

Published in final edited form as:

Nature. 2015 February 12; 518(7538): 187–196. doi:10.1038/nature14132.

New genetic loci link adipose and insulin biology to body fat distribution

A full list of authors and affiliations appears at the end of the article.

These authors contributed equally to this work.

Abstract

Body fat distribution is a heritable trait and a well-established predictor of adverse metabolic outcomes, independent of overall adiposity. To increase our understanding of the genetic basis of body fat distribution and its molecular links to cardiometabolic traits, we conducted genome-wide association meta-analyses of waist and hip circumference-related traits in up to 224,459 individuals. We identified 49 loci (33 new) associated with waist-to-hip ratio adjusted for body mass index (WHRadjBMI) and an additional 19 loci newly associated with related waist and hip circumference measures ($P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$). Twenty of the 49 WHRadjBMI loci showed significant sexual dimorphism, 19 of which displayed a stronger effect in women. The identified loci were enriched for genes expressed in adipose tissue and for putative regulatory elements in adipocytes. Pathway analyses implicated adipogenesis, angiogenesis, transcriptional regulation, and insulin resistance as processes affecting fat distribution, providing insight into potential pathophysiological mechanisms.

Depot-specific accumulation of fat, particularly in the central abdomen, confers an elevated risk of metabolic and cardiovascular diseases and mortality¹. An easily accessible measure of body fat distribution is waist-to-hip ratio (WHR), a comparison of waist and hip circumferences. A larger WHR indicates more intra-abdominal fat deposition and is associated with higher risk for type 2 diabetes (T2D) and cardiovascular disease^{2,3}. Conversely, a smaller WHR indicates greater gluteal fat accumulation and is associated with lower risk for T2D, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and mortality^{4–6}. Our previous genome-wide association study (GWAS) meta-analyses have identified loci for WHR after adjusting for body mass index (WHRadjBMI)^{7,8}. These loci are enriched for association with other metabolic traits^{7,8} and show that different fat distribution patterns can have distinct genetic components^{9,10}.

To further elucidate the genetic architecture of fat distribution and to increase our understanding of molecular connections with cardiometabolic traits, we performed a meta-

Reprints and permissions information is available online at www.nature.com/reprints.

Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to K.L.M. (mohlke@med.unc.edu) or C.M.L. (celi@well.ox.ac.uk).

[§]These authors jointly directed this work.

Author Contributions See the Supplementary Note for Author Contributions.

Author Information Summary results are available at <http://www.broadinstitute.org/collaboration/giant/>. G.T., V.S., U.T., and K.S. are employed by deCODE Genetics/Amgen, Inc. I.B. and spouse own stock in GlaxoSmithKline and Incyte, Ltd. C.B. is a consultant for Weight Watchers, Pathway Genomics, NIKE, and Gatorade PepsiCo.

Supplementary Information is linked to the online version of the paper at www.nature.com/nature.

analysis of WHRadjBMI associations in 142,762 individuals with GWAS data and 81,697 individuals genotyped with the Metabochip¹¹, all from the Genetic Investigation of ANthropometric Traits (GIANT) Consortium. Given the marked sexual dimorphism previously observed among established WHRadjBMI loci^{7,8}, we performed analyses in men and women separately, the results of which were subsequently combined. To more fully characterize the genetic determinants of specific aspects of body fat distribution, we performed secondary GWAS meta-analyses for five additional traits: unadjusted WHR, BMI-adjusted and unadjusted waist (WCadjBMI and WC) and hip circumferences (HIPadjBMI and HIP). We evaluated the associated loci to understand their contributions to variation in fat distribution and adipose tissue biology, and their molecular links to cardiometabolic traits.

RESULTS

New loci associated with WHRadjBMI

We performed meta-analyses of GWAS of WHRadjBMI in up to 142,762 individuals of European ancestry from 57 new or previously described GWAS⁷, and separately in up to an additional 67,326 European ancestry individuals from 44 Metabochip studies (Extended Data Fig. 1; Supplementary Tables 1-3). The combination of these two meta-analyses included up to 2,542,447 autosomal SNPs in up to 210,088 European ancestry individuals. We defined new loci based on genome-wide significant association ($P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ after genomic control correction at both the study-specific and meta-analytic levels) and distance (>500 kb) from previously established loci^{7,8}.

We identified 49 loci for WHRadjBMI, 33 of which were new and 16 previously described^{7,8}. Of these, a European ancestry sex-combined analysis identified 39 loci, 24 of which were new (Table 1, Supplementary Table 4, and Supplementary Figs. 1-3)^{7,8}. European ancestry sex-specific analyses identified nine additional loci, eight of which were new and significant in women but not in men (all $P_{\text{men}} > 0.05$; Table 1, Supplementary Fig. 4). The addition of 14,371 individuals of non-European ancestry genotyped on Metabochip identified one additional locus in women (rs1534696, near *SNX10*, $P_{\text{women}} = 2.1 \times 10^{-8}$, $P_{\text{men}} = 0.26$, Table 1, Supplementary Tables 1-3), with no evidence of heterogeneity across ancestries ($P_{\text{het}} = 0.86$, Supplementary Note).

Genetic architecture of WHRadjBMI

To evaluate sexual dimorphism, we compared sex-specific effect size estimates of the 49 WHRadjBMI lead SNPs. The effect estimates were significantly different ($P_{\text{difference}} < 0.05/49 = 0.001$) at 20 SNPs, 19 of which showed larger effects in women (Table 1, Extended Data Fig. 2a), similar to previous findings^{7,8}. The only SNP that showed a larger effect in men mapped near *GDF5* (rs224333, $\beta_{\text{men}} = 0.036$ and $P = 9.0 \times 10^{-12}$, $\beta_{\text{women}} = 0.009$ and $P = 0.074$, $P_{\text{difference}} = 6.4 \times 10^{-5}$), a locus previously associated with height (rs6060369, $r^2 = 0.96$ and rs143384, $r^2 = 0.96$, 1000 Genomes Project CEU), though without significant differences between sexes^{12,13}. Consistent with the larger number of loci identified in women, variance component analyses demonstrated a significantly larger heritability (h^2) of WHRadjBMI in women than men in the Framingham Heart

($h^2_{\text{women}}=0.46$, $h^2_{\text{men}}=0.19$, $P_{\text{difference}}=0.0037$) and TwinGene studies ($h^2_{\text{women}}=0.56$, $h^2_{\text{men}}=0.32$, $P_{\text{difference}}=0.001$, Supplementary Table 5, Extended Data Fig. 2b).

To identify multiple association signals within observed loci, we performed approximate conditional analyses of the sex-combined and sex-specific summary statistics using GCTA¹⁴ (Supplementary Note). Multiple signals ($P<5\times 10^{-8}$) were identified at nine loci (Extended Data Table 1). Fitting SNPs jointly identified different lead SNPs in the sex-specific and sex-combined analyses. For example, the *MAP3K1-ANKRD55* locus showed near-independent (linkage disequilibrium (LD) $r^2<0.06$) SNPs 54 kb apart that were significant only in women (rs3936510) or only in men (rs459193, Extended Data Table 1, Supplementary Table 4). Other signals are more complex. The *TBX15-WARS2* locus showed different but correlated lead SNPs in men and women near *WARS2* ($r^2=0.43$), an independent signal near *TBX15*, and a distant independent signal near *SPAG17* (Fig. 1). At the *HOXC* gene cluster, conditional analyses identified independent ($r^2<0.01$) SNPs ~80 kb apart near *HOXC12-HOXC13-HOTAIR* and near *HOXC4-HOXC6* (Fig. 1). These results suggest that association signals mapping to the same locus might act on different underlying genes and may not be relevant to the same sex.

We assessed the aggregate effects of the primary association signals at the 49 WHRadjBMI loci by calculating sex-combined and sex-specific risk based on genotypes of the lead SNPs. In a linear regression model, the risk scores were associated with WHRadjBMI, with a stronger effect in women than in men (overall effect per allele $\beta=0.001$, $P=6.7\times 10^{-4}$, women $\beta=0.002$, $P=1.0\times 10^{-11}$, men $\beta=7.0\times 10^{-4}$, $P=0.02$, Extended Data Fig. 3, Supplementary Note). The 49 SNPs explained 1.4% of the variance in WHRadjBMI overall, and more in women (2.4%) than in men (0.8%) (Supplementary Table 6). Compared to the 16 previously reported loci^{7,8}, the new loci almost doubled the explained variance in women and tripled that in men. We further estimated that the sex-combined variance explained by all HapMap SNPs¹⁵ (h^2_G) is 12.1% (SE=2.9%).

At 17 loci with high-density coverage on the Metabochip¹¹, we used association summary statistics to define credible sets of SNPs with a high probability of containing a likely functional variant. The 99% credible sets at seven loci spanned <20 kb, and at *HOXC13* included only a single noncoding SNP (Supplementary Table 7, Supplementary Fig. 5). Imputation up to higher density reference panels will provide greater coverage and may have more potential to localize functional variants.

WHRadjBMI variants and other traits

Given the epidemiological correlations between central obesity and other anthropometric and cardiometabolic measures and diseases, we evaluated lead WHRadjBMI variants in association data from GWAS consortia for 22 traits. Seventeen of the 49 variants were associated ($P<5\times 10^{-8}$) with at least one of the traits: high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C; $n=7$ SNPs), triglycerides (TG; $n=5$), low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C; $n=2$), adiponectin adjusted for BMI ($n=3$), fasting insulin adjusted for BMI ($n=2$), T2D ($n=1$), and height ($n=7$) (Supplementary Tables 8-9). WHRadjBMI SNPs also showed enrichment for directional consistency among nominally significant ($P<0.05$) associations with these traits and also with fasting and 2-hour glucose, diastolic and systolic blood

pressure (DBP, SBP), BMI and coronary artery disease (CAD) ($P_{\text{binomial}} < 0.05/23 = 0.0022$, Extended Data Table 2); these results were generally supported by meta-regression analysis of the regression coefficient-estimates (Supplementary Table 10). Furthermore, our WHRadjBMI loci overlap with associations reported in the NHGRI GWAS Catalog (Table 2, Supplementary Table 11)¹⁶, the strongest of which is the locus near *LEKRI*, which is associated ($P = 2.0 \times 10^{-35}$) with birthweight¹⁷. Unsupervised hierarchical clustering of the corresponding matrix of association Z-scores showed three major clusters characterized by patterns of anthropometric and metabolic traits (Extended Data Fig. 4). These data extend knowledge about genetic links between WHRadjBMI and insulin resistance-related traits; whether this reflects underlying causal relations between WHRadjBMI and these traits, or pleiotropic loci, cannot be inferred from our data.

Potential functional WHRadjBMI variants

We next examined variants in LD with the WHRadjBMI lead SNPs ($r^2 > 0.7$) for predicted effects on protein sequence, copy number, and *cis*-regulatory effects on expression (Table 2, Supplementary Tables 12-15, Supplementary Note). At 11 of the new loci, lead WHRadjBMI SNPs were in LD with *cis*-expression quantitative trait loci (eQTLs) for transcripts in subcutaneous adipose tissue, omental adipose tissue, liver, or blood cell types (Table 2, Supplementary Table 15). No additional sex-specific eQTLs were identified, perhaps reflecting limited power (Supplementary Table 16).

At the 11 WHRadjBMI loci harboring eQTLs, we compared the location of the candidate variants to regions of open chromatin (DNase I hypersensitivity and formaldehyde-assisted isolation of regulatory elements [FAIRE]) and histone modification enrichment (H3K4me1, H3K4me2, H3K4me3, H3K27ac, and H3K9ac) in adipose, liver, skeletal muscle, bone, brain, blood, and pancreatic islet tissues or cell lines (Supplementary Table 17). At seven of these 11 loci, at least one variant was located in a putative regulatory element in two or more datasets from the same tissue as the eQTL, suggesting that these elements may influence transcriptional activity (Supplementary Table 18). For example, at *LEKRI*, five variants in LD with the WHRadjBMI lead SNP are located in a 1.1 kb region with evidence of enhancer activity (H3K4me1 and H3K27ac) in adipose tissue (Extended Data Fig. 5a).

We also examined whether any variants overlapped with open chromatin or histone modifications from only one of the tested tissues, possibly reflecting tissue-specific regulatory elements (Supplementary Table 18). For example, five variants in a 2.2 kb region, located 77 kb upstream from a *CALCRL* transcription start site, overlapped with peaks in at least five datasets in endothelial cells (Extended Data Fig. 5b), suggesting that one or more of these variants may influence transcriptional activity. *CALCRL*, which is expressed in endothelial cells, is required for lipid absorption in the small intestine, and influences body weight in mice¹⁸. Other variants located in tissue-specific regulatory elements were detected at *NMU* for endothelial cells, at *KLF13* and *MEIS1* for liver, and at *GORAB* and *MSC* for bone (Supplementary Table 18).

