

GWASs

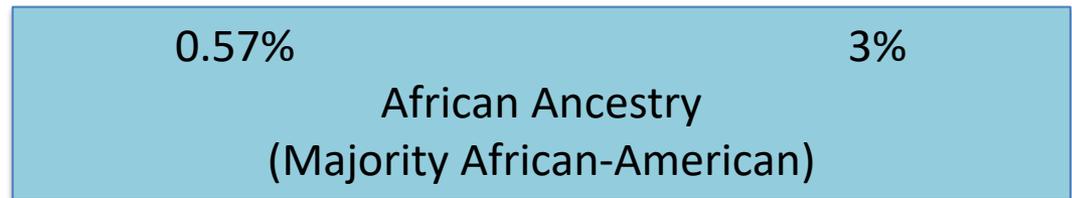
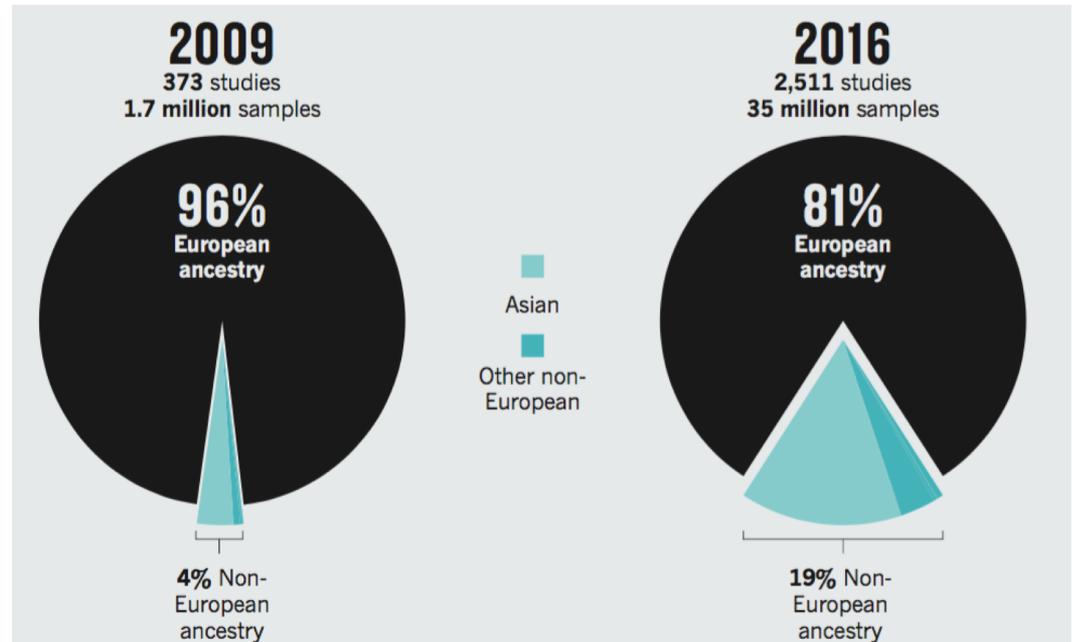
Genome-wide Association
Studies

Paucity of non-European data in the field of genomics



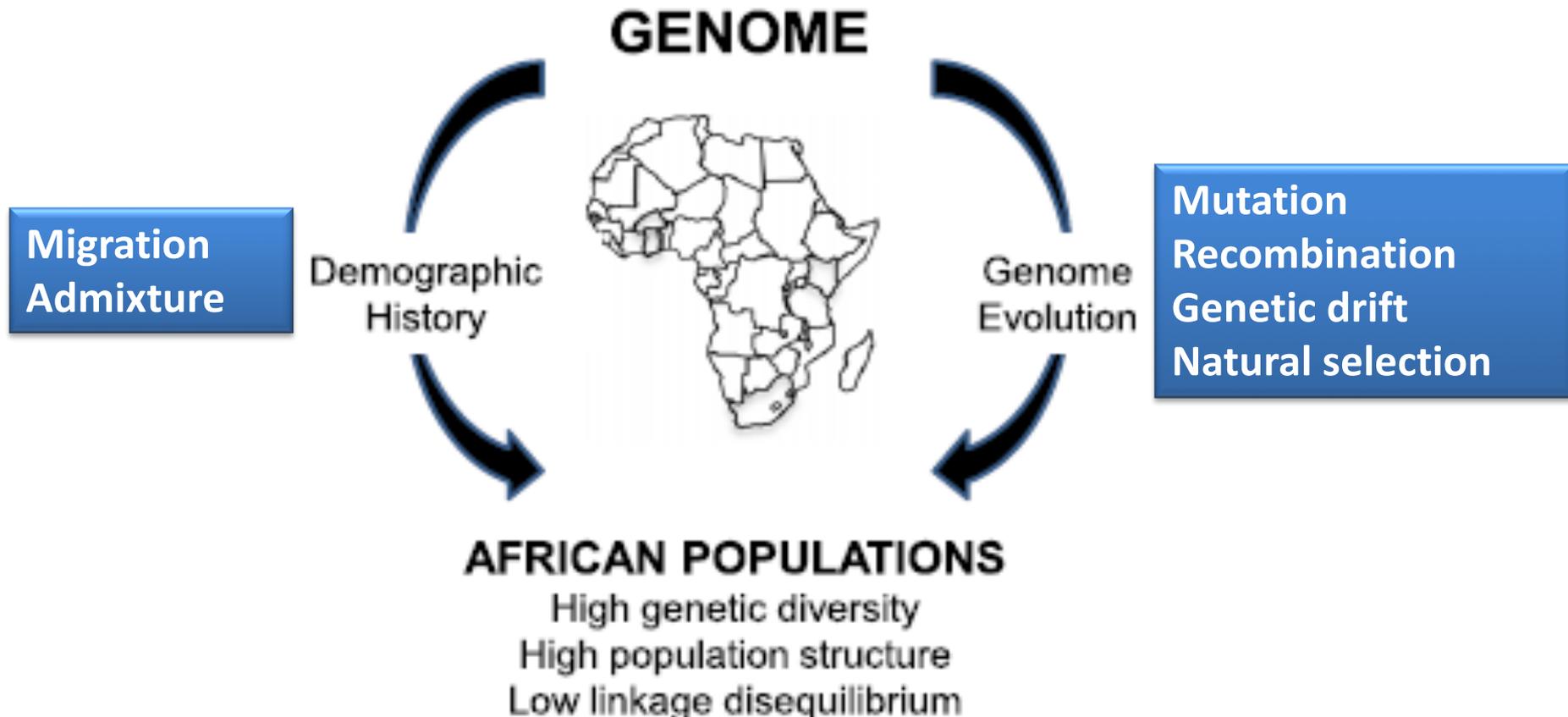
Certain drugs may be less effective, or even unsafe, in some populations because of genetic differences.

Genomics is failing on diversity



Popejoy and Fullerton.
Nature 538:161, Oct 2016

Shaping population genetic diversity

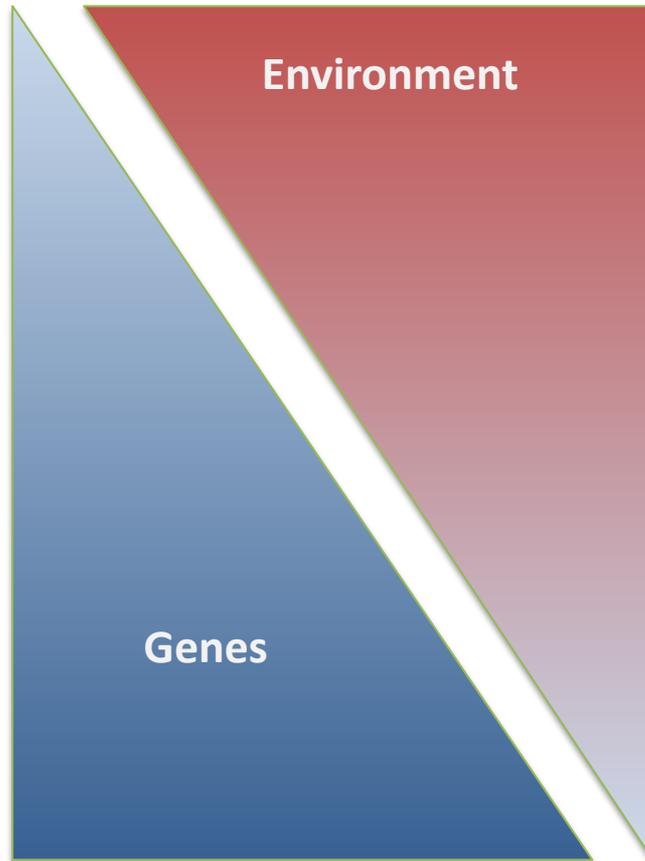


Genetic variation contributes to susceptibility for complex traits and to the ability of a populations to adapt to a changing environment

Outline

- Complex traits
- GWAS principles
- Study designs
 - Calculating power
 - Considering population substructure
- African genome structure
- Replication
- Examples

Relative Contributions



Infectious disease (e.g. HIV and TB)

Obesity

Type 2 diabetes

Monogenic diseases (e.g. cystic fibrosis,
familial hypercholesterolaemia)

Searching for genetic associations with complex traits

- Conditions that require both a **genetic risk** and **specific environmental triggers** before they manifest
- Complex traits are also referred to as multifactorial traits, non-communicable diseases (NCD), chronic diseases
 - Examples: diabetes, stroke, asthma, kidney disease
 - Difficult to estimate heritability (genetic contribution to trait)
- Determining genetic risk for a complex trait

GWAS PRINCIPLES

Genome wide association studies (GWASs)

Purpose: To identify genetic associations to complex traits by using **genetic markers** throughout the genome



