF} \geq 0.01$) and rare variants ($\text{MAF} < 0.01$) only for each analysis, and separate analyses for each model included and excluded the *APOE* region (Chr19:45,116,911-46,318,605). Analyses were also performed after removal of all genome-wide significant genes. Primary analyses used a 35-kb upstream/10-kb downstream window around each gene in order to potential regulatory variants for each gene, while secondary analyses was run using a 0-kb window⁸⁶. To test for significant correlation between common and rare variant gene results we performed a gene property analysis in MAGMA, regressing the gene-wide association statistics from rare variants on the corresponding statistics from common variants, correcting for LD between variants and genes using the ADGC reference panel. The A β -centered network pathway analysis used a curated list of A β processing related genes from Campion et al.⁸⁷ Thirty-two A β -related gene sets and all 335 genes combined (see Campion et al.⁸⁷ for details) were run in MAGMA pathway analysis on both common ($\text{MAF} \geq 0.01$) and rare ($\text{MAF} < 0.01$) variant summary results. The combined dataset of 28,730 unrelated individuals from the ADGC referenced in the GCTA COJO analysis were used as a reference set for LD calculations in these analyses.

Validation of prioritization method. Evaluation of the prioritization of the risk genes in genome-wide loci was done using STRING⁸⁸, and Jensen Diseases⁸⁹, Jensen Tissues⁹⁰, dbGAP gene sets and the ARCHS4⁹¹ resource via the EnrichR⁹² tool. We evaluated both the 400 genes set list and a list of 53 genes with priority score ≥ 5 (adding in *APOE* to both lists as the top gene in the *APOE* locus) using the standard settings for both STRING and EnrichR. We use q-value, which is the adjusted p-value using the Benjamini-Hochberg FDR method with a 5% cutoff for correction for multiple hypotheses testing. We also performed 'differentially expressed gene (DEG)' sets analysis via FUMA⁶¹. These analyses were performed in order to assess whether our 53 prioritized genes are significantly differentially expressed in certain GTEx v7⁵⁷ (30 general tissues and 53 specific tissues) or BrainSpan tissues (11 tissue developmental periods with distinct DEG sets ranging from early prenatal to middle adulthood)⁹³. FUMA defines DEG sets by calculating a two-sided t-test per tissue versus all remaining tissue types or developmental periods. Genes with a Bonferonni corrected p-value < 0.05 and absolute log fold change ≥ 0.58) are considered DEGs. Input genes were tested against each of the DEG sets using the hypergeometric test. Significant enrichment is defined by Bonferonni corrected P-value ≤ 0.05 .

HLA region analysis. Non-familial datasets from ADGC, EADI and GERAD consortiums were used for HLA analysis. After quality control on the imputation quality, a total of 14,776 cases and 23,047 controls were available for analysis (**Supplementary Table 27**). Within ADGC, GenADA, ROSMAP, TARC1, TGEN2, and a subset of UMCWRMSSM datasets were not imputed as Affymetrix genotyping arrays are not supported by the imputation software.

Imputation of HLA alleles. Two-fields resolution HLA alleles were imputed using the R package HIBAG v1.4⁹⁴ and the non-Hispanic White (NHW)-specific training set. This software uses specific combinations of variants to predict HLA alleles. Alleles with an imputation posterior probability lower than 0.5 were considered as undetermined as recommended by the developers of the imputation package. *HLA-A*, *HLA-B*, *HLA-C* class I genes and *HLA-DPB1*, *HLA-DQA1*, *HLA-DQB1*, *HLA-DRB1* class II genes were imputed. Individuals with more than two undetermined HLA alleles were excluded.

Statistical analysis. All analyses were performed in R⁹⁵. Associations of HLA alleles with disease were tested using logistic regressions, adjusting for age, sex and PCs as specified above for the SNP association analysis. Only HLA alleles with a frequency higher than 1% were analyzed. Haplotype estimations and association analyses with disease were performed using 'haplo.glm' function from the haplo.stats R package⁹⁶ with age, sex and PCs as covariates. Analysis was performed on 2-loci and 3-loci haplotypes of *HLA-DQA1*, *HLA-DQB1* and *HLA-DRB1* genes.

Haplotypes with a frequency below 1% were excluded from the analysis. Considering the high LD in the MHC region, only haplotypes predicted with a posterior probabilities higher than 0.2 were considered for analysis. Meta-analysis p-values were computed using an inverse variance based model as implemented in METAL software¹¹. For haplotypes analysis, only individuals with no undetermined HLA alleles and only datasets with more than 100 cases or controls were included. Adjustments on HLA significant variants and HLA alleles were performed by introducing the variant or alleles as covariates in the regression models. Adjusted p-values were computed using the FDR method and the R 'p.adjust' function, and applied to the meta-analysis p-values. FDR threshold was set to 10%.

Data Availability

Stage 1 data (individual level) for the GERAD cohort can be accessed by applying directly to Cardiff University. Stage 1 ADGC data are deposited in a NIAGADS- and NIA/NIH-sanctioned qualified-access data repository. Stage 1 CHARGE data are accessible by applying to dbGaP for all US cohorts and to Erasmus University for Rotterdam data. AGES primary data are not available owing to Icelandic laws. Genome-wide summary statistics for the Stage 1 discovery are available from The National Institute on Aging Genetics of Alzheimer's Disease (NIAGADS) website (<https://www.niagads.org/>). Stage 2 and stage 3 primary data are available upon request.

URLs:

Brain RNA-seq Database: <http://www.brainrnaseq.org/>

Enrichr: <http://amp.pharm.mssm.edu/Enrichr/>

exSNP: <http://www.exsnp.org/>

NESDA eQTL catalog: <https://eqtl.onderzoek.io/index.php?page=info>

FUMA: <http://fuma.ctglab.nl/>

HLA-PheWas Catalog: <https://phewascatalog.org/hla>

INFERNO: <http://inferno.lisanwanglab.org/index.php>

LD-Hub: <http://ldsc.broadinstitute.org/ldhub/>

STRING: <https://string-db.org/>

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