Biological mechanisms

To identify potential functional connections between genes mapping to the 49 WHRadjBMI loci, we used three approaches (Supplementary Note). A survey of literature using GRAIL¹⁹ identified 15 genes with nominal significance ($P < 0.05$) for potential functional connectivity (Table 2, Supplementary Table 19). The predefined gene set relationships across loci identified using MAGENTA²⁰ highlighted signaling pathways involving vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), phosphatase and tensin (PTEN) homolog, the insulin receptor, and peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors (Supplementary Table 20). VEGF signaling plays a central, complex role in angiogenesis, insulin resistance, and obesity²¹, and PTEN signaling promotes insulin resistance²². Analyses using DEPICT²³ facilitated prioritization of genes at associated loci, analyses of tissue specificity, and enrichment of reconstituted gene sets through integration of association results with expression data, protein-protein interactions, phenotypic data from gene knockout studies in mice, and predefined gene sets. DEPICT identified at least one prioritized gene (false discovery rate (FDR) $< 5\%$) at nine loci (Table 2, Supplementary Table 21) and identified 234 reconstituted gene sets (161 after pruning of overlapping gene sets) enriched for genes at WHRadjBMI loci. Among these we highlight biologically plausible gene sets suggesting roles in body fat regulation (including adiponectin signaling, insulin sensitivity, and regulation of glucose levels), skeletal growth, transcriptional regulation, and development (Fig. 2, Supplementary Table 22). We also note gene sets that are specific for abundance or development of metabolically active tissues including adipose, heart, liver, and muscle. Specific genes at the loci were significantly enriched (FDR $< 5\%$) for expression in adipocyte-related tissues, including abdominal subcutaneous fat (Fig. 2, Supplementary Table 23). Together, these analyses identified processes related to insulin and adipose biology and highlight mesenchymal tissues, especially adipose tissue, as important to WHRadjBMI.

We also tested variants at the 49 WHRadjBMI loci for overlap with elements from 60 selected regulatory datasets from the ENCODE²⁴ and Epigenomic RoadMap²⁵ data and found evidence of enrichment in 12 datasets ($P < 0.05/60 = 8.3 \times 10^{-4}$, Extended Data Table 3). The strongest enrichments were detected for datasets typically attributed to enhancer activity (H3K4me1 and H3K27ac) in adipose, muscle, endothelial cells, and bone, suggesting that variants may regulate transcription in these tissues. These analyses point to mechanisms linking WHRadjBMI loci to regulation of gene expression in tissues highly relevant for adipocyte metabolism and insulin resistance.

We also reviewed functions of candidate genes located near new and previously established WHRadjBMI loci^{7,8}, identifying genes involved in adipogenesis, angiogenesis, and transcriptional regulation (Table 2, literature review in the Supplementary Note). Adipogenesis candidate genes include *CEBPA*, *PPARG*, *BMP2*, *HOXC/miR196*, *SPRY1*, *TBX15*, and *PEMT*. Of these, *CEBPA* and *PPARG* are essential for white adipose tissue differentiation²⁶, *BMP2* induces differentiation of mesenchymal stem cells toward adipogenesis or osteogenesis²⁷, and *HOXC8* is a repressor of brown adipogenesis in mice that is regulated by miR-196a²⁸, also located within the *HOXC* region (Fig. 1). Angiogenesis genes may influence expansion and loss of adipose tissue²⁹; they include *VEGFA*, *VEGFB*, *RSPO3*, *STAB1*, *WARS2*, *PLXND1*, *MEIS1*, *FGF2*, *SMAD6*, and *CALCRL*. *VEGFB* is

involved in endothelial targeting of lipids to peripheral tissues³⁰, and *PLXND1* limits blood vessel branching, antagonizes VEGF, and affects adipose inflammation^{31,32}. Transcriptional regulators at WHRadjBMI loci include *CEBPA*, *PPARG*, *MSC*, *SMAD6*, *HOXA*, *HOXC*, *ZBTB7B*, *JUND*, *KLF13*, *MEIS1*, *RFX7*, *NKX2-6*, and *HMGA1*. Other candidate genes include *NMU*, *FGFR4*, and *HMGA1*, for which mice deficient for the corresponding genes exhibit obesity, glucose intolerance, and/or insulin resistance³³⁻³⁵.

Five additional central obesity traits

To determine whether the WHRadjBMI variants exert their effects primarily through WC or HIP and to identify loci that are not reported for WHRadjBMI, BMI, or height^{36,37}, we performed association analyses for five additional traits: WCadjBMI, HIPadjBMI, WHR, WC, and HIP. Based on phenotypic data alone, WC and HIP are highly correlated with BMI ($r=0.59-0.92$), and WHR is highly correlated with WHRadjBMI ($r=0.82-0.95$), while WCadjBMI and HIPadjBMI are moderately correlated with height ($r=0.24-0.63$, Supplementary Table 24). In contrast to WHRadjBMI, which has almost no genetic correlation (see Methods) with height ($r_G<0.04$, Extended Data Fig. 2c), WCadjBMI ($r_G=0.42$) and HIPadjBMI ($r_G=0.82$) have moderate genetic correlations with height. These data suggest that some, but not all, WCadjBMI and HIPadjBMI loci would be associated with height.

Across all meta-analyses, we identified an additional 19 loci associated with one of the five traits ($P<5\times 10^{-8}$), nine of which showed significantly larger effects ($P_{\text{difference}}<0.05/19=0.003$) in one sex than in the other (Table 3, Supplementary Figs. 1-4, Supplementary Table 25). Three of four new loci with larger effects in women were associated with HIPadjBMI and three of five new loci with larger effects in men were associated with WCadjBMI. Most of the 19 loci showed some evidence of association with WHRadjBMI in sex-combined or sex-specific analyses, but four loci showed no association ($P>0.01$) with WHRadjBMI, BMI, or height (Supplementary Tables 8, 26).

We next asked whether the genes and pathways influencing these five traits are shared with WHRadjBMI or are distinct. Candidate genes were identified based on association with other traits, eQTLs, GRAIL, and literature review (Extended Data Table 4, Supplementary Tables 8, 11-13, 15-16, 19). Candidate variants identified based on LD ($r^2>0.7$) included coding variants in *NTAN1* and *HMGXB4*, and six loci showed significant eQTLs in subcutaneous adipose tissue. Based on the literature, several candidate genes are involved in adipogenesis and insulin resistance. For example, delayed induction of preadipocyte transcription factor *ZNF423* in fibroblasts results in delayed adipogenesis³⁸, and *NLRP3* is part of inflammasome and pro-inflammatory T-cell populations in adipose tissue that contribute to inflammation and insulin resistance³⁹. GRAIL analyses identified connections that partially overlap with those identified for WHRadjBMI (Supplementary Table 19). Taken together, the additional loci appear to function in processes similar to the WHRadjBMI loci. The identification of loci that are more strongly associated with WCadjBMI or HIPadjBMI than the other anthropometric traits suggests that the additional traits characterize aspects of central obesity and fat distribution that are not captured by WHRadjBMI or BMI alone.

DISCUSSION

These meta-analyses of GWAS and Metabochip data in up to 224,459 individuals identified additional loci associated with waist and hip circumference measures and help elucidate the role of common genetic variation in body fat distribution that is distinct from BMI and height. Our results emphasize the strong sexual dimorphism in the genetic regulation of fat distribution traits, a characteristic not observed for overall obesity as assessed by BMI³⁶. Differences in body fat distribution between the sexes emerge in childhood, become more apparent during puberty⁴⁰, and change with menopause, generally attributed to the influence of sex hormones^{41,42}. At loci with stronger effects in one sex than the other, these hormones may interact with transcription factors to regulate gene activity.

Annotation of the loci emphasized the role for mesenchymally-derived tissues, especially adipose tissue, in fat distribution and central obesity. The development and regulation of adipose tissue deposition is closely associated with angiogenesis²⁹, a process highlighted by candidate genes at several WHRadjBMI loci. These tissues are implicated in insulin resistance, consistent with the enrichment of shared GWAS signals with lipids, T2D, and glycemic traits. The identification of skeletal growth processes suggests that the underlying genes affect early development and/or differentiation of adipocytes from mesenchymal stem cells. In contrast, BMI has a significant neuronal component, involving processes such as appetite regulation³⁶. Our results provide a foundation for future biological research in the regulation of body fat distribution and its connections with cardiometabolic traits, and offer potential target mechanisms for interventions in the risks associated with abdominal fat accumulation.

METHODS

Study overview

Our study included 224,459 individuals of European, East Asian, South Asian, and African American ancestry. The European ancestry arm included 142,762 individuals from 57 cohorts genotyped with genome-wide SNP arrays and 67,326 individuals from 44 cohorts genotyped with the Metabochip¹¹ (Extended Data Fig. 1, Supplementary Table 1). The non-European ancestry arm comprised ~1,700 individuals from one cohort of East Asian ancestry, ~3,400 individuals from one cohort of South Asian ancestry, and ~9,200 individuals from six cohorts of African American ancestry, all genotyped with the Metabochip. There was no overlap between individuals genotyped with genome-wide SNP arrays and Metabochip. For each study, local institutional committees approved study protocols and confirmed that informed consent was obtained.

Traits

Our primary trait was WHRadjBMI, the ratio of waist and hip circumferences adjusted for age, age², study-specific covariates if necessary, and BMI. For each cohort, residuals were calculated for men and women separately and then transformed by the inverse standard normal function. Cohorts with related men and women provided inverse standard normal transformed sex-combined residuals. For each cohort, the same transformations were

applied to other traits: (i) WHR without adjustment for BMI (WHR); (ii) waist circumference with (WCadjBMI) and without (WC) adjustment for BMI; and (iii) hip circumference with (HIPadjBMI) and without (HIP) adjustment for BMI.

European ancestry meta-analysis for genome-wide SNP array data

Sample and SNP quality control (QC) were undertaken within each cohort (Supplementary Table 3)⁴⁴. The GWAS scaffold in each cohort was imputed up to CEU haplotypes from HapMap resulting in ~2.5 million SNPs. Each directly typed and imputed SNP passing QC was tested for association with each trait under an additive model in a linear regression framework (Supplementary Table 3). SNP positions are reported based on NCBI Build 36. For each cohort, sex-specific association summary statistics were corrected for residual population structure using the genomic control inflation factor⁴⁵ (median λ_{GC} =1.01, range=0.99 – 1.08). SNPs were removed prior to meta-analysis if they had a minor allele count ≤ 3 , deviation from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium exact $P < 10^{-6}$, directly genotyped SNP call rate < 95%, or low imputation quality (below 0.3 for MACH, 0.4 for IMPUTE, and 0.8 for PLINK). Association summary statistics for each trait were combined via inverse-variance weighted fixed-effects meta-analysis and corrected for a second round of genomic control to account for structure between cohorts (Extended Data Fig. 1, Supplementary Fig. 1).

European ancestry meta-analysis for Metabochip data

Sample and SNP QC analyses were undertaken in each cohort (Supplementary Table 3). Each SNP passing QC was tested for association with each trait under an additive model using linear regression. The Metabochip array¹¹ is enriched, by design, for loci associated with anthropometric and cardiometabolic traits, thus, we based our correction on 4,425 SNPs selected for inclusion based on associations with QT-interval that were not expected to be associated with anthropometric traits (>500 kb from variants on Metabochip⁴⁶ for these traits). These study-specific inflation factors had a median λ_{GC} =1.01 (range 0.93–1.11), with only one study exceeding 1.10. After removing SNPs for QC as described in the previous section, association summary statistics were combined via inverse-variance weighted fixed-effects meta-analysis and corrected for a second round of genomic control on the basis of QT-interval SNPs to account for structure between cohorts.

European ancestry meta-analyses

Association summary statistics from the two parts of the European ancestry arm were combined via inverse-variance weighted fixed-effects meta-analysis using METAL⁴⁷ with no further genomic control correction. Results were reported for SNPs with a sex-combined sample size $\geq 50,000$. The meta-analyses were repeated for men and women separately for each trait. Analyses were corrected for population structure within each sex. The meta-analysis of WHRadjBMI in men included up to 93,480 individuals, and in women up to 116,742 individuals.

Meta-analyses of studies of all ancestries

Sample and SNP QC, tests of association, genomic control correction (median $\lambda_{GC}=1.01$, range=0.90–1.17, with only one study exceeding 1.10), and meta-analyses were performed as described above. Association summary statistics from the European and non-European ancestry meta-analyses were combined via inverse-variance weighted fixed-effects meta-analysis without further genomic control correction.

Heterogeneity

For each lead SNP, we tested for sex differences based on the sex-specific beta estimates and standard errors, while accounting for potential correlation between estimates as previously used in Randall et al¹⁰. Similarly, we tested for potential differences in effects between European and non-European samples, comparing the effects from GWAS +Metabochip data for Europeans and Metabochip data for non-Europeans, and we tested for differences between population-based studies and samples ascertained on diabetes status, and cardiovascular disease, or both. In assessing effects of ascertainment overall, we compared effects in seven subsets of our study sample using population-based studies (i.e., those not ascertained on any phenotype) as the referent population: 1) all studies ascertained on any phenotype, 2) T2D cases, 3) T2D controls, 4) T2D cases+controls, 5) CAD cases, 6) CAD controls, and 7) CAD cases+controls. We evaluated significance for heterogeneity tests within each comparison using a Bonferroni-corrected p-value of $0.05/49=0.05/49=1.02\times 10^{-3}$ as well as an FDR threshold⁴⁸ of <5% (Supplementary Table 28). Between-study heterogeneity in all meta-analyses was assessed using I^2 statistics⁴⁹.

Heritability and genetic and phenotypic correlations of waist traits

We calculated the heritability and genetic correlations of several central obesity traits using variance component models^{50,51} in the Framingham Heart Study (FHS) and TWINGENE study. In this approach, the phenotypic variance is decomposed into additive genetic, non-additive genetic, and environmental sources of variation (including model error), and for sets of traits, the covariances between traits. We report narrow sense heritability (h^2), the ratio of the additive genetic variance to the total phenotypic variance. Sex-specific inverse normal trait residuals, adjusted for age (and cohort in FHS), were used to estimate heritability separately in men and women, using variance components analysis in SOLARv. 4.2.7⁵² (FHS) or Mx1.703⁵³ (TWINGENE). Additionally, the sex-specific residuals were used to conduct bivariate quantitative variance component genetic analyses that calculate genetic and environmental correlations between traits. The genetic correlations obtained are estimates of the additive effects of shared genes, and a genetic correlation significantly different from zero suggests a direct influence of the same genes on more than one trait. Similarly, significant environmental correlations suggest shared environmental effects.