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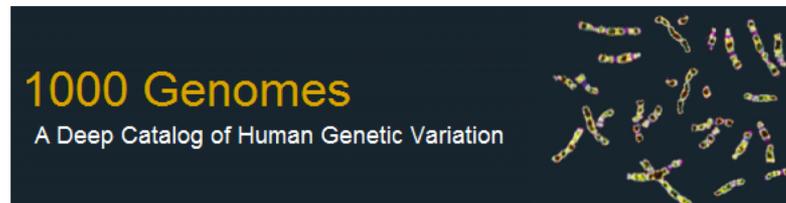


Understanding patterns of human genome sequence variation

HapMap



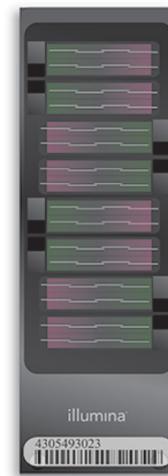
1000 Genomes



High throughput genotyping technologies

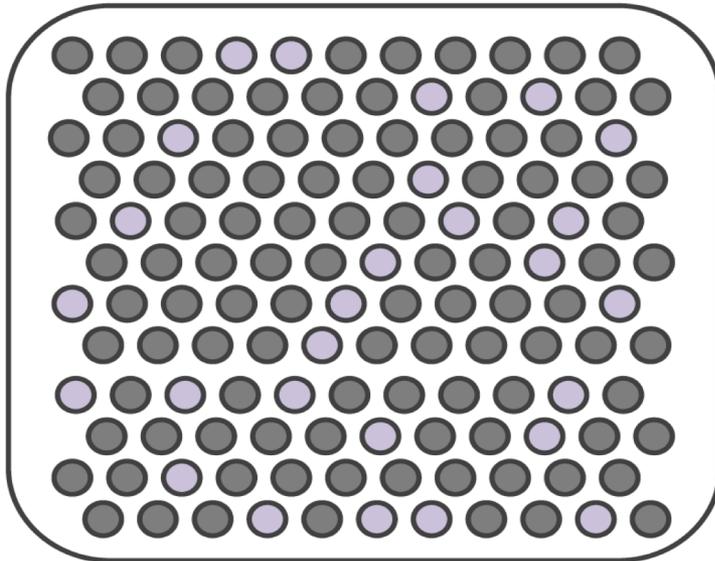
Illumina

Affymetrix



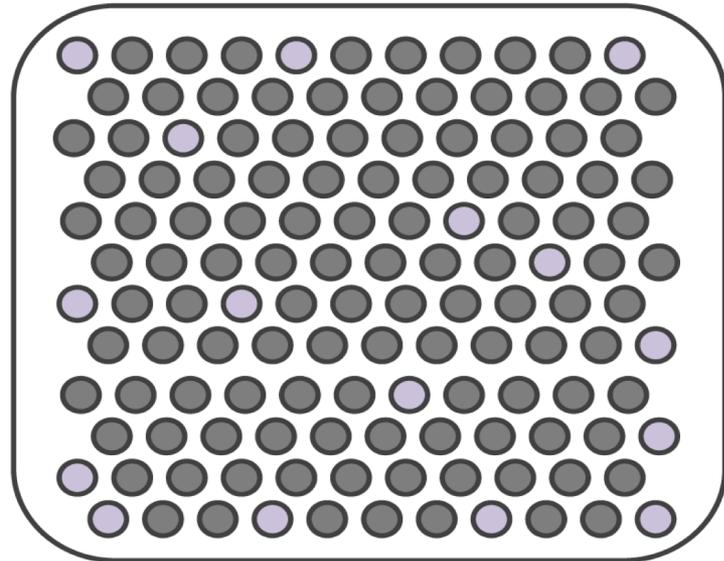
Association between genetic variants and disease

Cases



Variant allele frequency 25%

Controls



Variant allele frequency 15%

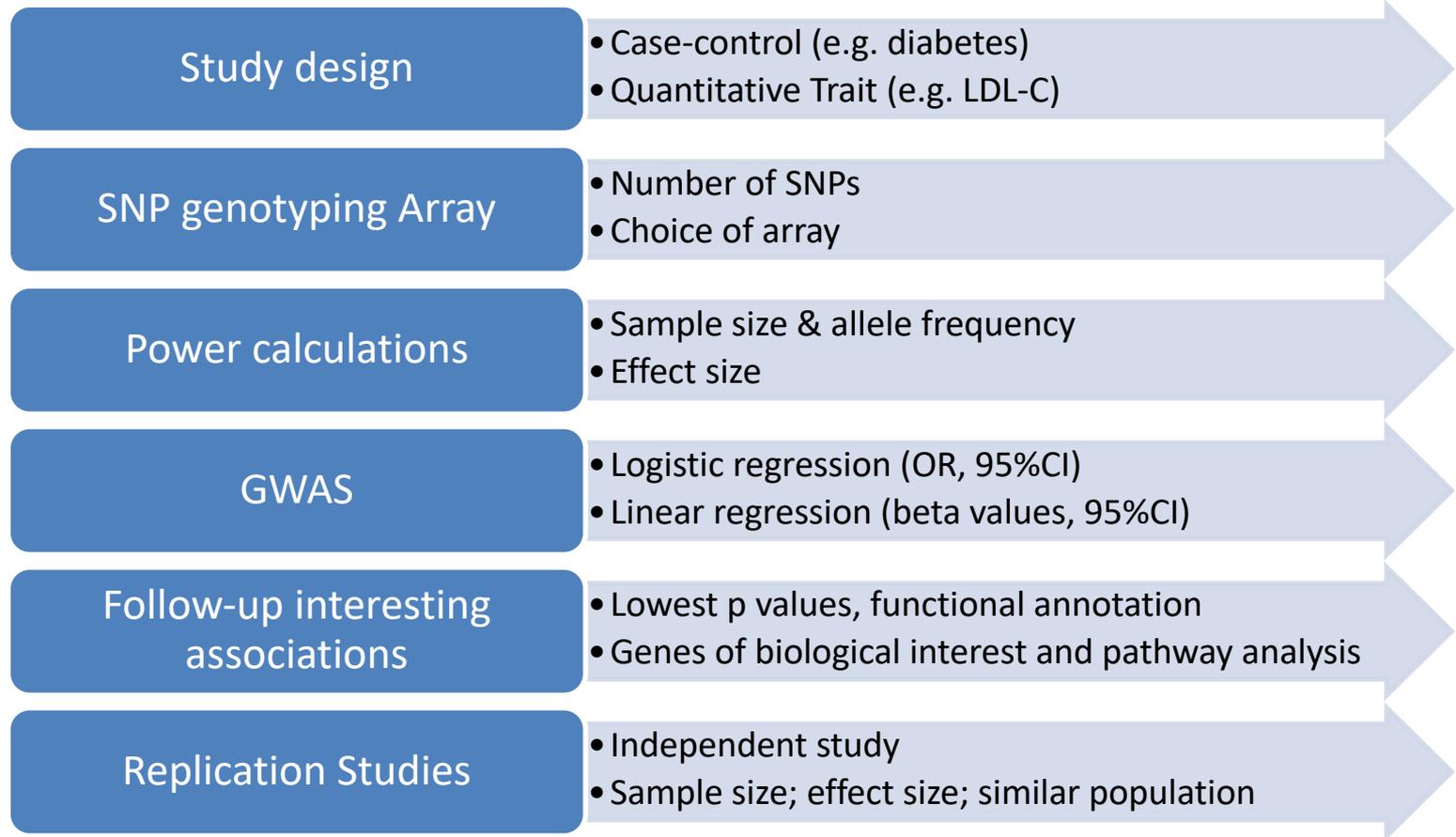
Allelic association – single SNV

Genotype association – Model for mode of inheritance in terms of the genotype effect (recessive, dominant, codominant, multiplicative)

GWAS by Linkage Disequilibrium

Stage of analysis	European pops	African pops
Detecting association	High LD increases chance of detecting associations	Low LD reduces likelihood
Replicating association	Good chance of replicating even if causal variant not typed	Reduced likelihood unless causal variant directly typed
Localising causal variant	Can be difficult because of high LD	May be easier because of low LD

GWAS workflow



GWAS Catalogue

The NHGRI-EBI Catalogue of published genome-wide association studies

2018 Apr

Associations: 69,885

Studies: 5,152

Papers: 3,378



www.ebi.ac.uk/gwas

As of 2018-05-29, the GWAS Catalogue contains 3395 publications and 62156 unique SNP-trait associations. GWAS Catalogue data is currently mapped to Genome Assembly GRCh38.p12 and dbSNP Build 150.

STUDY DESIGN

GWAS

- Usually non-hypothesis based (exploratory research)
- Examine genetic **associations** (genetic markers e.g. SNPs throughout the genome) **with a phenotype**
- Look for highly significant associations (multiple testing problem)
- Associations seldom causal factors (in linkage disequilibrium – they segregate together) (direct vs indirect association)
- Sample size:
 - **Small:** Will miss important genetic determinants that have a minor effect on the phenotype
 - **Large:** Will be powered to detect small effects

Study designs

- **Quantitative traits:** Association across a continuous phenotype spectrum (e.g. Height, lipid levels, blood pressure)
 - Effect measured as a beta value
- **Case-Control studies:** Groups of individuals dichotomised. Cases vs Controls (e.g. Diabetes, hypertension). Need discrete cut off points for cases.
 - Effect measured as an Odds Ratio (OR) e.g. for allelic association
 - OR=1 no effect
 - OR=1.1 small effect
 - OR=2 larger effect
 - OR<1 variant lowers risk

Genetic architecture of complex traits

- Percentage of phenotype variation explained by genetic susceptibility
- Variant frequency
 - Common variants
 - Rare variants
- Linkage disequilibrium
 - Direct or indirect association
- Contribution to the trait
 - Small effects (many contributing variants)
 - Large (fewer contributing variants each explaining more of the phenotype)
 - Combination of a few core high effect variants and many small effect variants

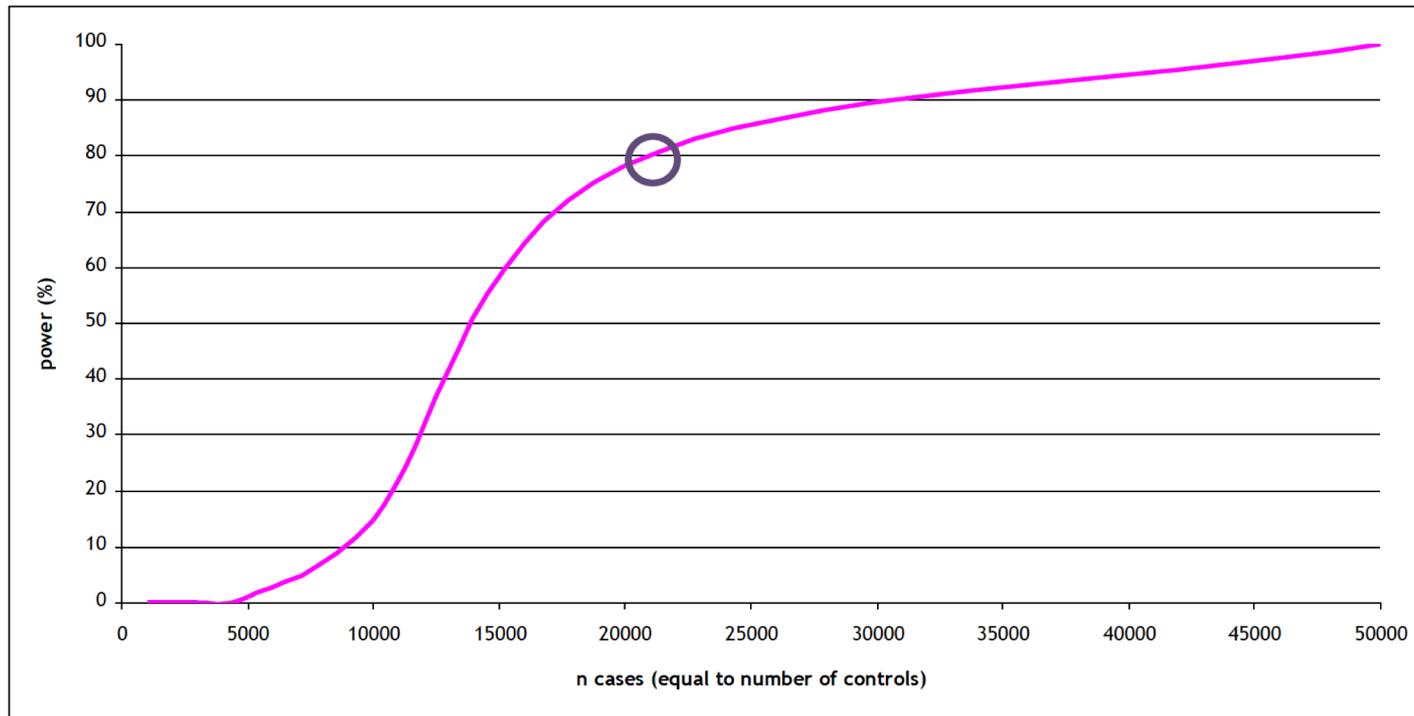
Calculating the power of a GWAS

- Power: The statistical likelihood (probability) of detecting genuine associations
- Several factors influence power
 - **Sample size**
 - **Effect size (Odds ratio for case-control studies)**
 - **Allele frequency**
- You would like your study to be at least 80% powered to detect an association

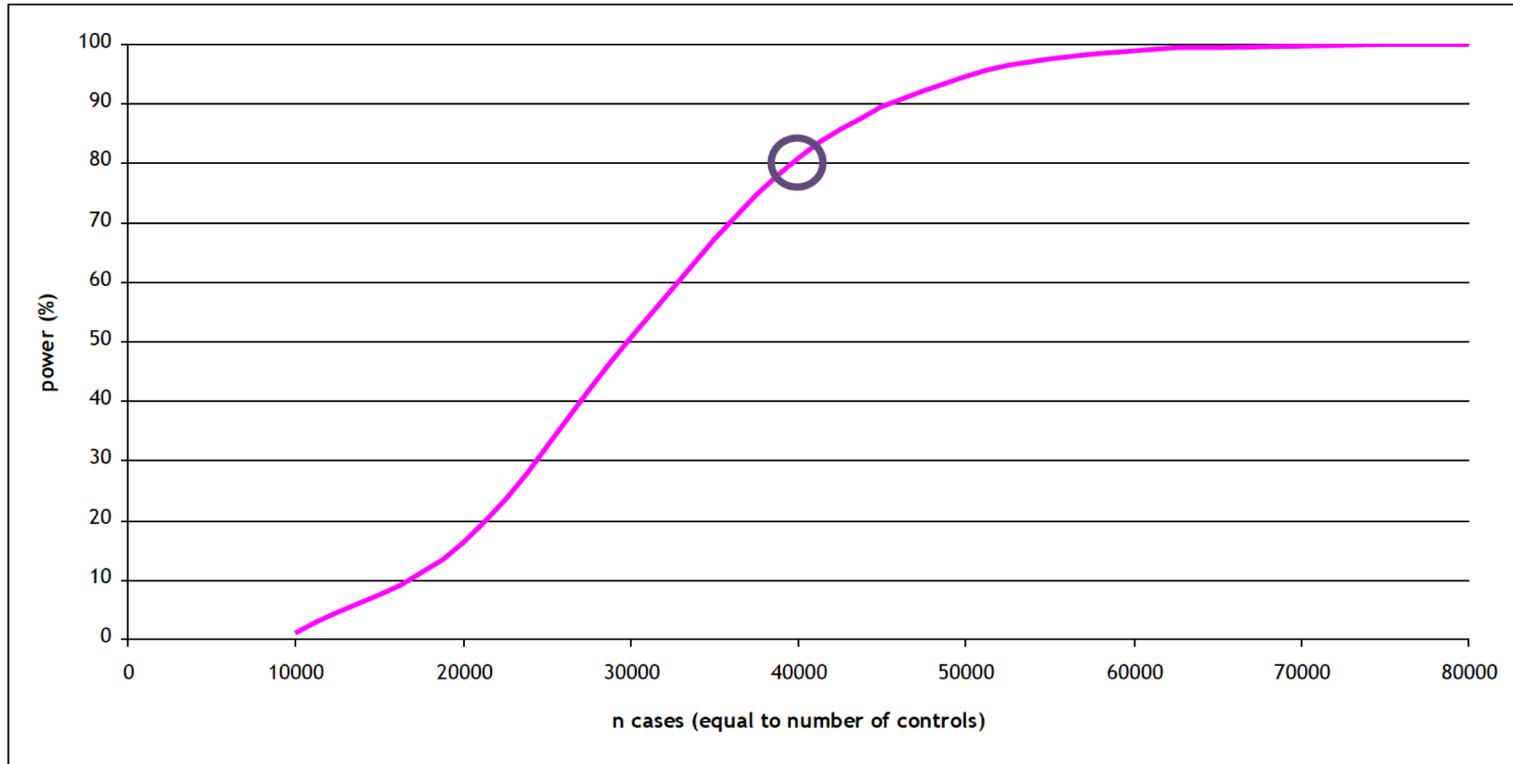
Power: Case – Control Study

Sample size matters

Power to detect association ($p=5 \times 10^{-8}$) at a variant with risk allele frequency 0.30 and allelic OR 1.10