We estimated sex-stratified correlations between all waist traits, as well as BMI, height, and weight in TWINGENE, FHS, KORA, and EGCUT. In TWINGENE and FHS, age-adjusted Pearson correlations were used; in EGCUT and KORA, correlations were adjusted for age and age².

European ancestry approximate conditional analyses

To evaluate the evidence for multiple association signals within identified loci, we performed approximate conditional analyses of sex-combined, women-specific, and men-specific data as implemented in the GCTA software^{14,54}. This approach makes use of association summary statistics from the combined European ancestry meta-analysis and a reference dataset of individual-level genotype data to estimate LD between variants and hence also the approximate correlation between allelic effect estimates in a joint association model.

To evaluate robustness of the GCTA results, we performed analyses using two reference datasets: Prospective Investigation of the Vasculature in Uppsala Seniors (PIVUS) consisting of 949 individuals from Uppsala County, Sweden with both GWAS and Metabochip genotype data; and Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) consisting of 6,654 individuals of European descent from four communities in the USA with GWAS data. Both GWAS datasets were imputed using data from Phase II of the International HapMap Project⁵⁵. Results shown use the PIVUS reference dataset because Metabochip genotypes are available (see a comparison in the Supplementary Note). Assuming that the LD correlations between SNPs more than 10 Mb away are zero, and using each reference dataset in turn, we performed a genome-wide stepwise selection procedure to select associated SNPs one-by-one at a P value $< 5 \times 10^{-8}$. For each locus at which multiple association signals were observed in the sex-combined, women-, and/or men-specific data, the SNPs selected by GCTA as independently associated with WHRadjBMI in any of the three meta-analyses are reported, with the SNP identified in the sex-combined analysis taken by default when proxies are identified in the women- and/or men-specific analyses. For SNPs not selected by a particular joint conditional analysis, but identified by either of the other two analyses, summary statistics were calculated for association analysis of the SNP conditioned on the GCTA-selected SNP(s).

Genetic risk score

We calculated a genetic risk score for each individual in the population-based KORA study (1,670 men and 1,750 women) using the 49 identified variants, weighted by the allelic effect from the European ancestry meta-analyses of WHRadjBMI. Sex-combined scores were computed on the basis of the sex-combined meta-analysis. Sex-stratified scores were calculated on the basis of men- and women-specific meta-analyses, where SNPs not achieving nominal significance in the respective sex ($P > 0.05$) were excluded. For each individual, the sex-combined and sex-stratified risk scores were rounded to the nearest integer for plotting. Risk scores were then tested for association with WHRadjBMI using linear regression.

Explained variance

We calculated the variance explained by a single SNP as:

$$2 \cdot MAF \cdot (1 - MAF) \cdot \frac{\beta^2}{\text{Var}(Y)}$$

where MAF is the minor allele frequency, β is the SNP effect estimate computed by meta-analysis, and $\text{Var}(Y)$ is the variance of the phenotype Y as it went into the study-specific association testing. To derive the total variance explained by a set of independent SNPs, we computed the sum of single-SNP explained variances under the assumption of independent contributions.

To estimate the polygenic variance explained by all HapMap SNPs, we used the all-SNP estimation approach implemented in GCTA and analysed individuals in the ARIC and TwinGene cohorts, including the first 20 principal components as fixed covariates. After removing one of each pair of individuals with estimated genetic relatedness >0.025 , 11,898 unrelated individuals with WHRadjBMI were available.

Fine-mapping analyses

We considered each identified locus, defined as 500 kb upstream and downstream of the lead SNP, and computed 95% credible intervals using a Bayesian approach. On the basis of association summary statistics from the European ancestry, non-European ancestry, or all ancestries sex-combined meta-analyses, we calculated an approximate Bayes' factor⁵⁶ in favor of association, given by:

$$BF_j = \frac{\sqrt{1 - R_j}}{\exp\left(-\frac{R_j \beta_j^2}{2\sigma_j^2}\right)}$$

where β_j is the allelic effect of the j^{th} SNP, with corresponding standard error σ_j , and $R_j = 0.04 / (\sigma_j^2 + 0.04)$, which incorporates a $N(0, 0.2^2)$ prior for β_j . This prior gives high probability to small effect sizes, and only small probability to large effect sizes. We then calculated the posterior probability that the j^{th} SNP is causal by:

$$\varphi_j = \frac{BF_j}{\sum_k BF_k}$$

where the summation in the denominator is over all SNPs passing QC across the locus. We compared the meta-analysis results and credible sets of SNPs likely to contain the causal variant as described⁵⁷. Assuming a single causal variant at each locus, a 95% credible set of variants was then constructed by: (i) ranking all SNPs according to their Bayes' factor; and (ii) combining ranked SNPs until their cumulative posterior probability exceeded 0.95. For each locus, we calculated the number of SNPs contained within the 95% credible sets, and the length of the genomic interval covered by these SNPs.

Comparison of loci across traits

To determine whether the identified loci were also associated with any of 22 cardio-metabolic traits, we obtained association data from meta-analysis consortia DIAGRAM (T2D)⁵⁸, CARDIoGRAM-C4D (CAD)⁵⁹, ICBP (SBP, DBP)⁶⁰, GIANT (BMI, height)^{36,37}, GLGC (HDL, LDL, and TG)⁶¹, MAGIC (fasting glucose, fasting insulin, fasting insulin

adjusted for BMI, and two-hour glucose)⁶²⁻⁶⁴, ADIPOGen (BMI-adjusted adiponectin)⁶⁵, CKDgen (urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio (UACR), estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), and overall CKD)^{66,67}, ReproGen (age at menarche, age at menopause)^{68,69}, and GEFOS (bone mineral density)⁷⁰; others provided association data for IgA nephropathy⁷¹ (also Kiryluk K, Choi M, Lifton RP, Gharavi AG, unpublished data) and for endometriosis (stage B cases only)⁷². Proxies ($r^2 > 0.80$ in CEU) were used when an index SNP was unavailable.

We also searched the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) GWAS Catalog for previous SNP-trait associations near our lead SNPs⁷³. We supplemented the catalog with additional genome-wide significant SNP-trait associations from the literature^{13,70,74-80}. We used PLINK to identify SNPs within 500 kb of lead SNPs using 1000 Genomes Project Pilot I genotype data and LD (r^2) values from CEU^{81,82}; for rs7759742, HapMap release 22 CEU data^{81,83} were used. All SNPs within the specified regions were compared with the NHGRI GWAS Catalog¹⁶.

Enrichment of concordant cross-trait associations and effects—To evaluate whether the alleles associated with increased WHRadjBMI at the 49 identified SNPs convey effects for any of the 22 cardiometabolic traits, we conducted meta-regression analyses of the beta-estimates on these metabolic outcomes from other consortia with the beta-estimates for WHRadjBMI in our data⁶⁵.

Based on the association data across traits, we generated a matrix of Z-scores by dividing the association betas for each of the 49 WHRadjBMI SNPs for each of 22 traits by their respective standard errors. The traits did not include WHRadjBMI or nephropathy in Chinese subjects, but did include HIPadjBMI and WCadjBMI. Each Z-score was made positive if the original trait-increasing allele also increased the look-up trait and negative if not. Missing associations were assigned a value of zero. We performed unsupervised hierarchical clustering of the Z score matrix in R using the default settings of the “heatplot” function from the made4 library (version 1.20.0), agglomerating clusters using average linkage and Pearson correlation metric distance. The rows and columns of matrix values were each automatically scaled to range from 3 to -3. Confidence in the hierarchical clustering was assessed by bootstrap analysis (10,000 resamplings) using the R package “pvclust”⁸⁴.

Identification of candidate functional variants—The 1000 Genomes CEU pilot data were queried for SNPs within 500 kb and in LD ($r^2 > 0.7$, an arbitrary threshold) with any index SNP. All identified variants were then annotated based on RefSeq transcripts using Annovar to identify potential nonsynonymous variants near identified association signals. The distance between each variant and the nearest transcription start site were calculated using gene annotations from GENCODE (v.12).

To investigate whether SNPs in LD with index SNPs are also in LD with common copy number variants (CNVs), we extracted waist trait association results for a list of SNP proxies that are in high LD ($r^2 > 0.8$, CEU) with CNVs in European populations as described

previously⁷. Altogether 6,200 CNV-tagging SNPs were used, which are estimated collectively to capture >40% of CNVs >1 kb in size.

Expression quantitative trait loci (eQTLs)—We examined our lead SNPs in eQTL datasets from several sources (Supplementary Note) for *cis* effects significant at $P < 10^{-5}$. We then checked if the trait-associated SNP also had the strongest association with the expression level of its corresponding transcript. If not, we identified a nearby SNP that had a stronger association with expression (peak transcript SNP) of that transcript. To check whether effects of the peak transcript SNP and waist trait-associated SNP overlapped, we conducted conditional analyses to estimate associations between the waist-associated SNP and transcript level when the peak transcript-associated SNP was also included in the model, and vice versa. If the association for the expression-associated SNP was not significant ($P > 0.05$) when conditioned on the waist-associated SNP, we concluded that the waist-associated SNP is likely to explain a substantial proportion of the variance in gene transcript levels in the region. For SNPs that passed these criteria in either women or men eQTL datasets from deCODE, we investigated sex heterogeneity in gene transcript levels for whole blood (312 men, 435 women) and subcutaneous adipose tissue (252 men, 351 women) based on the sex-specific beta estimates and standard errors, while accounting for potential correlation between the sex-specific associations⁸.

Epigenomic regulatory element overlap with individual variants—We examined overlap of regulatory elements with the 68 trait-associated variants and variants in LD with them ($r^2 > 0.7$, 1000 Genomes Phase 1 version 2 EUR⁸⁵), totaling 1,547 variants. We obtained regulatory element data sets from the ENCODE Consortium²⁴ and Roadmap Epigenomics Project²⁵ corresponding to eight tissues selected based on a current understanding of WHRadjBMI pathways. The 226 regulatory element datasets included experimentally identified regions of open chromatin (DNase-seq, FAIRE-seq), histone modification (H3K4me1, H3K27ac, H3K4me3, H3K9ac, and H3K4me2), and transcription factor binding (Supplementary Table 17). When available, we downloaded data processed during the ENCODE Integrative Analysis²⁴. We processed Roadmap Epigenomics sequencing data with multiple biological replicates using MACS2⁸⁶ and the same Irreproducible Discovery Rate pipeline used in the ENCODE Integrative Analysis. Roadmap Epigenomics data with only a single replicate was processed using MACS2 alone.

Global enrichment of WHRadjBMI-associated loci in epigenomic datasets—We performed permutation-based tests in a subset of 60 open chromatin (DNase-seq) and histone modification (H3K27ac, H3K4me1, H3K4me3, H3K9ac) datasets to identify global enrichment of the WHRadjBMI-associated loci. We matched the index SNP at each locus with 500 variants having no evidence of association ($P > 0.5$, ~1.2 million total variants) with a similar distance to the nearest gene ($\pm 11,655$ bp), number of variants in LD (± 8 variants), and minor allele frequency. Using these pools, we created 10,000 sets of control variants for each of the 49 loci and identified variants in LD ($r^2 > 0.7$) and within 1 Mb. For each SNP set, we calculated the number of loci with at least one variant located in a regulatory region under the assumption that one regulatory variant is responsible for each association signal. We initially calculated an enrichment P value by finding the proportion of control sets for

which as many or more loci overlap a regulatory element than the set of associated loci. For increased P value accuracy, we estimated the P value assuming a sum of binomial distributions to represent the number of index SNPs or their LD proxies that overlap a regulatory dataset compared to the 500 matched control sets.

GRAIL—Gene Relationships Among Implicated Loci (GRAIL)¹⁹ is a text-mining algorithm that evaluates the degree of relatedness among genes within trait regions. Using PubMed abstracts, a subset of genes enriched for relatedness and a set of keywords that suggest putative pathways are identified. To avoid potential bias from papers investigating candidate genes stimulated by GWAS, we restricted our search to abstracts published prior to 2006. We tested for enrichment of connectivity in the independent SNPs that were significant in our study at $P < 10^{-5}$.