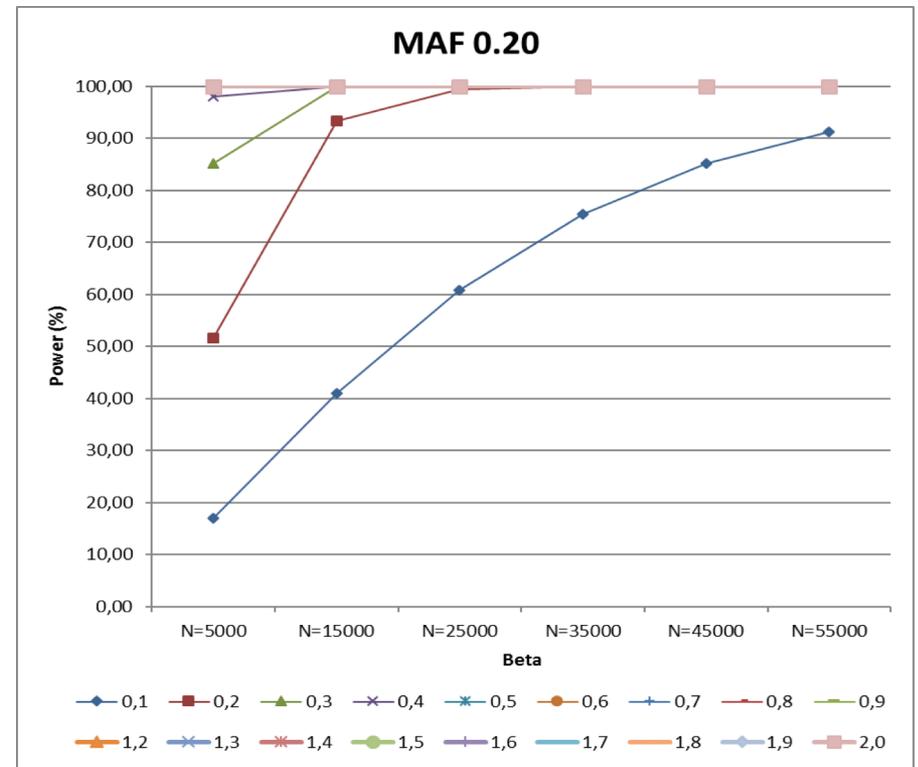
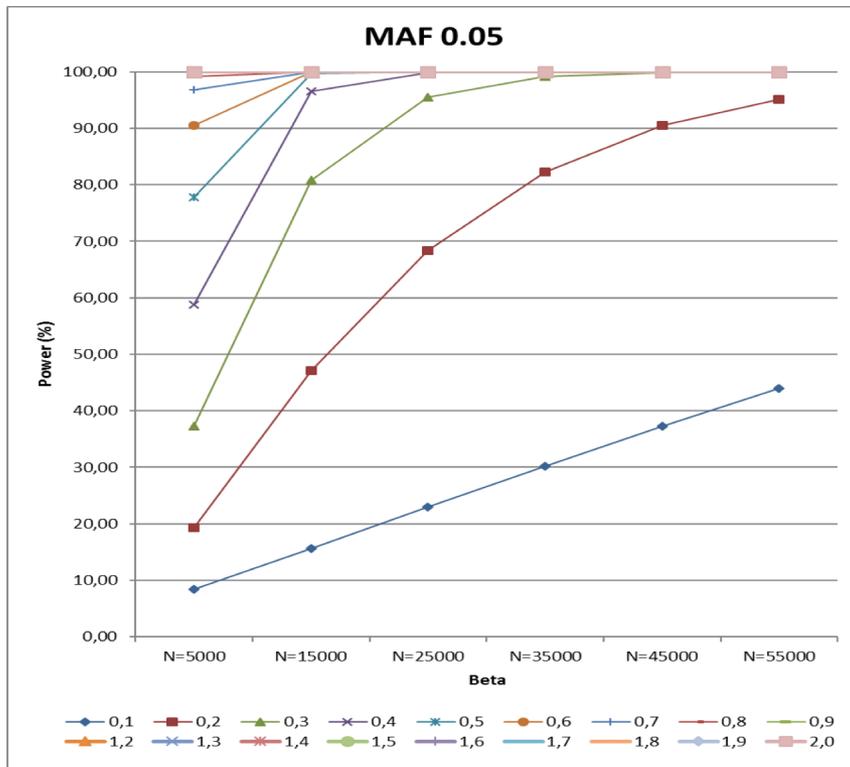
Power to detect association ($p=5 \times 10^{-8}$) at a variant with risk allele frequency 0.005 and allelic OR 1.50



Study Power - Quantitative Traits

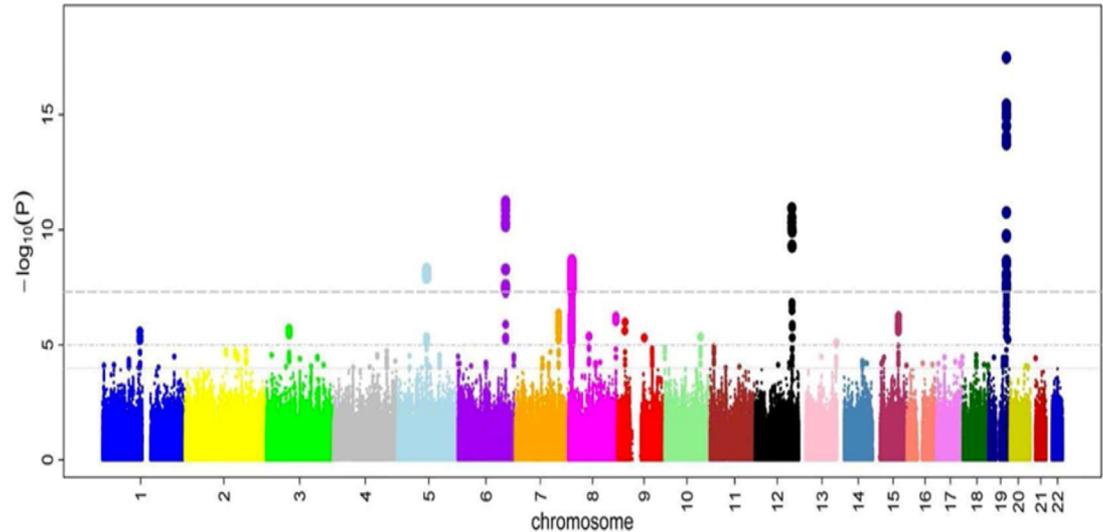
Important factors:

1. Sample size
2. Allele frequency and
3. Effect size

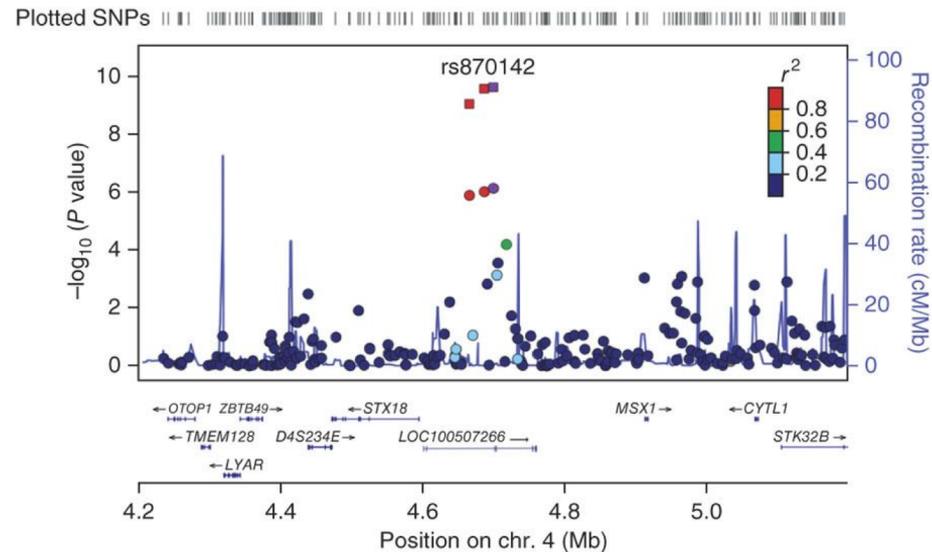


Visualisation of GWAS outcomes

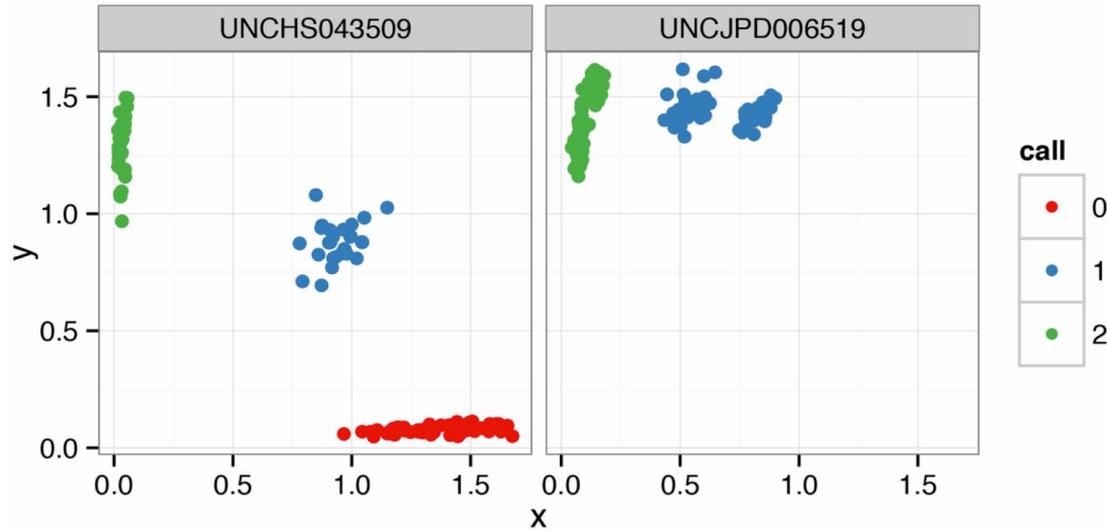
- Manhattan Plots



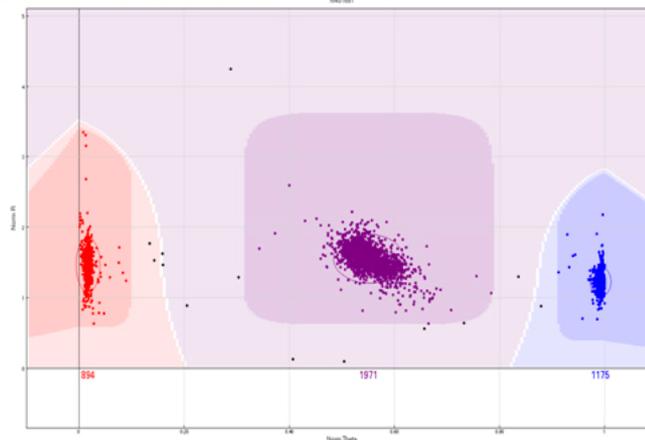
- Locus zoom plots



Ensure that associated variant has good genotype clustering (Illumina)



rs401681 – Illumina 550K



What expectations could we have?

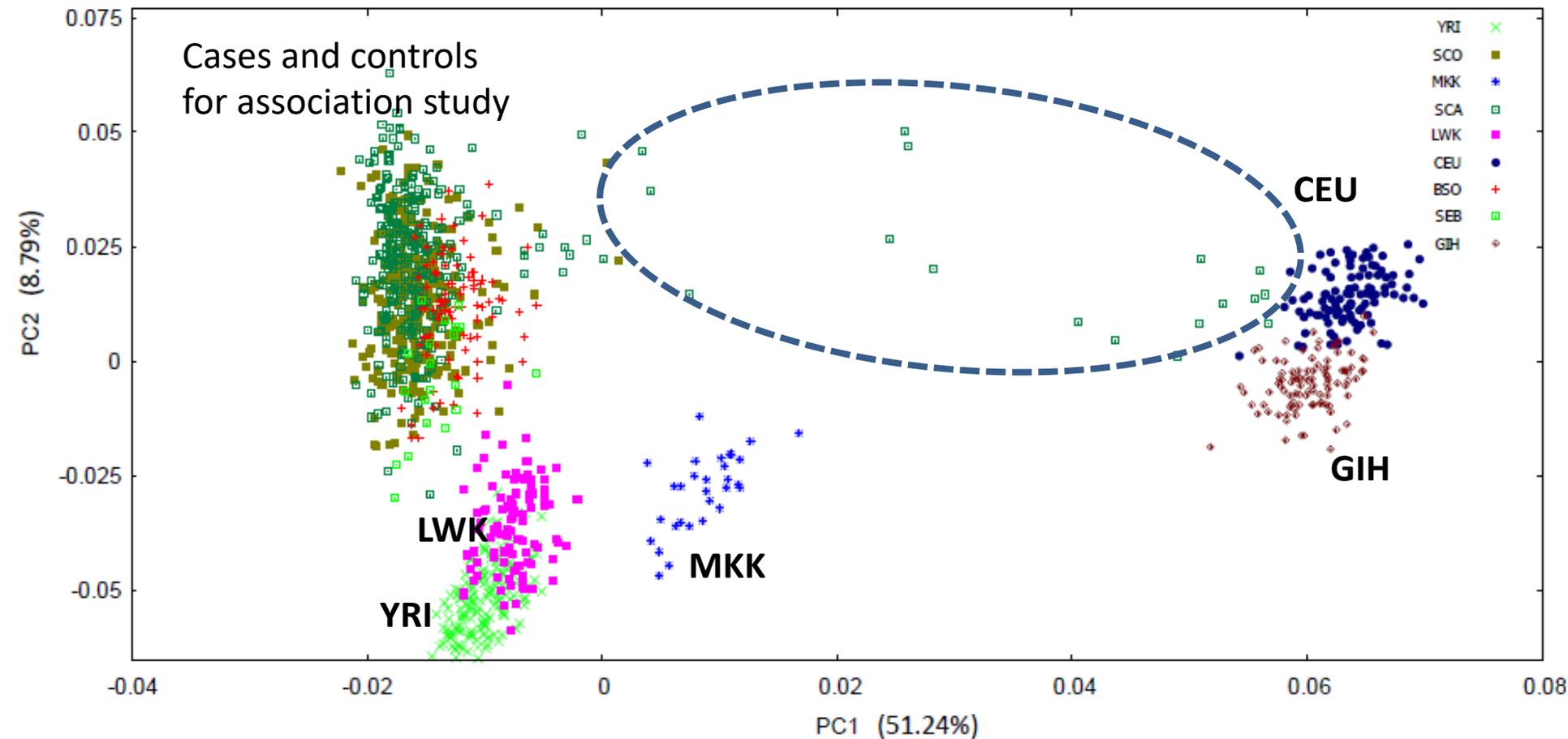
- With modest sample size we can examine previous associations and test for similar effects
- With modest sample size we can detect novel large effect associations
- With large sample sizes we can discover novel modest to small effect associations
- Need to explore insights into the biology and impact that African studies can bring to science

AFRICAN GENOME STRUCTURE

How do we take into consideration ethnic differences in genetic association studies and why does it matter?

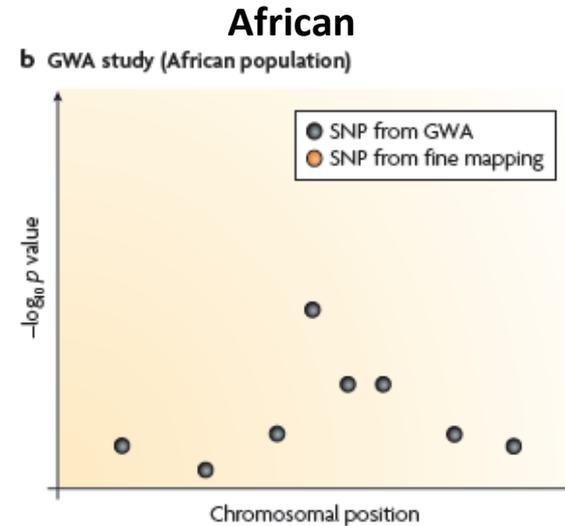
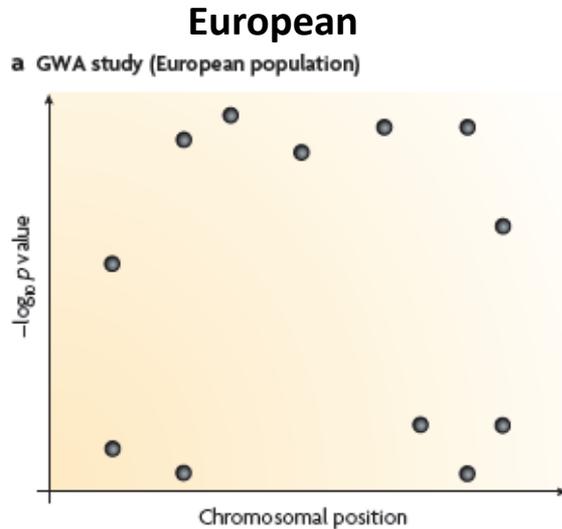
- Population stratification
- Same SNPs can have different effect sizes in different populations (or associate in one, but not another population)
- Most GWAS arrays have more common SNPs for European populations (H3Africa array more African appropriate)
- High false discovery rate if you do not correct for population structure
- Different chromosomal backgrounds in a study population can influence ability to detect associations
- Imputation is a handy tool to extend data
- Advantages to studying African populations

Population stratification



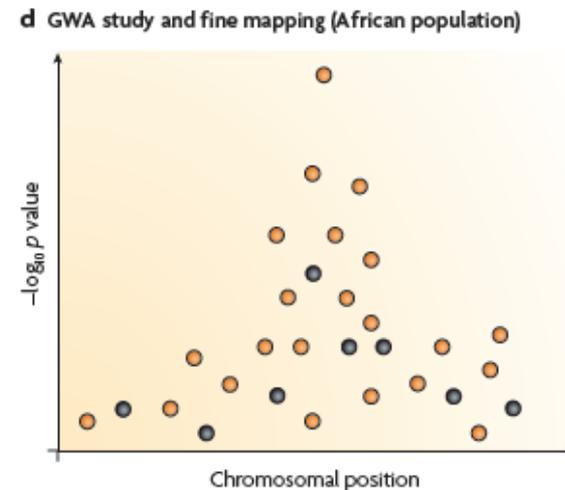
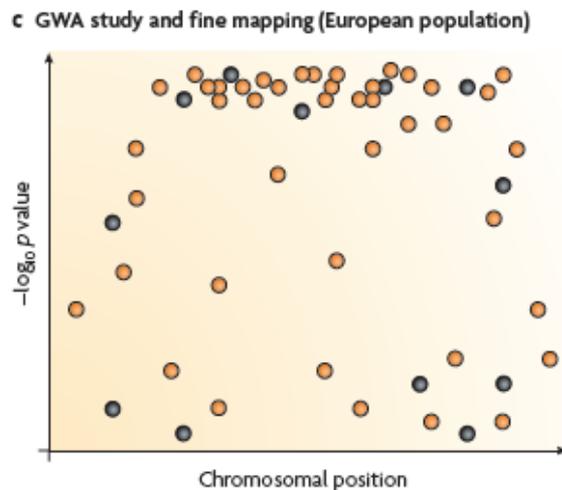
Advantage of studying African populations

GWAS



African populations have lower linkage disequilibrium (LD) and higher haplotype diversity

Fine mapping



REPLICATION

Replication

- Additional independent sample (dataset)
- Sufficient size
- Identical phenotype
- Look for similar effect
 - Same genomic region not necessarily same SNP (examine LD Block)
 - Same direction

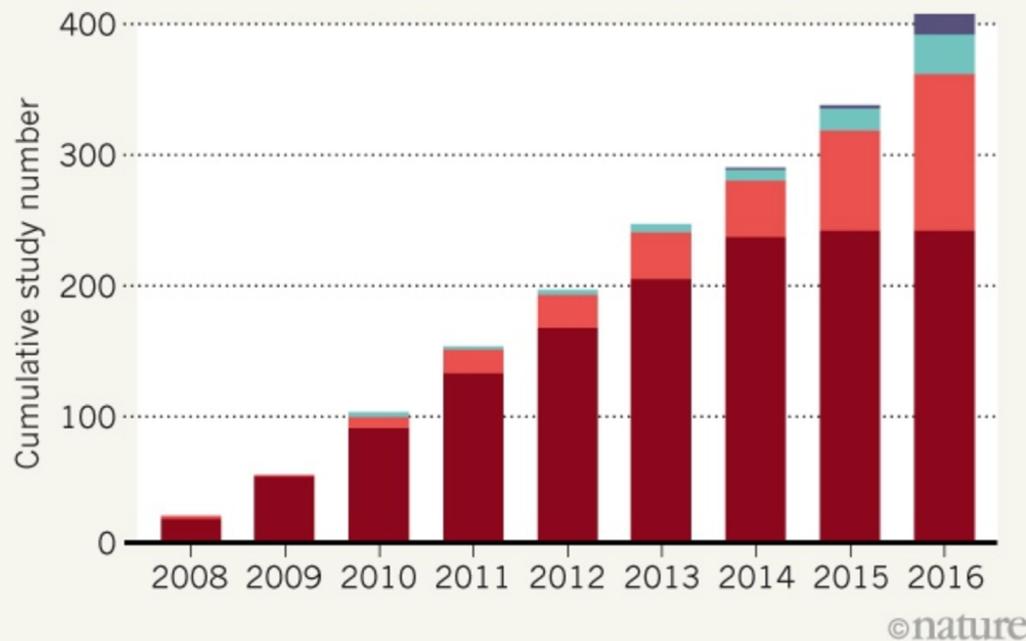
Teri Manolio (Nature 2017)

“...as with many things in science, the more we know, the more we have to learn.”