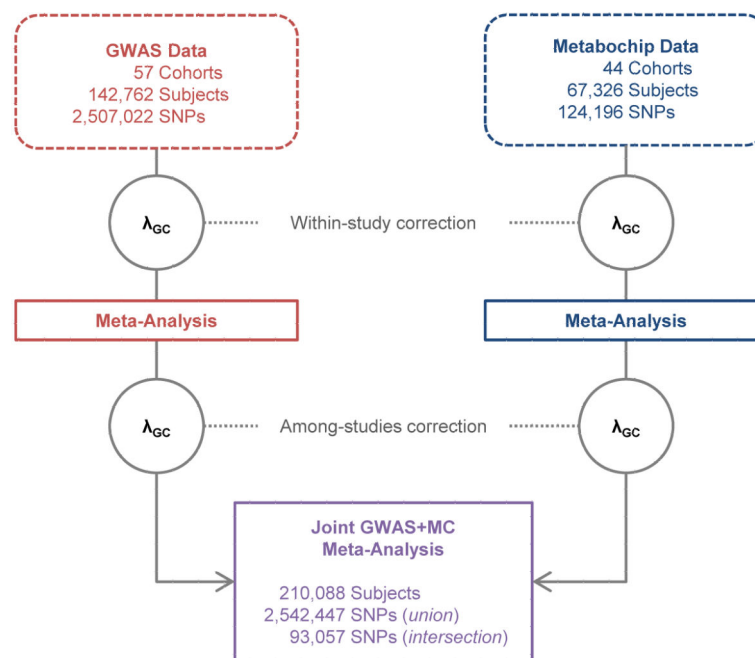
MAGENTA—To investigate if pathways including predefined sets of genes were enriched in the lower part of the gene P value distribution for WHRadjBMI, we performed a pathway analysis using Magenta 2.4²⁰ and SNPs present in both the Metabochip and GWAS meta-analyses. SNPs were assigned to a gene if within 110 kb upstream or 40 kb downstream of the transcript's boundaries. The most significant SNP P value within this interval was adjusted for putative confounders (gene size, number of SNPs in a gene, LD pattern) using stepwise linear regression, creating a gene association score. If the same SNP was assigned to multiple genes, only the gene with the lowest gene score was kept. The *HLA* region was removed from further analyses due to its high LD structure and gene density. Each gene was then assigned pathway terms using Gene Ontology (GO), PANTHER, Ingenuity and Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG)⁸⁷⁻⁹⁰. Finally, the genes were ranked based on their gene association score, and a modified gene-set enrichment analysis (GSEA) using MAGENTA was performed. This analysis tested for enrichment of gene association score ranks above a given rank cutoff (including 5% of all genes) in a gene-set belonging to a predefined pathway term, compared to multiple, equally sized gene-sets that were randomly sampled from all genes in the genome. 10,000-1,000,000 gene-set permutations were performed.

Data-driven Expression-Prioritized Integration for Complex Traits (DEPICT)—

This method is described in detail elsewhere^{23,36}. Briefly, DEPICT uses gene expression data derived from a panel of 77,840 expression arrays⁹¹, 5,984 molecular pathways (based on 169,810 high-confidence experimentally-derived protein-protein interactions⁹²), 2,473 phenotypic gene sets (based on 211,882 gene-phenotype pairs from the Mouse Genetics Initiative⁹³), 737 Reactome pathways⁹⁴, 184 KEGG pathways⁹⁵, and 5,083 GO terms¹⁹. DEPICT uses the expression data to reconstitute the protein-protein interaction gene sets, mouse phenotype gene sets, Reactome pathway gene sets, KEGG pathway gene sets, and GO term gene sets. To avoid biasing the identification of genes and pathways covered by SNPs on the Metabochip, analyses were restricted to GWAS cohort data and included 226 WHRadjBMI SNPs in 78 non-overlapping loci with sex-combined $P < 10^{-5}$. We used DEPICT to map genes to associated WHRadjBMI loci, which then allowed us to (1) systematically identify the most likely causal gene(s) in a given associated region, (2) identify reconstituted gene sets that were enriched in genes from associated regions, and (3)

identify tissue and cell type annotations in which genes from associated regions were highly expressed. Associated regions were defined by all genes residing within LD ($r^2 > 0.5$) distance of the WHRadjBMI-associated index SNPs. Overlapping regions were merged, and SNPs that mapped near to or within the HLA region were excluded. The 93 WHRadjBMI SNPs with $P < 10^{-5}$ (clumping thresholds: HapMap release 27 CEU $r^2 = 0.01$, 500 kb) resulted in 78 non-overlapping regions. GWAS+Metabochip index SNPs were annotated with DEPICT-prioritized genes if the DEPICT (GWAS-only) SNP was located within 500 kb. To mark related gene sets, we first quantified significant gene sets' pairwise overlap using a non-probabilistic version of the reconstituted gene sets and the Jaccard index measure. Groups of gene sets with mutual Jaccard indices > 0.25 were subsequently referred to as meta gene sets and named by the most significant gene set in the group (Supplementary Table 18 and Fig. 2a). In Figures 2a-b, gene sets with similarities between 0.1-0.25 were connected by an edge that was scaled according to degree of similarity. The Cytoscape tool was used to construct parts of Figure 2⁹⁶. In Figure 2c, we show the significance of all cell type annotations and annotations that were categorized as “Tissues” at the outermost level of the Medical Subject Heading ontology.

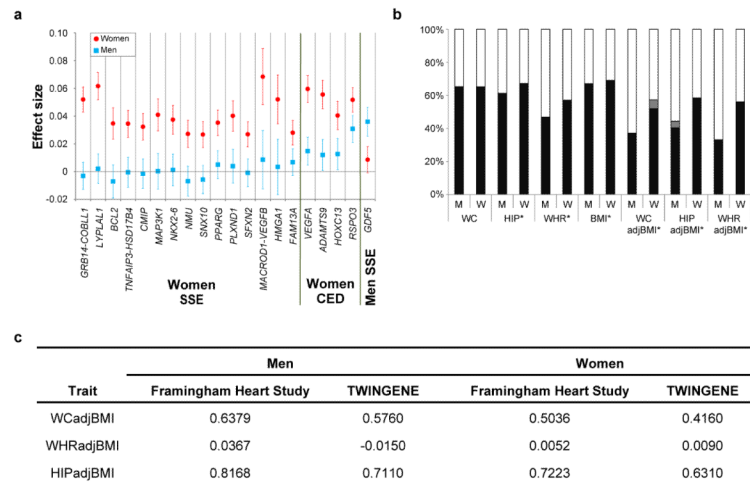
Extended Data



Extended Data Figure 1. Overall WHRadjBMI meta-analysis study design

Data (dashed lines) and analyses (solid lines) related to the genome-wide association study (GWAS) cohorts for waist-hip ratio adjusted for body mass index (WHRadjBMI) are colored red and those related to the Metabochip (MC) cohorts are colored blue. The two genomic control (λ_{GC}) corrections (within-study and among-studies) performed on associations from each dataset are represented by gray-outlined circles. The λ_{GC} corrections for the GWAS meta-analysis were based on all SNPs and the λ_{GC} corrections for the Metabochip meta-analysis were based on a null set of 4,319 SNPs previously associated

with QT interval. The joint meta-analysis of the GWAS and MC datasets is colored purple. All SNP counts reflect a sample size filter of $N \geq 50,000$ subjects. Additional WHRadjBMI meta-analyses included Metabochip data from up to 14,371 subjects of East Asian, South Asian, or African American ancestry from eight cohorts. Counts for the meta-analyses of waist circumference (WC), hip circumference (HIP), and their BMI-adjusted counterparts (WCadjBMI and HIPadjBMI) differ from those of WHRadjBMI because some cohorts only had phenotype data available for one type of body circumference measurement (see Supplementary Table 2).

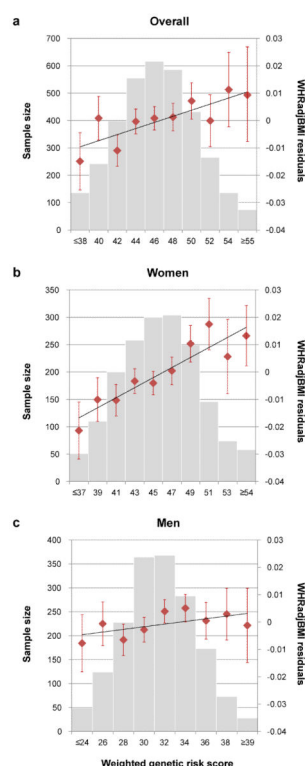


Extended Data Figure 2. Female- and male-specific effects, phenotypic variances, and genetic correlations

a, Figure showing effect beta estimates for the 20 WHRadjBMI SNPs showing significant evidence of sexual dimorphism. Sex-specific effect betas and 95% confidence intervals for SNPs associated with waist-hip ratio adjusted for body mass index (WHRadjBMI) are shown as red circles and blue squares for women and men, respectively. The SNPs are classified into three categories: (i) those showing a female-specific effect (“Women SSE”), namely a significant effect in women and no effect in men ($P_{\text{women}} < 5 \times 10^{-8}$, $P_{\text{men}} \geq 0.05$), (ii) those showing a pronounced female effect (“Women CED”), namely a significant effect in women and a less significant but directionally consistent effect in men ($P_{\text{women}} < 5 \times 10^{-8}$, $5 \times 10^{-8} < P_{\text{men}} < 0.05$); and (iii) those showing a male-specific effect (“Men SSE”), namely a significant effect in men and no effect in women ($P_{\text{men}} < 5 \times 10^{-8}$, $P_{\text{women}} \geq 0.05$).

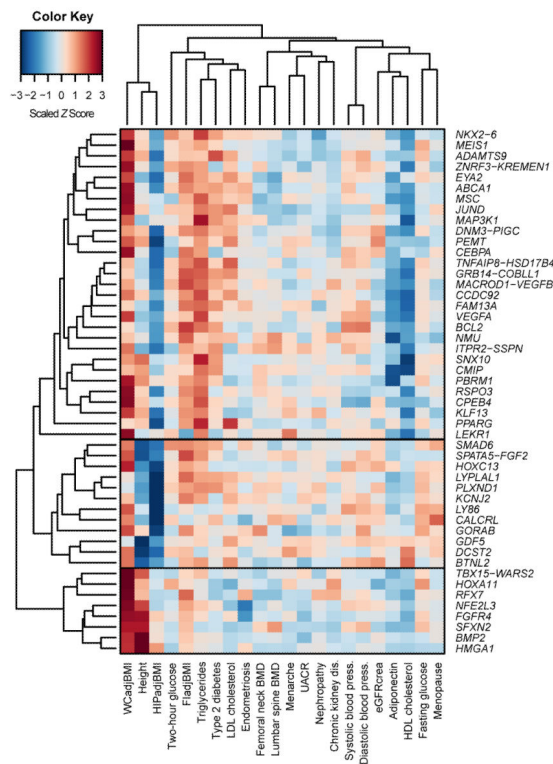
Within each of the three categories, the loci were sorted by increasing P value of sex-based heterogeneity in the effect betas. **b**, Figure showing standardized sex-specific phenotypic variance components for six waist-related traits. Values are shown in men (M) and women (W) from the Swedish Twin Registry ($N = 11,875$). The ACE models are decomposed into additive genetic components (A) shown in black, common environmental components (C) in gray, and non-shared environmental components (E) in white. Components are shown for waist circumference (WC), hip circumference (HIP), waist-hip ratio (WHR), and their body mass index (BMI)-adjusted counterparts (WCadjBMI, HIPadjBMI, and WHRadjBMI). When the A component is different in men and women with $P < 0.05$ for a given trait, its name is marked with an asterisk. **c**, Table showing genetic

correlations of waist-related traits with height, adjusted for age and body mass index. Genetic correlations of three traits with height were based on variance component models in the Framingham Heart Study and TWINGENE study (see Online Methods). WCadjBMI, waist circumference adjusted for BMI; WHRadjBMI, waist-hip ratio adjusted for BMI; HIPadjBMI, hip circumference adjusted for BMI.



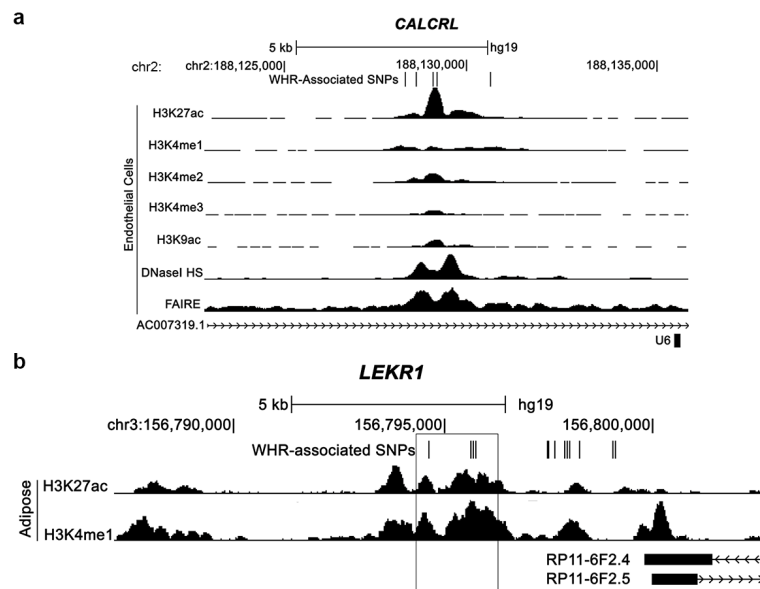
Extended Data Figure 3. Cumulative genetic risk scores for WHRadjBMI applied to the KORA study cohort

a, All subjects ($N = 3,440$, $P_{\text{trend}} = 6.7 \times 10^{-4}$). **b**, Only women ($N = 1,750$, $P_{\text{trend}} = 1.0 \times 10^{-11}$). **c**, Only men ($N = 1,690$, $P_{\text{trend}} = 0.02$). Each genetic risk score (GRS) illustrates the joint effect of the waist-hip ratio adjusted for body mass index (WHRadjBMI)-increasing alleles of the 49 identified variants from Table 1 weighted by the relative effect sizes from the applicable sex-combined or sex-specific meta-analysis. The mean WHRadjBMI residual and 95% confidence interval is plotted for each GRS category (red dots). The histograms show each GRS is normally distributed in KORA (gray bars).