THE GENOME-WIDE TIDE

Large genome-wide association studies that involve more than 10,000 people are growing in number every year — and their sample sizes are increasing.

Sample sizes: ■ More than 200,000 ■ 100,000–199,999
■ 50,000–99,999 ■ 10,000–49,999



Adapted from Manolio, T. *Nature* 546 360-361 (2017)

GWAS

1. Explain only a small fraction of the heritability of a trait
2. Most associations in regions of the genome with no known function

Nature 546, 360–361
(15 June 2017)

doi:10.1038/546360a

- Modest study – association with large effect variant – obesity among Samoans
- Very large study – UK Biobank and blood pressure
- Integrating the science – review on biology of obesity

EXAMPLES

Example of modest genomic study of obesity with a high effect variant and biological insights

Nature Genetics (Sept 2016) 48(9): 1049-1054

A thrifty variant in *CREBRF* strongly influences body mass index in Samoans

Ryan L Minster^{#1}, Nicola L Hawley^{#2}, Chi-Ting Su^{#1,12}, Guangyun Sun^{#3}, Erin E Kershaw⁴, Hong Cheng³, Olive D Buhule^{5,12}, Jerome Lin¹, Muagututi'a Sefuiva Reupena⁶, Satupa'itea Viali⁷, John Tuitele⁸, Take Naseri⁹, Zsolt Urban^{1,14}, Ranjan Deka^{3,14}, Daniel E Weeks^{1,5,14}, and Stephen T McGarvey^{10,11,14}

Founder effect in Samoa for high levels of obesity

GWAS: 3,072 participants in discovery study
2,102 in replication study

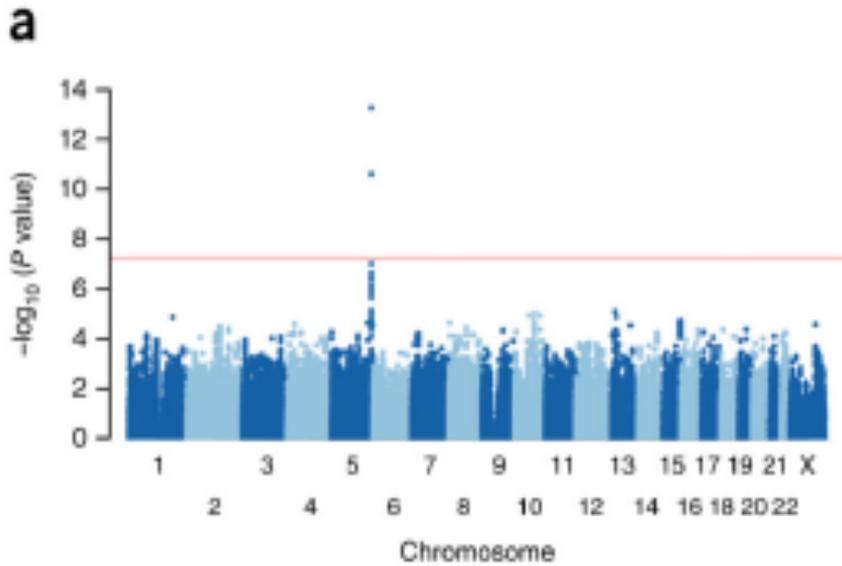
Highly associated *GREBRF* missense variant p.Arg457Gln ($p=1.4 \times 10^{-20}$) in meta-analysis
Frequency of associated variant 0.295 in Samoa (very rare elsewhere)

Effect size: 1.36 to 1.45 kg/m² (BMI) per copy of the risk allele

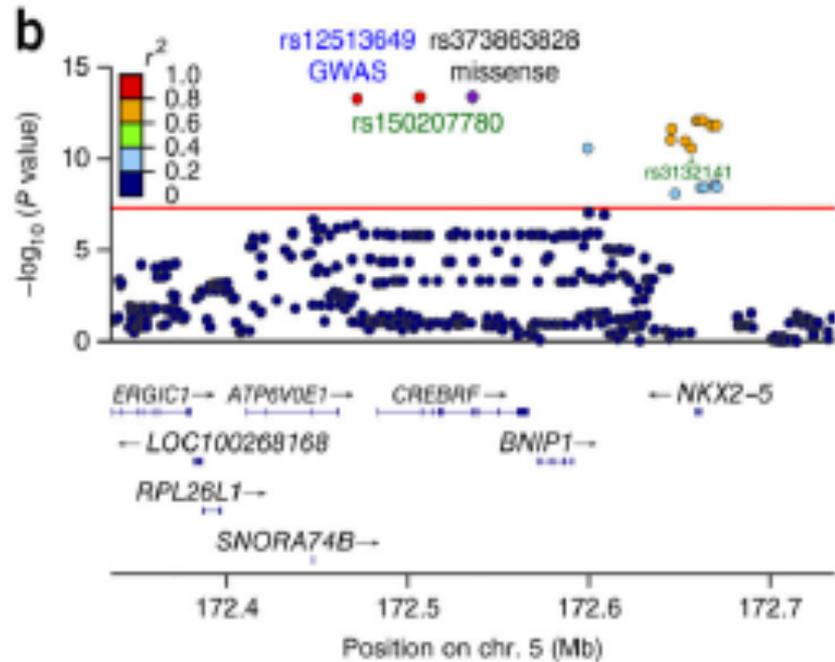
Biological insight: Adipose cell model shows that when the variant is overexpressed, it selectively decreases energy use and increases fat storage

Conclusion: Supports selection of the allele through the “thrifty” variant hypothesis

GWAS



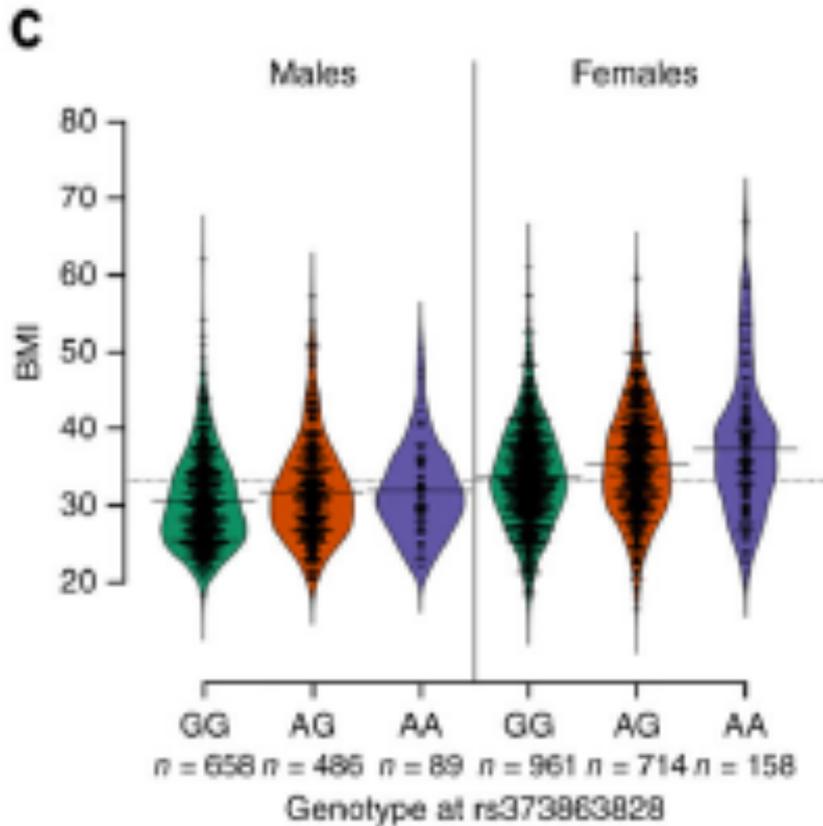
Manhattan Plot



Following Imputation

GREBRF missense variant p.Arg457Gln
($p=1.4 \times 10^{-20}$)

Effect on obesity



**Sex-specific effects
are important**

**How predictive are
the alleles?**

**Novel insights into
obesity**

Data from discovery cohort: 1233 men and 1833 women

Nature Genetics. (Sept 2016) 48(9): 1049-1054

Example of a large genomic study of a complex trait and the nature of the results

Genome-wide association analysis identifies novel blood pressure loci and offers biological insights into cardiovascular risk

NATURE GENETICS VOLUME 49 | NUMBER 3 | MARCH 2017

Pages 403-415 and then online methods

Helen R Warren^{1,2,60}, Evangelos Evangelou^{3,4,60}, Claudia P Cabrera^{1,2,60}, He Gao^{3,5,60}, Meixia Ren^{1,2,60}, Borbala Mifsud^{1,60}, Ioanna Ntalla¹, Praveen Surendran⁶, Chunyu Liu⁷⁻⁹, James P Cook¹⁰, Aldi T Kraja¹¹, Fotios Drenos^{12,13}, Marie Loh^{3,14}, Niek Verweij¹⁵⁻¹⁸, Jonathan Marten¹⁹, Ibrahim Karaman³, Marcelo P Segura Lepe^{3,20}, Paul F O'Reilly²¹, Joanne Knight²², Harold Snieder²³, Norihiro Kato²⁴, Jianz He²⁵, E Shyong Tai^{26,27}, M Abdullah Said¹⁵, David Porteous²⁸, Maris Alver²⁹, Neil Poulter³⁰, Martin Farrall³¹, Ron T Gansevoort³², Sandosh Padmanabhan³³, Reedik Mägi²⁹, Alice Stanton³⁴, John Connell³⁵, Stephan J L Bakker³⁶, Andres Metspalu²⁹, Denis C Shields³⁷, Simon Thom³⁸, Morris Brown^{1,2}, Peter Sever³⁸, Tõnu Esko^{16,29}, Caroline Hayward¹⁹, Pim van der Harst¹⁵, Danish Saleheen³⁹⁻⁴¹, Rajiv Chowdhury⁶, John C Chambers^{3,42-44}, Daniel I Chasman^{45,46}, Aravinda Chakravarti⁴⁷, Christopher Newton-Cheh¹⁶⁻¹⁸, Cecilia M Lindgren^{16,48,49}, Daniel Levy^{7,9}, Jaspal S Kooner^{43,50,51}, Bernard Keavney^{52,53}, Maciej Tomaszewski^{52,53}, Nilesh J Samani^{54,55}, Joanna M M Howson⁶, Martin D Tobin⁵⁶, Patricia B Munroe^{1,2}, Georg B Ehret^{47,57}, Louise V Wain⁵⁶, The International Consortium of Blood Pressure (ICBP) 1000G Analyses⁵⁸, The CHD Exome+ Consortium⁵⁹, The ExomeBP Consortium⁵⁹, The T2D-GENES Consortium⁵⁹, The GoT2DGenes Consortium⁵⁹, The Cohorts for Heart and Ageing Research in Genome Epidemiology (CHARGE) BP Exome Consortium⁵⁹, The International Genomics of Blood Pressure (iGEN-BP) Consortium⁵⁹, Michael R Barnes^{1,2,60}, Ioanna Tzoulaki^{3-5,60}, Mark J Caulfield^{1,2,60} & Paul Elliott^{3,5,60} for The UK Biobank CardioMetabolic Consortium BP working group

The International Consortium of Blood Pressure (ICBP) 1000G Analyses

Louise V Wain⁵⁶, Ahmad Vaez^{23,61}, Rick Jansen⁶², Roby Joehanes^{9,63}, Peter J van der Most²³, A Mesut Erzurumluoglu⁵⁶, Paul O'Reilly²¹, Claudia P Cabrera^{1,2}, Helen R Warren^{1,2}, Lynda M Rose⁴⁵, Germaine C Verwoert⁶⁴, Jouke-Jan Hottenga⁶⁵, Rona J Strawbridge^{66,67}, Tonu Esko^{29,68,69}, Dan E Arking⁴⁷, Shih-Jen Hwang^{70,71}, Xiuqing Guo⁷², Zoltan Kutalik^{73,74}, Stella Trompet^{75,76}, Nick Shrine⁵⁶, Alexander Teumer^{77,78}, Janina S Ried⁷⁹, Joshua C Bis⁸⁰, Albert V Smith^{81,82}, Najaf Amin⁸³, Ilja M Nolte²³, Leo-Pekka Lyytikäinen^{84,85}, Anubha Mahajan⁴⁸, Nicholas J Wareham⁸⁶, Edith Hofer^{87,88}, Peter K Joshi⁸⁹, Kati Kristiansson⁹⁰, Michela Traglia⁹¹, Aki S Havulinna⁹⁰, Anuj Goel^{48,92}, Mike A Nalls^{93,94}, Siim Söber⁹⁵, Dragana Vuckovic^{96,97}, Jian'an Luan⁸⁶,

Fabrizio Del Giudice⁹⁸, Martin D. Adams⁹⁹, Inmaculada Alvarez¹⁰⁰, Daniela Buggen¹⁰¹, Lorenza M Lopez¹⁰²⁻¹⁰⁴, Teresa Nilsson¹⁰⁵, Stefan Ervasti¹⁰⁶, Anne U Jackson¹⁰⁷, Christopher P Nelson¹⁰⁸, Jennifer E Hoffman¹⁰⁹, Weibao Zhang¹¹⁰, Jonathan Marten¹¹¹, Maria Condit¹¹², Sarah E Hartman¹¹³, William Gorman¹¹⁴, Yiting Wang¹¹⁵, Evangelos Evangelou¹¹⁶, Nishi Shah¹¹⁷, Martin H de Boer¹¹⁸, Massimo Mangano^{119,121}, Bryan P Purnell¹²², Anubha Chakravarti¹²³, Huiqing Li¹²⁴, Giovanni Cimbalisti¹²⁵, Christopher Chakravarti¹²⁶, Christopher Willott¹²⁷, Giuseppe Corcos¹²⁸, Marjan Alavi¹²⁹, Christian M Bellizzi¹³⁰, Michael B Borenstein¹³¹, Chiara Bucci¹³², BICCN Consortium¹³³, Theodor Borch-Johnsen¹³⁴, Erwin P Hottenga¹³⁵, Peter S Hennekes¹³⁶, Martin Hees¹³⁷, Marco Bramante¹³⁸, Henry Campbell¹³⁹, John C Chambers¹⁴⁰, Massimo Ferrero¹⁴¹, Patricia Collins¹⁴², John Connell¹⁴³, Heather J Cowell¹⁴⁴, Jeffrey J Durrant¹⁴⁵, Gail Davies^{146,147}, Eero J Cederholm¹⁴⁸, Renée de Montmery¹⁴⁹, Jiefei Dong¹⁵⁰, Yusef Durrani¹⁵¹, Alan S D'Amico¹⁵², Marco De Biasi¹⁵³, Martin Durrant¹⁵⁴, Martin Ferrero¹⁵⁵, Teresa Forrester¹⁵⁶, Anthea Franklyn¹⁵⁷, He Gao¹⁵⁸, Johannes Griebner¹⁵⁹, E. Christiana Hagberg¹⁶⁰, Patrick Chaturvedi¹⁶¹, Alan J Gow^{162,163}, Andrea Haines¹⁶⁴, Tamara B Harris¹⁶⁵, Albert Hofman^{166,167}, Elizabeth C Holliday¹⁶⁸, Maria-Rita Jaccottet¹⁶⁹, Anne Johansson¹⁷⁰, Andrew D Johnson¹⁷¹, Polina Jousilahti¹⁷², Leif Johansson¹⁷³, Mikko Kahonen¹⁷⁴, Sakar Kathiresan¹⁷⁵, Kay-Tee Khaw¹⁷⁶, Ivana Kolcova¹⁷⁷, Sreppa Koskinen¹⁷⁸, Candice Langenberg¹⁷⁹, Mary E Lacey¹⁸⁰, Lennart Lannamäki¹⁸¹, Benjamin Lichtenstein¹⁸², David M Liew¹⁸³, Leif Lonn¹⁸⁴, Lutz Lind¹⁸⁵, J. Marcus Maki¹⁸⁶, Christopher Menni¹⁸⁷, Christian Menni¹⁸⁸, Barbara Mitchell¹⁸⁹, Anura Mengesha¹⁹⁰, Andrew D Menni¹⁹¹, Alexander C Morrison¹⁹², Peter J Murray¹⁹³, Petrus Nandakumar¹⁹⁴, Giovanni Netti¹⁹⁵, Albertine J Oudejans¹⁹⁶, Ben A Ostrath¹⁹⁷, Ellen Ory¹⁹⁸, Sarahah Padmanabhan^{199,200}, Arno Pahlplatz²⁰¹, Claudia Langenberg²⁰², Mary E Lacey²⁰³, Brenda W J H Pennings²⁰⁴, Paul Porthmann²⁰⁵, Roger D Prasad²⁰⁶, Liisa Salonen²⁰⁷, Sarah Seliger²⁰⁸, Christoph Schillaci²⁰⁹, Rami Srinivasan²¹⁰, Samuli Srinivasan²¹¹, Antonietta Strohmann²¹², Jerome S Stricker²¹³, Igor Mucka²¹⁴, Yusef Durrani²¹⁵, Mervin Sulem²¹⁶, David S Siscovick²¹⁷, Sarah Wilton²¹⁸, Giuseppe Willert²¹⁹, Alan J Wright²²⁰, The Youth, Behavior, and Environment Study²²¹, Sarah Wilton²²², Ignor Mooka²²³, Yusef Durrani²²⁴, Alexander C Morrison²²⁵, Maria A Soderas²²⁶, David C Sirtola²²⁷, David Siscovick²²⁸, Rosanna Sivola²²⁹, Alice Stanton²³⁰, David J Stott²³¹, Johanna Sundstrom²³², Maria Svanvik²³³, Ronald D Taylor²³⁴, Armin Teumer²³⁵, Inge Tomaskovic-Cresina²³⁶, Celine Tronek²³⁷, Sarah Wilton²³⁸, Christoph Willert²³⁹, Paul Timpone²⁴⁰, Yusef Durrani²⁴¹, Uwe Völker²⁴², Peter Vollenweider²⁴³, Sarah Wilton²⁴⁴, Giuseppe Willert²⁴⁵, Alan J Wright²⁴⁶, The Youth, Behavior, and Environment Study²⁴⁷, Peter Szecsei²⁴⁸, Christopher Willert²⁴⁹, Giuseppe Willert²⁵⁰, David S Siscovick²⁵¹, Heather M. 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Study design

- GWAS with quantitative trait – blood pressure (BP) – three measures
 - Systolic blood pressure (SBP)
 - Diastolic blood pressure (DBP)
 - Pulse pressure (PP)
- Not with hypertension (>140/90 mmHG)
- BP strong, heritable and modifiable driver of risk for stroke and coronary artery disease
- To date many associated loci (120) – common variants and small effects

Discovery cohort: ~140 000 people from UK Biobank with at least 2 sitting BP measurements.