Extended Data Figure 4. Heat map of unsupervised hierarchical clustering of the effects of 49 WHRadjBMI SNPs on 22 anthropometric and metabolic traits and diseases

The matrix of Z-scores representing the set of associations was scaled by row (locus name) and by column (trait) to range from -3 to 3 . Negative values (blue) indicate that the waist-hip ratio adjusted for body mass index (WHRadjBMI)-increasing allele was associated with decreased values of the trait and positive values (red) indicate that this allele was associated with increased values of the trait. Dendrograms indicating the clustering relationships are shown to the left and above the heat map. The WHRadjBMI-increasing alleles at the 49 lead SNPs segregate into three major clusters comprised of alleles that associate with: 1) larger waist circumference adjusted for BMI (WCadjBMI) and smaller hip circumference adjusted for BMI (HIPadjBMI) ($n = 30$ SNPs); 2) taller stature and larger WCadjBMI ($n = 8$ SNPs); and 3) shorter stature and smaller HIPadjBMI ($n = 11$ SNPs). The three visually identified SNP clusters could be statistically distinguished with $>90\%$ confidence. Alleles of the first cluster were predominantly associated with lower high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol and with higher triglycerides and fasting insulin adjusted for BMI (FIadjBMI). eGFRcrea, estimated glomerular filtration rate based on creatinine; LDL cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; UACR, urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio; BMD, bone mineral density.



Extended Data Figure 5. Regulatory element overlap with WHRadjBMI-associated loci

a, Five variants associated with waist-hip ratio adjusted for body mass index (WHRadjBMI) and located ~77 kb upstream of the first *CALCRL* transcription start site overlap regions with genomic evidence of regulatory activity in endothelial cells. **b**, Five WHRadjBMI variants, including rs8817452, in a 1.1 kb region (box) ~250 kb downstream of the first *LEKR1* transcription start site overlap evidence of active enhancer activity in adipose nuclei. Signal enrichment tracks are from the ENCODE Integrative Analysis and the Roadmap Epigenomics track hubs on the UCSC Genome Browser. Transcripts are from the GENCODE basic annotation.

Extended Data Table 1
WHRadjBMI loci with multiple association signals in the sex-combined and/or sex-specific approximate conditional meta-analyses

P values and β coefficients for the association with WHRadjBMI from the joint model in the approximate conditional analysis of combined GWAS and Metabochoip studies. SNPs selected by conditional analyses as independently associated with WHRadjBMI in a meta-analysis (sex-combined, women- or men-specific) have their respective summary statistics for these analyses marked in black and bold. SNPs not selected by a particular conditional analysis as independently associated are marked in gray and show the association analysis results for the SNP conditioned on the locus SNPs selected by GCTA. Sample sizes are from the unconditioned meta-analysis.

Locus*	SNP	Position (bp)	Nearest gene(s)	EA [†]	EAF	Sex-combined				Women				Men				Sex diff. P^{\ddagger}	CEU r^2 with lead SNP
						β	P	N	β	P	N	β	P	N	β	P	N		
TBX15- WARS2 [chr 1]	rs2645294	119,376,110	WARS2	T	0.6	0.031	7.60E-19	209,808	0.035	1.50E-14	116,596	0.014	2.20E-02	93,346	4.90E-03			Same	
	rs1106529	119,333,020	TBX15	A	0.8	0.016	1.40E-03	209,930	0.021	1.10E-03	116,663	0.034	4.80E-09	93,401	1.10E-01			0.43	
	rs12143789	119,298,677	TBX15	C	0.2	0.026	1.00E-09	209,874	0.022	1.30E-04	116,640	0.019	2.30E-03	93,369	7.10E-01			0.06	
	rs12731372	118,654,498	SPAG17	C	0.8	0.024	1.30E-09	209,856	0.02	1.10E-04	116,636	0.028	3.40E-06	93,354	2.80E-01			>500 kb	
GRB14- COBLL1 [chr 2]	rs1128249 ^{//}	165,236,870	COBLL1	G	0.6	0.062	8.60E-19	209,414	0.093	1.00E-24	116,348	-0.002	7.10E-01	93,200	8.60E-22			0.93	
	rs12692737	165,262,555	COBLL1	A	0.3	0.043	1.60E-08	203,265	0.134	2.70E-26	112,317	0.003	5.70E-01	91,082	2.80E-21			0.71	
	rs12692738	165,266,498	COBLL1	T	0.8	0.021	5.90E-05	209,551	0.092	3.80E-20	116,474	-0.005	4.10E-01	93,211	4.70E-18			0.3	
	rs17185198	165,268,482	COBLL1	A	0.8	0.002	7.40E-01	207,702	0.072	8.50E-13	115,657	-0.004	5.80E-01	92,179	8.00E-11			0.15	
PRBMT [chr 3]	rs13083798	52,624,788	PRBMT	A	0.5	0.023	4.10E-11	209,128	0.013	1.20E-01	115,974	0.016	1.10E-03	93,288	7.40E-01			0.88	
	rs12489828	52,542,054	NT5DC2	T	0.6	0.011	6.50E-02	204,485	0.029	2.60E-10	112,633	-0.015	2.90E-03	91,986	7.20E-11			0.57	
MAP3K1 [chr 5]	rs3936510	55,896,623	MAP3K1	T	0.2	0.022	1.50E-06	207,896	0.042	6.00E-12	115,645	-0.002	8.20E-01	92,386	5.90E-07			0.88	
	rs459193	55,842,508	ANKRD55	A	0.3	0.026	1.60E-11	209,952	0.016	1.90E-03	116,677	0.033	6.70E-09	93,410	2.30E-02			0.06	
VEGFA [chr 6]	rs998584 [§]	43,865,874	VEGFA	A	0.5	0.043	1.10E-29	189,620	0.065	1.00E-35	106,771	0.018	8.20E-04	82,983	3.10E-10			0.84	
	rs4714699	43,910,541	VEGFA	C	0.4	0.019	3.50E-07	193,327	0.028	1.00E-08	107,987	0.007	1.90E-01	85,475	4.90E-03			0.01	
RSP03 [chr 6]	rs1936805 [§]	127,493,809	RSP03	T	0.5	0.038	2.00E-28	209,859	0.071	6.40E-37	116,602	0.031	3.30E-10	93,392	8.40E-08			Same	
	rs11961815	127,477,288	RSP03	A	0.8	0.022	5.00E-06	209,679	0.037	6.50E-09	116,503	0.021	3.60E-03	93,310	6.90E-02			0.32	
	rs72959041 ^{//}	127,496,586	RSP03	A	0.1	0.101	8.70E-15	72,472	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.05	
NFE2L3, SNX10 [¶]	rs1534696	26,363,764	SNX10	C	0.4	0.011	2.00E-03	198,194	0.028	2.00E-08	111,643	-0.007	1.90E-01	86,685	2.20E-07			Same	
	rs10245353	25,825,139	NFE2L3	A	0.2	0.035	8.40E-16	210,008	0.016	1.30E-01	116,704	0.027	1.40E-05	93,438	3.60E-01			Same	

Locus*	SNP	Position (bp)	Nearest gene(s)	EA [†]	Sex-combined			Women			Men			Sex diff. P^{\ddagger}	CEU r^2 with lead SNP	
					β	P	N	β	P	N	β	P	N			
[chr 7]	rs3902751	25,828,164	NFE2L3	A	0.3	0.009	2.00E-01	209,969	0.039	4.20E-14	116,676	0.019	8.40E-04	93,427	7.40E-03	0.608 [§]
HOXC13	rs1443512	52,628,951	HOXC13	A	0.2	0.016	2.70E-03	209,980	0.04	1.10E-14	116,688	0.012	3.00E-02	93,425	1.80E-04	Same
[chr 12]	rs10783615	52,636,040	HOXC12	G	0.1	0.037	6.70E-14	209,368	0.023	8.50E-03	116,356	0.022	1.80E-03	93,146	9.30E-01	0.59
	rs2071449 [§]	52,714,278	HOXC4/5/6	A	0.4	0.028	5.00E-15	206,953	0.026	4.60E-08	114,259	0.029	3.40E-08	92,829	6.60E-01	0
CCDC92	rs4765219	123,006,063	CCDC92	C	0.7	0.025	6.90E-12	209,807	0.032	2.50E-11	116,592	0.018	5.30E-04	93,350	3.80E-02	Same
[chr 12]	rs863750	123,071,397	ZNF664	T	0.6	0.022	3.90E-10	209,371	0.031	1.60E-11	116,367	0.015	4.00E-03	93,138	1.80E-02	0.02

* Locus and lead SNPs are defined by Table 1

[†] The effect allele is the WHRadjBMI-increasing allele in the sex-combined analysis.

[‡] Test for sex difference in conditional analysis based on the effect correlation estimate from primary analyses; values significant at the table-wise Bonferroni threshold of 0.05 / 25=2×10⁻³ are marked in bold.

[§] SNPs selected by conditional analysis in the sex-combined analysis; proxies were selected by joint conditional analysis in the women- and/or men-specific analyses.

// SNP not present in the sex-specific meta-analyses due to sample size filter requiring $N \geq 50,000$; sample size from GCTA.

[¶] At NFE2L3-SNX10, different lead SNPs were identified in the European and all-ancestry analyses but LD is reported with respect to rs10245353. Chr, chromosome; EA, effect allele; EAF, effect allele frequency.

Extended Data Table 2
Enrichments of 49 WHRadjBMI signal SNPs with
metabolic and anthropometric traits

The 49 waist-hip ratio adjusted for body mass index (WHRadjBMI) SNPs were tested for association with other traits by GWAS meta-analyses performed by other groups (see Online Methods). The maximum sample size available is shown overall or separately for 61 cases/controls. *N* indicates the number of the total SNPs for which the WHRadjBMI-increasing allele is associated with the trait in the concordant direction (increased levels, except for HDL-C, adiponectin, and BMI). One-sided binomial *P* values test whether this number is greater than expected by chance (null *P* = 0.5 and null *P* = 0.025, respectively). The tests do not account for correlation between WHRadjBMI and the tested traits. *P* values representing significant column-wise enrichment (*P* < 0.05 / 23 tests) are marked in red and bold.

Trait	Max. sample size	<i>N</i>	SNPs in concordant direction		SNPs in concordant direction with <i>P</i> < 0.05		
			Total	<i>P</i>	<i>N</i>	Total	<i>P</i>
Type 2 diabetes (T2D)	86,200	37	49	2.35E-04	16	49	3.56E-14
Fasting glucose (FG)	132,996	35	49	1.90E-03	8	49	2.75E-05
Fasting insulin adjusted for BMI (FadjBMI)	103,496	45	49	4.11E-10	36	49	4.04E-47
2-hour glucose (G120)	42,853	33	49	1.06E-02	7	49	2.09E-04
Diastolic blood pressure (DBP)	69,760	34	49	4.70E-03	10	49	3.21 E-07
Systolic blood pressure (SBP)	69,774	38	49	7.10E-05	6	49	1.36E-03
Body mass index (BMI)	322,120	40	49	4.63E-06	23	49	4.42E-24
Height	253,209	25	49	5.00E-01	14	49	1.10E-11
High-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C)	187,142	45	49	4.11E-10	24	49	1.22E-25
Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C)	173,067	33	49	1.06E-02	12	49	2.32E-09
Triglycerides (TG)	177,838	46	49	3.49E-11	29	49	6.02E-34
Adiponectin	29,347	41	49	9.82E-07	20	49	1.28E-19
Endometriosis	1,364/7,060	24	45	3.83E-01	4	45	2.58E-02
Nephropathy (in Chinese subjects)	1,194/902	18	43	8.89E-01	0	43	1.00E+00
Nephropathy (in Italian subjects)	1,045/1,340	20	43	7.29E-01	1	43	6.63E-01
Estimated glomerular filtration rate of creatinine (eGFRcrea)	74,354	29	49	1.26E-01	3	49	1.24E-01
Chronic kidney disease (CKD)	74,354	17	49	9.89E-01	2	49	3.47E-01
Urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio (UACR)	31,580	22	49	8.04E-01	2	49	3.47E-01
Menopause	87,802	28	49	1.96E-01	1	49	7.11E-01
Menarche	38,968	23	49	7.16E-01	2	49	3.47E-01

Trait	Max. sample size	SNPs in concordant direction			SNPs in concordant direction with $P < 0.05$		
		<i>N</i>	Total	<i>P</i>	<i>N</i>	Total	<i>P</i>
Coronary artery disease (CAD)	191,198	27	48	2.35E-01	9	48	2.64E-06
Femoral neck bone mineral density (FN-BMD)	32,960	25	49	5.00E-01	4	49	3.40E-02
Lumbar spine bone mineral density (LS-BMD)	31,798	28	49	1.96E-01	3	49	1.24E-01

Extended Data Table 3
Enrichment of 49 WHRadjBMI-associated loci in
epigenomic datasets

Enrichment of waist-hip ratio adjusted for BMI (WHRadjBMI)-associated loci in regulatory elements from selected WHRadjBMI-relevant tissues. *P* values are derived using a sum of binomial distributions (see Methods). *P* values below a Bonferroni-corrected threshold for 60 tests of 8.3×10^{-4} are indicated in bold font. The binomial based *P* values are similar to *P* values generated from 10,000 permutation tests. Dashes indicate that datasets were not available.

Sample	Tissue	DNase I HS	H3K4me1	H3K27ac	H3K4me3	H3K9ac
Adipose Nuclei	Adipose	-	9.6E-06	1.2E-13	0.0051	0.0010
GM12878	Blood	0.029	0.032	0.32	0.050	0.030
Osteoblasts	Bone	0.082	4.1E-06	1.8E-04	9.9E-04	-
Astrocytes	Brain	0.013	0.0044	0.0077	0.0047	-
Anterior Caudate	Brain	-	2.9E-04	0.026	0.018	0.015
Mid Frontal Lobe	Brain	-	0.029	0.023	0.023	0.036
Substantia Nigra	Brain	-	0.047	-	0.023	0.045
Cerebellum	Brain	0.048	-	-	-	-
Cerebrum Frontal	Brain	0.054	-	-	-	-
Frontal Cortex	Brain	0.022	-	-	-	-
HUVEC	Endothelial	5.0E-05	0.011	0.0011	0.023	0.040
Adult Liver	Liver	-	0.0057	-	0.15	0.29
HepG2	Liver	0.015	7.7E-05	0.023	5.0E-04	0.085
Hepatocytes	Liver	0.59	-	-	-	-
Huh-7	Liver	0.0024	-	-	-	-
Myocyte	Muscle	2.9E-04	1.3E-04	0.0026	0.015	0.0041
PSOAS	Muscle	0.0012	-	-	-	-
Skeletal Muscle	Muscle	-	7.3E-04	7.8E-05	0.0075	0.25
Pancreatic Islet	Pancreatic Islets	0.40	0.68	-	0.37	0.61

Extended Data Table 4
Candidate genes at new loci associated with additional
waist and hip-related traits

Candidate genes for loci shown on Table 3 based on secondary analyses or literature review. Further details are provided in other Supplementary Tables and the Supplementary Note. Loci are shown in order of chromosome and position.

SNP	Trait	Chr	Locus	Expression QTL ($P < 10^{-5}$)*	GRAIL ($P < 0.05$)†	Literature‡	Other GWAS signals§	nsSNPs and CNVs ($r^2 > 0.7$)
rs10925060	WCadjBMI	1	<i>OR2W5-NLRP3</i>	-	-	<i>NLRP3</i>	-	-
rs10929925	HIP	2	<i>SOX11</i>	-	<i>SOX11</i>	<i>SOX11</i>	-	-
rs2124969	WCadjBMI	2	<i>ITGB6</i>	<i>PLA2R1</i> (SAT)	<i>ITGB6</i>	-	Idiopathic membranous nephropathy (<i>PLA2R1</i> , <i>LY75</i> , <i>ITGB6</i> ; <i>RBMS1</i>)	-
rs1664789	WCadjBMI	5	<i>ARL15</i>	-	-	<i>ARL15</i>	-	-
rs17472426	WCadjBMI	5	<i>CCNJL</i>	-	-	<i>FABP6</i>	-	-
rs722585	HIPadjBMI	6	<i>GMD5</i>	-	-	-	-	-
rs7739232	HIPadjBMI	6	<i>KLHL31</i>	<i>KLHL31</i> (SAT)	-	<i>KLHL31-GCLC-ELVOL</i>	-	-
rs1144	WCadjBMI	7	<i>SRPK2</i>	<i>SRPK2</i> (LCL), <i>MLL5</i> (Omental)	-	-	-	-
rs13241538	HIPadjBMI	7	<i>KLF14</i>	<i>KLF14</i> (SAT)	-	<i>KLF14</i>	HDL cholesterol, Triglycerides, Type 2 diabetes: <i>KLF14</i>	-
rs2398893	WHR	9	<i>PTPDC1</i>	-	<i>BARX1</i>	-	-	-
rs7044106	HIPadjBMI	9	<i>C5</i>	-	-	-	-	-
rs11607976	HIP	11	<i>MYEOV</i>	-	<i>CCND1</i>	<i>FGF19-FGF4-FGF3</i>	-	-
rs1784203	WCadjBMI	11	<i>KIAA1731</i>	-	-	-	-	-
rs1394461	WHR	11	<i>CNTN5</i>	-	-	-	-	-
rs319564	WHR	13	<i>GPC6</i>	-	-	<i>GPC6</i>	-	-
rs4985155	HIP	16	<i>PDXDC1</i>	<i>PDXDC1</i> (SAT)	-	<i>PLA2G10-NTAN1</i>	Femoral neck bone mineral density, Lumbar spine bone mineral density, Plasma phospholipid levels, Metabolic traits, Height: <i>PDXDC1</i> , <i>NTAN1</i>	<i>NTAN1</i> (S287P), <i>NTAN1</i> (H283N)
rs2047937	WCadjBMI	16	<i>ZNF423</i>	-	-	<i>ZNF423-CNEP1R1</i>	-	-
rs2034088	HIPadjBMI	17	<i>VPS53</i>	<i>VPS53</i> (Liver, SAT), <i>FAM101B</i> (Omental, SAT)	-	-	-	-
rs1053593	HIPadjBMI	22	<i>HMGXB4</i>	<i>TOM1</i> (PBMC), <i>HMGXB4</i> (Blood, SAT)	-	<i>HMGXB4</i>	-	<i>HMGXB4</i> (G165V), CNVR8147.1

* Gene transcript levels associated with SNP genotype (expression QTL) in the indicated tissue(s).

† Genes in pathways identified as enriched by GRAIL analysis.

‡ Strongest candidate genes identified based on manual literature review.

§ Traits associated at $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ in GWAS lookups or in the GWAS catalog using the index SNP or a proxy in high linkage disequilibrium (LD) ($r^2 > 0.7$), and the gene(s) named in those reports.

|| Nonsynonymous variants (nsSNPs) and copy number variants (CNVs) with tag SNPs in high LD with index SNP based on a 1000 Genomes CEU reference panel. DEPICT analysis was not performed for loci associated with these traits. Chr, Chromosome; WCadjBMI, waist circumference adjusted for body mass index (BMI); HIPadjBMI, hip circumference adjusted for BMI; WHR, waist-to-hip ratio.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Authors

Dmitry Shungin^{#1,2,3}, Thomas W Winkler^{#4}, Damien C Croteau-Chonka^{#5,6}, Teresa Ferreira^{#7}, Adam E Locke^{#8}, Reedik Mägi^{#7,9}, Rona J Strawbridge¹⁰, Tune H Pers^{11,12,13,14}, Krista Fischer⁹, Anne E Justice¹⁵, Tsegaselassie Workalemahu¹⁶, Joseph M.W. Wu¹⁷, Martin L Buchkovich⁵, Nancy L Heard-Costa^{18,19}, Tamara S Roman⁵, Alexander W Drong⁷, Ci Song^{20,21,22}, Stefan Gustafsson^{21,22}, Felix R Day²³, Tonu Esko^{9,11,12,13}, Tove Fall^{20,21,22}, Zoltán Kutalik^{24,25,26}, Jian'an Luan²³, Joshua C Randall^{7,27}, André Scherag^{28,29}, Sailaja Vedantam^{11,12}, Andrew R Wood³⁰, Jin Chen³¹, Rudolf Fehrmann³², Juha Karjalainen³², Bratati Kahali³³, Ching-Ti Liu¹⁷, Ellen M Schmidt³⁴, Devin Absher³⁵, Najaf Amin³⁶, Denise Anderson³⁷, Marian Beekman^{38,39}, Jennifer L Bragg-Gresham^{8,40}, Steven Buyske^{41,42}, Ayse Demirkan^{36,43}, Georg B Ehret^{44,45}, Mary F Feitosa⁴⁶, Anuj Goel^{7,47}, Anne U Jackson⁸, Toby Johnson^{25,26,48}, Marcus E Kleber^{49,50}, Kati Kristiansson⁵¹, Massimo Mangino⁵², Irene Mateo Leach⁵³, Carolina Medina-Gomez^{54,55,56}, Cameron D Palmer^{11,12}, Dorota Pasko³⁰, Sonali Pechlivanis²⁸, Marjolein J Peters^{54,56}, Inga Prokopenko^{7,57,58}, Alena Stan áková⁵⁹, Yun Ju Sung⁶⁰, Toshiko Tanaka⁶¹, Alexander Teumer⁶², Jana V Van Vliet-Ostaptchouk⁶³, Loïc Yengo^{64,65,66}, Weihua Zhang^{67,68}, Eva Albrecht⁶⁹, Johan Ärnlöv^{21,22,70}, Gillian M Arscott⁷¹, Stefania Bandinelli⁷², Amy Barrett⁵⁷, Claire Bellis^{73,74}, Amanda J Bennett⁵⁷, Christian Berne⁷⁵, Matthias Blüher^{76,77}, Stefan Böhringer^{38,78}, Fabrice Bonnet⁷⁹, Yvonne Böttcher⁷⁶, Marcel Bruinenberg⁸⁰, Delia B Carba⁸¹, Ida H Caspersen⁸², Robert Clarke⁸³, E Warwick Daw⁴⁶, Joris Deelen^{38,39}, Ewa Deelman⁸⁴, Graciela Delgado⁴⁹, Alex SF Doney⁸⁵, Niina Eklund^{51,86}, Michael R Erdos⁸⁷, Karol Estrada^{12,56,88}, Elodie Eury^{64,65,66}, Nele Friedrich⁸⁹, Melissa E Garcia⁹⁰, Vilmantas Giedraitis⁹¹, Bruna Gigante⁹², Alan S Go⁹³, Alain Golay⁹⁴, Harald Grallert^{69,95,96}, Tanja B Grammer⁴⁹, Jürgen Gräßler⁹⁷, Jagvir Grewal^{67,68}, Christopher J Groves⁵⁷, Toomas Haller⁹, Goran Hallmans⁹⁸, Catharina A Hartman⁹⁹, Maija Hassinen¹⁰⁰, Caroline Hayward¹⁰¹, Kauko Heikkilä¹⁰², Karl-Heinz Herzig^{103,104,105}, Quinta Helmer^{38,78,106}, Hans L Hillege^{53,107}, Oddgeir Holmen¹⁰⁸, Steven C Hunt¹⁰⁹, Aaron Isaacs^{36,110}, Till Ittermann¹¹¹, Alan L James^{112,113}, Ingegerd Johansson³, Thorhildur Juliusdottir⁷, Ioanna-Panagiota Kalafati¹¹⁴, Leena Kinnunen⁵¹, Wolfgang Koenig⁵⁰, Ishminder K Kooner⁶⁷, Wolfgang Kratzer¹¹⁵, Claudia Lamina¹¹⁶, Karin Leander⁹², Nanette R Lee⁸¹, Peter Lichtner¹¹⁷, Lars Lind¹¹⁸, Jaana Lindström⁵¹, Stéphane Lobbens^{64,65,66}, Mattias Lorentzon¹¹⁹, François Mach⁴⁵, Patrik KE Magnusson²⁰, Anubha Mahajan⁷, Wendy L McArdle¹²⁰, Cristina Menni⁵², Sigrun Merger¹²¹, Evelin Mihailov^{9,122}, Lili Milani⁹, Rebecca Mills⁶⁷, Alireza Moayyeri^{52,123}, Keri L Monda^{15,124}, Simon P Mooijaart^{38,125}, Thomas W Mühleisen^{126,127}, Antonella Mulas¹²⁸, Gabriele Müller¹²⁹, Martina Müller-Nurasyid^{69,130,131,132}, Ramaiah Nagaraja¹³³, Michael A Nalls¹³⁴, Narisu Narisu⁸⁷, Nicola Glorioso¹³⁵, Ilja M Nolte¹⁰⁷, Matthias Olden⁴, Nigel W Rayner^{7,27,57}, Frida Renstrom², Janina S Ried⁶⁹, Neil R Robertson^{7,57}, Lynda M