Analysis: Single variant linear regression under an additive model

Number of SNVs after imputation: ~9.8 million SNVs with MAF >0.1

P value cut off: $p < 10^{-6}$

Replication: 240 loci

Cohorts: 2 large BP consortia

Criteria: $p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ for genome-wide significant of combined replication and discovery set (meta-analysis)
Cut off for replication only of previous associations and same direction
 $p < 0.01$

Results

107 loci validated at $p < 5 \times 10^{-8}$

32/107 were novel associations

75/107 in other study on BP using UK Biobank

53/75 were validated for the first time

Associations with 107 loci

24 primarily with SBP

41 primarily with DBP

42 primarily with PP

All together: Validated loci increased percentage of trait variance explained by about 1% (e.g. increased to 3.56% for SBP)

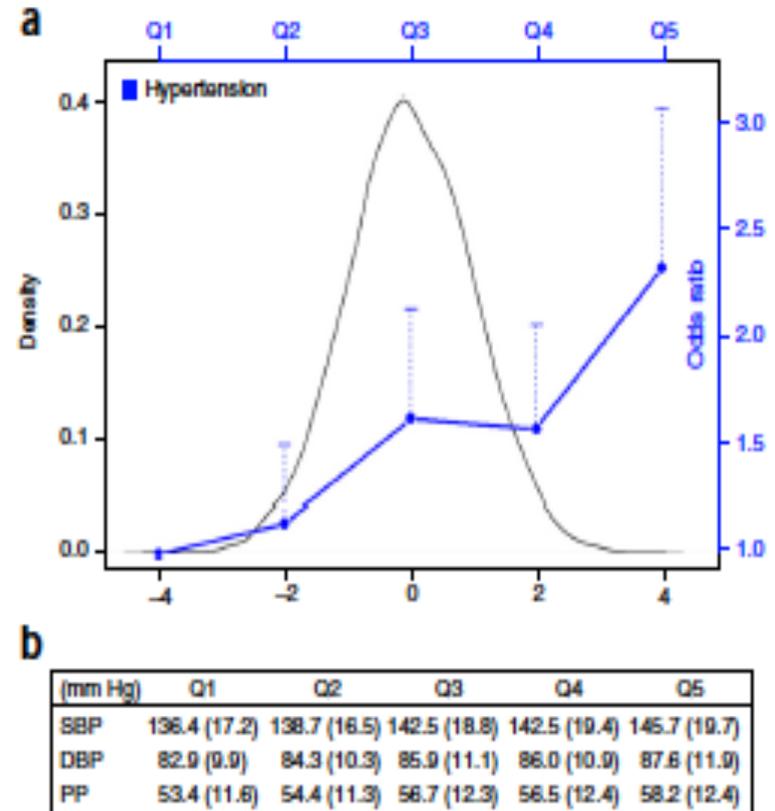
Genetic Risk Score (GRS)

Divided individuals into Quintiles
(Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5) (only >50 year olds)

Odds ratio (OR) for association with
hypertension (sex adjusted)

For individuals >50 years, adjusted for sex, the
highest quintile had a SBP 9.3 mmHg higher
than those in the lowest quintile.

OR was 2.32 for hypertension (HT) compared
to the lowest quintile (HT > 140/90)

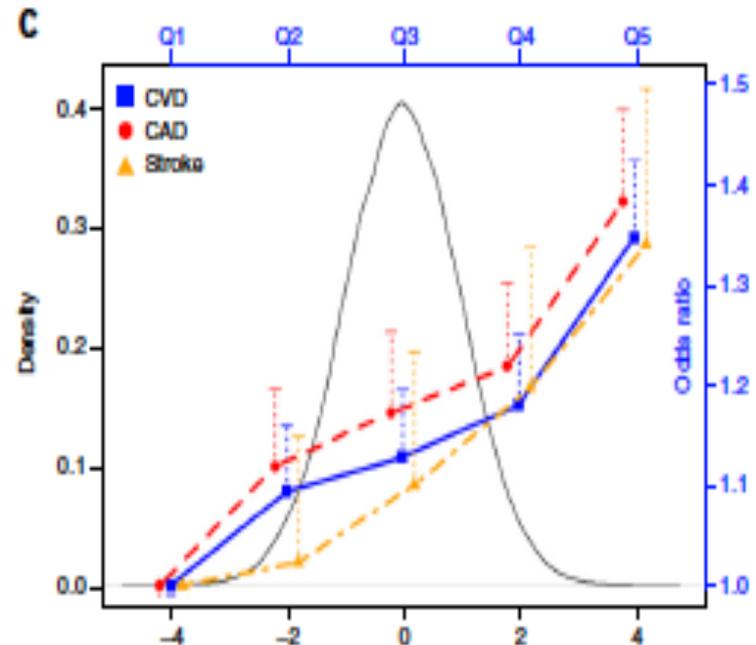


Genetic Risk Score for CVD, CAD and Stroke

Modest ORs for difference between lowest and highest quintiles

Stroke OR = 1.34

CAD OR = 1.35



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(count)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
CVD	2,462	2,680	2,750	2,874	3,229
CAD	1,783	1,906	2,078	2,154	2,417
Stroke	581	597	640	695	776

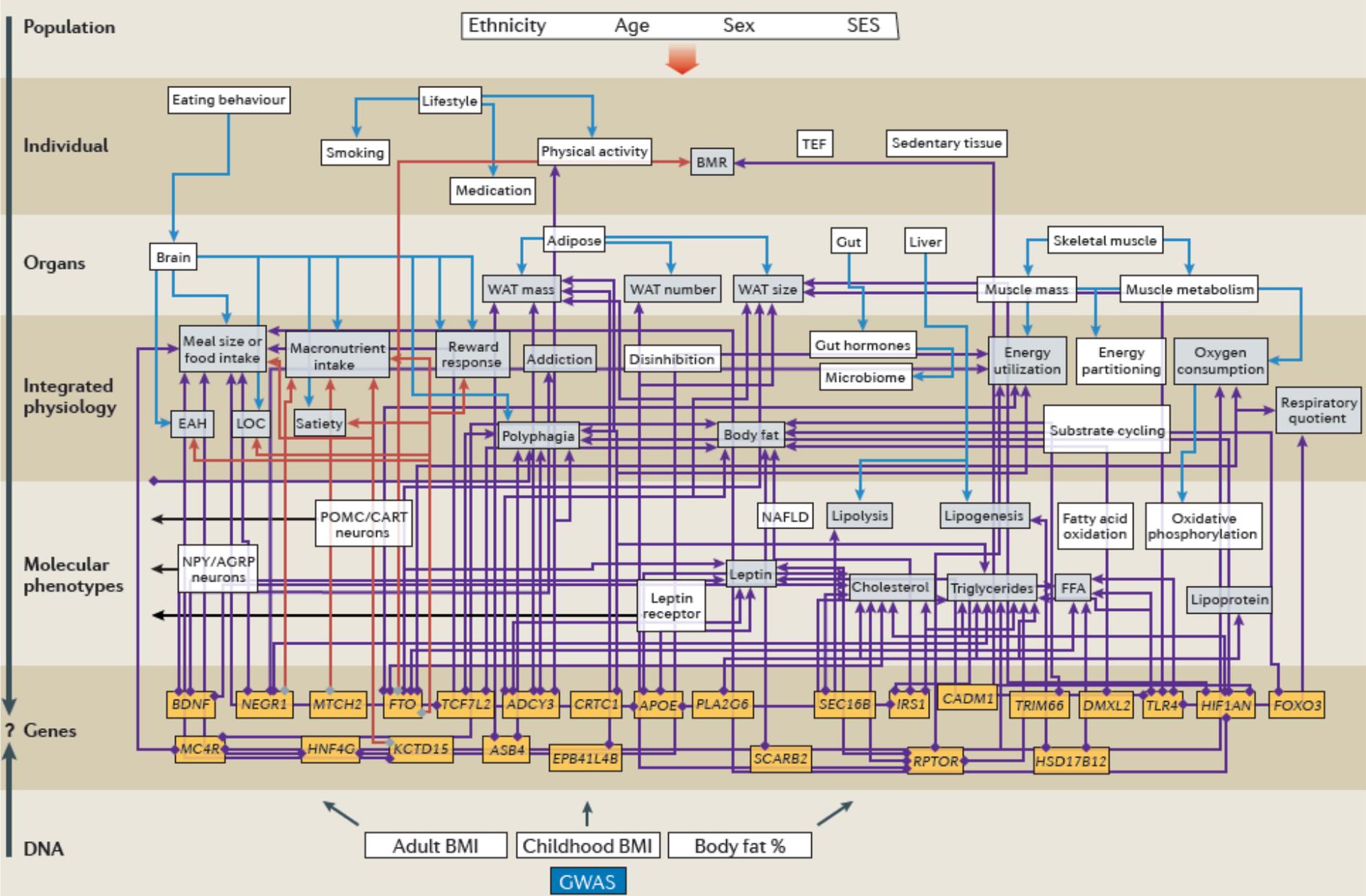
Review that unpacks the biology of obesity –
taking several steps further than genetic
association



Nature Reviews Genetics (Dec 2017) 18:713 - 748

Convergence between biological, behavioural and genetic determinants of obesity

Sujoy Ghosh¹ and Claude Bouchard²



Conclusions

- Genetic associations for complex multi-factorial traits is **complex**
- NCDs are caused by **genetic risk variants and environmental effects**
- If **heritability** is high it should be possible to find genetic risk variants that explain a lot of the phenotype variability
- Genome-wide association studies are used to find genetic risk variants but often highly associated loci have small effects on the phenotype (they are therefore individually **not good predictors on the phenotype**)
- There are two main **study designs**:
 - Case : Control studies (e.g. diabetes vs healthy controls)
 - Quantitative traits (e.g. lipid levels – spectrum of low to high)
- **Outcome of a GWAS**
 - Genetic association (not disease causality)
 - Most often the associated variants are not the actual variants that contribute to the trait (they are proxies through LD)
 - Functional analysis and biological insights