Rose¹³⁶, Serena Sanna¹²⁸, Hubert Scharnagl¹³⁷, Salome Scholtens⁸⁰, Bengt Sennblad^{10,138}, Thomas Seufferlein¹¹⁵, Colleen M Sitlani¹³⁹, Albert Vernon Smith^{140,141}, Kathleen Stirrups^{27,142}, Heather M Stringham⁸, Johan Sundström¹¹⁸, Morris A Swertz³², Amy J Swift⁸⁷, Ann-Christine Syvänen^{21,143}, Bamidele O Tayo¹⁴⁴, Barbara Thorand^{96,145}, Gudmar Thorleifsson¹⁴⁶, Andreas Tomaschitz¹⁴⁷, Chiara Troffa¹³⁵, Floor VA van Oort¹⁴⁸, Niek Verweij⁵³, Judith M Vonk¹⁰⁷, Lindsay L Waite³⁵, Roman Wennauer¹⁴⁹, Tom Wilsgaard¹⁵⁰, Mary K Wojczynski⁴⁶, Andrew Wong¹⁵¹, Qunyuan Zhang⁴⁶, Jing Hua Zhao²³, Eoin P. Brennan¹⁵², Murim Choi¹⁵³, Per Eriksson¹⁰, Lasse Folkersen¹⁰, Anders Franco-Cereceda¹⁵⁴, Ali G Gharavi¹⁵⁵, Åsa K Hedman^{7,21,22}, Marie-France Hivert^{156,157}, Jinyan Huang^{158,159}, Stavroula Kanoni¹⁴², Fredrik Karpe^{57,160}, Sarah Keildson⁷, Krzysztof Kiryluk¹⁵⁵, Liming Liang^{159,161}, Richard P Lifton¹⁶², Baoshan Ma^{159,163}, Amy J McKnight¹⁶⁴, Ruth McPherson¹⁶⁵, Andres Metspalu^{9,122}, Josine L Min¹²⁰, Miriam F Moffatt¹⁶⁶, Grant W Montgomery¹⁶⁷, Joanne M Murabito^{18,168}, George Nicholson^{169,170}, Dale R Nyholt^{167,171}, Christian Olsson¹⁵⁴, John RB Perry^{7,30,52}, Eva Reinmaa⁹, Rany M Salem^{11,12,13}, Niina Sandholm^{172,173,174}, Eric E Schadt¹⁷⁵, Robert A Scott²³, Lisette Stolk^{38,56}, Edgar E. Vallejo¹⁷⁶, Harm-Jan Westra³², Krina T Zondervan^{7,177}, The ADIPOGen Consortium^{178,179}, The CARDIOGRAMplusC4D Consortium, The CKDGen Consortium, The GEFOS Consortium^{179,180}, The GENIE Consortium^{179,181}, The GLGC¹⁸², The ICBP^{179,183}, The International Endogene Consortium¹⁷⁹, The LifeLines Cohort Study^{179,184}, The MAGIC Investigators¹⁸⁵, The MuTHER Consortium^{179,186}, The PAGE Consortium^{179,187}, The ReproGen Consortium, Philippe Amouyel¹⁸⁸, Dominique Arveiler¹⁸⁹, Stephan JL Bakker¹⁹⁰, John Beilby^{71,191}, Richard N Bergman¹⁹², John Blangero⁷³, Morris J Brown¹⁹³, Michel Burnier¹⁹⁴, Harry Campbell¹⁹⁵, Aravinda Chakravarti⁴⁴, Peter S Chines⁸⁷, Simone Claudi-Boehm¹²¹, Francis S Collins⁸⁷, Dana C Crawford^{196,197}, John Danesh¹⁹⁸, Ulf de Faire⁹², Eco JC de Geus^{199,200}, Marcus Dörr^{201,202}, Raimund Erbel²⁰³, Johan G Eriksson^{51,204,205}, Martin Farrall^{7,47}, Ele Ferrannini^{206,207}, Jean Ferrières²⁰⁸, Nita G Forouhi²³, Terrence Forrester²⁰⁹, Oscar H Franco^{54,55}, Ron T Gansevoort¹⁹⁰, Christian Gieger⁶⁹, Vilundur Gudnason^{140,141}, Christopher A Haiman²¹⁰, Tamara B Harris⁹⁰, Andrew T Hattersley²¹¹, Markku Heliövaara⁵¹, Andrew A Hicks²¹², Aroon D Hingorani²¹³, Wolfgang Hoffmann^{111,202}, Albert Hofman^{54,55}, Georg Homuth⁶², Steve E Humphries²¹⁴, Elina Hyppönen^{215,216,217,218}, Thomas Illig^{95,219}, Marjo-Riitta Jarvelin^{68,105,220,221,222,223}, Berit Johansen⁸², Pekka Jousilahti⁵¹, Antti M Jula⁵¹, Jaakko Kaprio^{51,86,102}, Frank Kee²²⁴, Sirkka M Keinänen-Kiukaanniemi^{225,226}, Jaspal S Kooner^{67,166,227}, Charles Kooperberg²²⁸, Peter Kovacs^{76,77}, Aldi T Kraja⁴⁶, Meena Kumari^{229,230}, Kari Kuulasmaa⁵¹, Johanna Kuusisto²³¹, Timo A Lakka^{100,232,233}, Claudia Langenberg^{23,229}, Loic Le Marchand²³⁴, Terho Lehtimäki²³⁵, Valeriya Lyssenko^{236,237}, Satu Männistö⁵¹, André Marette^{238,239}, Tara C Matise⁴², Colin A McKenzie²⁰⁹, Barbara McKnight²⁴⁰, Arthur W Musk²⁴¹, Stefan Möhlenkamp²⁰³, Andrew D Morris⁸⁵, Mari Nelis⁹, Claes Ohlsson¹¹⁹, Albertine J Oldehinkel⁹⁹, Ken K Ong^{23,151}, Lyle J Palmer^{242,243}, Brenda W Penninx^{200,244}, Annette Peters^{95,132,145}, Peter P Pramstaller^{212,245}, Olli T Raitakari^{246,247}, Tuomo Rankinen²⁴⁸, DC Rao^{46,60,249}, Treva K Rice^{60,249}, Paul M

Ridker^{136,250}, Marylyn D. Ritchie²⁵¹, Igor Rudan^{196,252}, Veikko Salomaa⁵¹, Nilesh J Samani^{253,254}, Jouko Saramies²⁵⁵, Mark A Sarzynski²⁴⁸, Peter EH Schwarz^{97,256}, Alan R Shuldiner^{257,258,259}, Jan A Staessen^{260,261}, Valgerdur Steinthorsdottir¹⁴⁶, Ronald P Stolk¹⁰⁷, Konstantin Strauch^{69,131}, Anke Tönjes^{76,77}, Angelo Tremblay²⁶², Elena Tremoli²⁶³, Marie-Claude Vohl^{239,264}, Uwe Völker^{62,202}, Peter Vollenweider²⁶⁵, James F Wilson¹⁹⁵, Jacqueline C Witteman⁵⁵, Linda S Adair²⁶⁶, Murielle Bochud^{267,268}, Bernhard O Boehm^{269,270}, Stefan R Bornstein⁹⁷, Claude Bouchard²⁴⁸, Stéphane Cauchi^{64,65,66}, Mark J Caulfield²⁷¹, John C Chambers^{67,68,227}, Daniel I Chasman^{136,250}, Richard S Cooper¹⁴⁴, George Dedoussis¹¹⁴, Luigi Ferrucci⁶¹, Philippe Froguel^{58,64,65,66}, Hans-Jürgen Grabe^{272,273}, Anders Hamsten¹⁰, Jennie Hui^{71,191,274}, Kristian Hveem¹⁰⁸, Karl-Heinz Jöckel²⁸, Mika Kivimäki²²⁹, Diana Kuh¹⁵¹, Markku Laakso²³¹, Yongmei Liu²⁷⁵, Winfried März^{49,137,276}, Patricia B Munroe²⁷¹, Inger Njølstad¹⁵⁰, Ben A Oostra^{36,110,277}, Colin NA Palmer⁸⁵, Nancy L Pedersen²⁰, Markus Perola^{9,51,86}, Louis Pérusse^{239,262}, Ulrike Peters²²⁸, Chris Power²¹⁸, Thomas Quertermous²⁷⁸, Rainer Rauramaa^{100,233}, Fernando Rivadeneira^{54,55,56}, Timo E Saaristo^{279,280}, Danish Saleheen^{199,281,282}, Juha Sinisalo²⁸³, P Eline Slagboom^{38,39}, Harold Snieder¹⁰⁷, Tim D Spector⁵², Kari Stefansson^{146,284}, Michael Stumvoll^{76,77}, Jaakko Tuomilehto^{51,285,286,287}, André G Uitterlinden^{54,55,56}, Matti Uusitupa^{288,289}, Pim van der Harst^{32,53,290}, Giovanni Veronesi²⁹¹, Mark Walker²⁹², Nicholas J Wareham²³, Hugh Watkins^{7,47}, H-Erich Wichmann^{293,294,295}, Goncalo R Abecasis⁸, Themistocles L Assimes²⁷⁸, Sonja I Berndt²⁹⁶, Michael Boehnke⁸, Ingrid B Borecki⁴⁶, Panos Deloukas^{27,142,297}, Lude Franke³², Timothy M Frayling³⁰, Leif C Groop^{86,237}, David J. Hunter^{6,16,159}, Robert C Kaplan²⁹⁸, Jeffrey R O'Connell^{257,258}, Lu Qi^{6,16}, David Schlessinger¹³³, David P Strachan²⁹⁹, Unnur Thorsteinsdottir^{146,284}, Cornelia M van Duijn^{36,54,55,110}, Cristen J Willer^{31,34,300}, Peter M Visscher^{301,302}, Jian Yang^{301,302}, Joel N Hirschhorn^{11,12,13}, M Carola Zillikens^{54,56}, Mark I McCarthy^{7,57,303}, Elizabeth K Speliotes³³, Kari E North^{15,304}, Caroline S Fox¹⁸, Inês Barroso^{27,305,306}, Paul W Franks^{1,2,16}, Erik Ingelsson^{7,21,22}, Iris M Heid^{4,69,§}, Ruth JF Loos^{23,307,308,309,§}, L Adrienne Cupples^{17,18,§}, Andrew P Morris^{7,9,310,§}, Cecilia M Lindgren^{7,12,§}, and Karen L Mohlke^{5,§}

Affiliations

¹Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, Unit of Medicine, Umeå University, Umeå 901 87, Sweden ²Department of Clinical Sciences, Genetic & Molecular Epidemiology Unit, Lund University Diabetes Center, Skåne University Hospital, Malmö 205 02, Sweden ³Department of Odontology, Umeå University, Umeå 901 85, Sweden ⁴Department of Genetic Epidemiology, Institute of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, University of Regensburg, D-93053 Regensburg, Germany ⁵Department of Genetics, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599, USA ⁶Channing Division of Network Medicine, Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA ⁷Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, University of Oxford, Oxford OX3 7BN, UK ⁸Center for Statistical Genetics, Department of Biostatistics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA ⁹Estonian Genome Center,

University of Tartu, Tartu 51010, Estonia ¹⁰Atherosclerosis Research Unit, Center for Molecular Medicine, Department of Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm 17176, Sweden ¹¹Divisions of Endocrinology and Genetics and Center for Basic and Translational Obesity Research, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, MA 02115, USA ¹²Broad Institute of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University, Cambridge 02142, MA, USA ¹³Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA ¹⁴Center for Biological Sequence Analysis, Department of Systems Biology, Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby 2800, Denmark ¹⁵Department of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599, USA ¹⁶Department of Nutrition, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA ¹⁷Department of Biostatistics, Boston University School of Public Health, Boston, MA 02118, USA ¹⁸National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the Framingham Heart Study, Framingham MA 01702, USA ¹⁹Department of Neurology, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA 02118, USA ²⁰Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm 17177, Sweden ²¹Science for Life Laboratory, Uppsala University, Uppsala 75185, Sweden ²²Department of Medical Sciences, Molecular Epidemiology, Uppsala University, Uppsala 75185, Sweden ²³MRC Epidemiology Unit, University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine, Institute of Metabolic Science, Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Cambridge, CB2 0QQ, UK ²⁴Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (IUMSP), Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois (CHUV), Lausanne 1010, Switzerland ²⁵Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, Lausanne 1015, Switzerland ²⁶Department of Medical Genetics, University of Lausanne, Lausanne 1005, Switzerland ²⁷Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Hinxton, Cambridge CB10 1SA, UK ²⁸Institute for Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology (IMIBE), University Hospital Essen, Essen, Germany ²⁹Clinical Epidemiology, Integrated Research and Treatment Center, Center for Sepsis Control and Care (CSCC), Jena University Hospital, Jena, Germany ³⁰Genetics of Complex Traits, University of Exeter Medical School, University of Exeter, Exeter EX1 2LU, UK ³¹Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA ³²Department of Genetics, University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, 9700 RB Groningen, The Netherlands ³³Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, and Department of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 ³⁴Department of Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA ³⁵HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, Huntsville, AL 35806, USA ³⁶Genetic Epidemiology Unit, Department of Epidemiology, Erasmus MC University Medical Center, 3015 GE Rotterdam, The Netherlands ³⁷Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Centre for Child Health Research, The University of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia 6008, Australia ³⁸Netherlands Consortium for Healthy Aging (NCHA), Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden 2300 RC, The Netherlands ³⁹Department of Molecular Epidemiology, Leiden University Medical Center, 2300 RC Leiden, The Netherlands ⁴⁰Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center, University of Michigan, Ann

Arbor, MI 48109 ⁴¹Department of Statistics & Biostatistics, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ USA ⁴²Department of Genetics, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ USA ⁴³Department of Human Genetics, Leiden University Medical Center, 2333 ZC Leiden, The Netherlands ⁴⁴Center for Complex Disease Genomics, McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21205, USA ⁴⁵Cardiology, Department of Specialties of Internal Medicine, Geneva University Hospital, Geneva 1211, Switzerland ⁴⁶Department of Genetics, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO 63110, USA ⁴⁷Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Radcliffe Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, Oxford OX3 9DU, UK ⁴⁸University Institute for Social and Preventative Medicine, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois (CHUV), University of Lausanne, Lausanne 1005, Switzerland ⁴⁹Vth Department of Medicine (Nephrology, Hypertensiology, Endocrinology, Diabetology, Rheumatology), Medical Faculty of Mannheim, University of Heidelberg, Germany ⁵⁰Department of Internal Medicine II, Ulm University Medical Centre, D-89081 Ulm, Germany ⁵¹National Institute for Health and Welfare, FI-00271 Helsinki, Finland ⁵²Department of Twin Research and Genetic Epidemiology, King's College London, London SE1 7EH, UK ⁵³Department of Cardiology, University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, 9700RB Groningen, The Netherlands ⁵⁴Netherlands Consortium for Healthy Aging (NCHA), 3015GE Rotterdam, The Netherlands ⁵⁵Department of Epidemiology, Erasmus MC University Medical Center, 3015GE Rotterdam, The Netherlands ⁵⁶Department of Internal Medicine, Erasmus MC University Medical Center, 3015GE Rotterdam, The Netherlands ⁵⁷Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, University of Oxford, Oxford OX3 7LJ, UK ⁵⁸Department of Genomics of Common Disease, School of Public Health, Imperial College London, Hammersmith Hospital, London, UK ⁵⁹University of Eastern Finland, FI-70210 Kuopio, Finland ⁶⁰Division of Biostatistics, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO 63110, USA ⁶¹Translational Gerontology Branch, National Institute on Aging, Baltimore MD 21225, USA ⁶²Interfaculty Institute for Genetics and Functional Genomics, University Medicine Greifswald, D-17475 Greifswald, Germany ⁶³Department of Endocrinology, University of Groningen, University Medical Center Groningen, Groningen, 9700 RB, The Netherlands ⁶⁴CNRS UMR 8199, F-59019 Lille, France ⁶⁵European Genomic Institute for Diabetes, F-59000 Lille, France ⁶⁶Université de Lille 2, F-59000 Lille, France ⁶⁷Ealing Hospital NHS Trust, Middlesex UB1 3HW, UK ⁶⁸Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Imperial College London, London W2 1PG, UK ⁶⁹Institute of Genetic Epidemiology, Helmholtz Zentrum München - German Research Center for Environmental Health, D-85764 Neuherberg, Germany ⁷⁰School of Health and Social Studies, Dalarna University, Falun, Sweden ⁷¹PathWest Laboratory Medicine of Western Australia, NEDLANDS, Western Australia 6009, Australia ⁷²Geriatric Unit, Azienda Sanitaria Firenze (ASF), Florence, Italy ⁷³Department of Genetics, Texas Biomedical Research Institute, San Antonio, TX, USA ⁷⁴Genomics Research Centre, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

⁷⁵Department of Medical Sciences, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Uppsala University, Uppsala 75185, Sweden ⁷⁶Integrated Research and Treatment Center (IFB) Adiposity Diseases, University of Leipzig, D-04103 Leipzig, Germany ⁷⁷Department of Medicine, University of Leipzig, D-04103 Leipzig, Germany ⁷⁸Department of Medical Statistics and Bioinformatics, Leiden University Medical Center, 2300 RC Leiden, The Netherlands ⁷⁹Inserm UMR991, Department of Endocrinology, University of Rennes, F-35000 Rennes, France ⁸⁰LifeLines Cohort Study, University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, 9700 RB Groningen, The Netherlands ⁸¹USC-Office of Population Studies Foundation, Inc., University of San Carlos, Cebu City 6000, Philippines ⁸²Department of Biology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway ⁸³Clinical Trial Service Unit and Epidemiological Studies Unit, Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford, Oxford OX3 7LF, UK ⁸⁴Information Sciences Institute, University of Southern California, Marina del Rey, California, USA ⁸⁵Medical Research Institute, University of Dundee, Ninewells Hospital and Medical School, Dundee DD1 9SY, UK ⁸⁶Institute for Molecular Medicine, University of Helsinki, FI-00014 Helsinki, Finland ⁸⁷Medical Genomics and Metabolic Genetics Branch, National Human Genome Research Institute, NIH, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA ⁸⁸Analytic and Translational Genetics Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA ⁸⁹Institute of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, University Medicine Greifswald, D-17475 Greifswald, Germany ⁹⁰Laboratory of Epidemiology and Population Sciences, National Institute on Aging, NIH, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA ⁹¹Department of Public Health and Caring Sciences, Geriatrics, Uppsala University, Uppsala 75185, Sweden ⁹²Division of Cardiovascular Epidemiology, Institute of Environmental Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, Stockholm 17177, Sweden ⁹³Kaiser Permanente, Division of Research, Oakland, CA 94612, USA ⁹⁴Service of Therapeutic Education for Diabetes, Obesity and Chronic Diseases, Geneva University Hospital, Geneva CH-1211, Switzerland ⁹⁵Research Unit of Molecular Epidemiology, Helmholtz Zentrum München - German Research Center for Environmental Health, D-85764 Neuherberg, Germany ⁹⁶German Center for Diabetes Research (DZD), Neuherberg, Germany ⁹⁷Department of Medicine III, University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Technische Universität Dresden, D-01307 Dresden, Germany ⁹⁸Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, Unit of Nutritional Research, Umeå University, Umeå 90187, Sweden ⁹⁹Department of Psychiatry, University of Groningen, University Medical Center Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands ¹⁰⁰Kuopio Research Institute of Exercise Medicine, Kuopio, Finland ¹⁰¹MRC Human Genetics Unit, Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine, University of Edinburgh, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, EH4 2XU, Scotland, UK ¹⁰²Hjelt Institute Department of Public Health, University of Helsinki, FI-00014 Helsinki, Finland ¹⁰³Institute of Biomedicine, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland ¹⁰⁴Medical Research Center Oulu and Oulu University Hospital, Oulu, Finland ¹⁰⁵Biocenter Oulu, University of Oulu, FI-90014 Oulu, Finland ¹⁰⁶Faculty of Psychology and Education, VU University Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands ¹⁰⁷Department

of Epidemiology, University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, 9700 RB Groningen, The Netherlands ¹⁰⁸Department of Public Health and General Practice, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim 7489, Norway ¹⁰⁹Cardiovascular Genetics Division, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108, USA ¹¹⁰Center for Medical Systems Biology, Leiden, The Netherlands ¹¹¹Institute for Community Medicine, University Medicine Greifswald, D-17475 Greifswald, Germany ¹¹²Department of Pulmonary Physiology and Sleep Medicine, Nedlands, Western Australia 6009, Australia ¹¹³School of Medicine and Pharmacology, University of Western Australia, Crawley 6009, Australia ¹¹⁴Department of Dietetics-Nutrition, Harokopio University, Athens, Greece ¹¹⁵Department of Internal Medicine I, Ulm University Medical Centre, D-89081 Ulm, Germany ¹¹⁶Division of Genetic Epidemiology, Department of Medical Genetics, Molecular and Clinical Pharmacology, Innsbruck Medical University, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria ¹¹⁷Institute of Human Genetics, Helmholtz Zentrum München - German Research Center for Environmental Health, D-85764 Neuherberg, Germany ¹¹⁸Department of Medical Sciences, Cardiovascular Epidemiology, Uppsala University, Uppsala 75185, Sweden ¹¹⁹Centre for Bone and Arthritis Research, Department of Internal Medicine and Clinical Nutrition, Institute of Medicine, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg 413 45, Sweden ¹²⁰School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 2BN, UK ¹²¹Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Ulm University Medical Centre, D-89081 Ulm, Germany ¹²²Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Tartu, Tartu 51010, Estonia ¹²³Farr Institute of Health Informatics Research, University College London, London NW1 2DA, UK ¹²⁴The Center for Observational Research, Amgen, Inc., Thousand Oaks, CA 91320, USA ¹²⁵Department of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Leiden University Medical Center, 2300 RC Leiden, The Netherlands ¹²⁶Department of Genomics, Life & Brain Center, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany ¹²⁷Institute of Human Genetics, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany ¹²⁸Istituto di Ricerca Genetica e Biomedica (IRGB), Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Cagliari, Sardinia 09042, Italy ¹²⁹Center for Evidence-based Healthcare, University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Technische Universität Dresden, D-01307 Dresden, Germany ¹³⁰Department of Medicine I, University Hospital Grosshadern, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, D-81377 Munich, Germany ¹³¹Institute of Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology, Chair of Genetic Epidemiology, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, D-81377 Munich, Germany ¹³²Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Herz-Kreislaufkrankungen (DZHK) (German Research Centre for Cardiovascular Research), Munich Heart Alliance, D-80636 Munich, Germany ¹³³Laboratory of Genetics, National Institute on Aging, Baltimore, MD 21224, USA ¹³⁴Laboratory of Neurogenetics, National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA ¹³⁵Hypertension and Related Diseases Centre - AOU, University of Sassari Medical School, Sassari 07100, Italy ¹³⁶Division of Preventive Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA 02215, USA ¹³⁷Clinical Institute of Medical and Chemical Laboratory Diagnostics, Medical University of Graz, Graz 8036, Austria ¹³⁸Science for Life

Laboratory, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden ¹³⁹Department of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98101, USA ¹⁴⁰Icelandic Heart Association, Kopavogur 201, Iceland ¹⁴¹University of Iceland, Reykjavik 101, Iceland ¹⁴²William Harvey Research Institute, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London, EC1M 6BQ UK ¹⁴³Department of Medical Sciences, Molecular Medicine, Uppsala University, Uppsala 75144, Sweden ¹⁴⁴Department of Public Health Sciences, Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University of Chicago, Maywood, IL 61053, USA ¹⁴⁵Institute of Epidemiology II, Helmholtz Zentrum München - German Research Center for Environmental Health, Neuherberg, Germany, D-85764 Neuherberg, Germany ¹⁴⁶deCODE Genetics, Amgen inc., Reykjavik 101, Iceland ¹⁴⁷Department of Cardiology, Medical University of Graz, Graz 8036, Austria ¹⁴⁸Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychology, Erasmus MC University Medical Centre, 3000 CB Rotterdam, The Netherlands ¹⁴⁹Department of Clinical Chemistry, Ulm University Medical Centre, D-89081 Ulm, Germany ¹⁵⁰Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway ¹⁵¹MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing at University College London, London WC1B 5JU, UK ¹⁵²Diabetes Complications Research Centre, Conway Institute, School of Medicine and Medical Sciences, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland ¹⁵³Department of Biomedical Sciences, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea ¹⁵⁴Cardiothoracic Surgery Unit, Department of Molecular Medicine and Surgery, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm 17176, Sweden ¹⁵⁵Department of Medicine, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York NY, USA ¹⁵⁶Department of Population Medicine, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA ¹⁵⁷Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, USA ¹⁵⁸State Key Laboratory of Medical Genomics, Shanghai Institute of Hematology, Rui Jin Hospital Affiliated with Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Shanghai, China ¹⁵⁹Department of Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA 02115, USA ¹⁶⁰NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, OUH Trust, Oxford OX3 7LE, UK ¹⁶¹Harvard School of Public Health, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard University, Boston, MA 2115, USA ¹⁶²Department of Genetics, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, New Haven CT, USA ¹⁶³College of Information Science and Technology, Dalian Maritime University, Dalian, Liaoning 116026, China ¹⁶⁴Nephrology Research, Centre for Public Health, Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast, Co. Down BT9 7AB, UK ¹⁶⁵University of Ottawa Heart Institute, Ottawa K1Y 4W7, Canada ¹⁶⁶National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London, London SW3 6LY, UK ¹⁶⁷QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, Queensland 4006, Australia ¹⁶⁸Section of General Internal Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA 02118, USA ¹⁶⁹Department of Statistics, University of Oxford, 1 South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3TG, UK ¹⁷⁰MRC Harwell, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Harwell, UK ¹⁷¹Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Queensland 4059, Australia ¹⁷²Department of Biomedical Engineering and

Computational Science, Aalto University School of Science, Helsinki, Finland
¹⁷³Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology, Helsinki University Central Hospital, FI-00290 Helsinki, Finland ¹⁷⁴Folkhälsan Institute of Genetics, Folkhälsan Research Center, FI-00290 Helsinki, Finland ¹⁷⁵Icahn Institute for Genomics and Multiscale Biology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY 10580, USA ¹⁷⁶Computer Science Department, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Atizapán de Zaragoza, 52926, Mexico ¹⁷⁷Nuffield Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Oxford, Oxford OX3 7BN, UK ¹⁷⁸Adiponectin Genetic Consortium ¹⁷⁹Membership to this consortium is provided below ¹⁸⁰The GENetic Factors for Osteoporosis Consortium ¹⁸¹Genetics of Nephropathy - an International Effort Consortium ¹⁸²The Global Lipids Genetics Consortium ¹⁸³The International Consortium for Blood Pressure Genome-Wide Association Studies ¹⁸⁴The LifeLines Cohort Study, University of Groningen, University Medical Center Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands ¹⁸⁵Meta-Analyses of Glucose and Insulin-related traits Consortium Investigators ¹⁸⁶The Multiple Tissue Human Expression Resource Consortium ¹⁸⁷Population Architecture using Genomics and Epidemiology Consortium ¹⁸⁸Institut Pasteur de Lille; INSERM, U744; Université de Lille 2; F-59000 Lille, France ¹⁸⁹Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, EA3430, University of Strasbourg, Faculty of Medicine, Strasbourg, France ¹⁹⁰Department of Internal Medicine, University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, 9700RB Groningen, The Netherlands ¹⁹¹Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, The University of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia 6009, Australia ¹⁹²Cedars-Sinai Diabetes and Obesity Research Institute, Los Angeles, CA, USA ¹⁹³Clinical Pharmacology Unit, University of Cambridge, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 2QQ, UK ¹⁹⁴Service of Nephrology, Department of Medicine, Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV), Lausanne 1005, Switzerland ¹⁹⁵Centre for Population Health Sciences, University of Edinburgh, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9AG, Scotland, UK ¹⁹⁶Center for Human Genetics Research, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville TN 37203, USA ¹⁹⁷Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37232, USA ¹⁹⁸Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK ¹⁹⁹Biological Psychology, VU University Amsterdam, 1081BT Amsterdam, The Netherlands ²⁰⁰Institute for Research in Extramural Medicine, Institute for Health and Care Research, VU University, 1081BT Amsterdam, The Netherlands ²⁰¹Department of Internal Medicine B, University Medicine Greifswald, D-17475 Greifswald, Germany ²⁰²DZHK (Deutsches Zentrum für Herz-Kreislaufforschung – German Centre for Cardiovascular Research), partner site Greifswald, D-17475 Greifswald, Germany ²⁰³Clinic of Cardiology, West-German Heart Centre, University Hospital Essen, Essen, Germany ²⁰⁴Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care, University of Helsinki, FI-00290 Helsinki, Finland ²⁰⁵Unit of General Practice, Helsinki University Central Hospital, Helsinki 00290, Finland ²⁰⁶Department of Internal Medicine, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy ²⁰⁷National Research Council Institute of Clinical Physiology, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy ²⁰⁸Department of Cardiology, Toulouse University School of Medicine, Rangueil

Hospital, Toulouse, France ²⁰⁹UWI Solutions for Developing Countries, The University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica ²¹⁰Department of Preventive Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, USA ²¹¹Institute of Biomedical & Clinical Science, University of Exeter, Barrack Road, Exeter EX2 5DW, UK ²¹²Center for Biomedicine, European Academy Bozen, Bolzano (EURAC), Bolzano 39100, Italy - Affiliated Institute of the University of Lübeck, D-23562 Lübeck, Germany ²¹³Institute of Cardiovascular Science, University College London, London WC1E 6BT, UK ²¹⁴Centre for Cardiovascular Genetics, Institute Cardiovascular Sciences, University College London, London WC1E 6JJ, UK ²¹⁵Sansom Institute for Health Research, University of South Australia, Adelaide 5000, South Australia, Australia ²¹⁶School of Population Health, University of South Australia, Adelaide 5000, South Australia, Australia ²¹⁷South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia ²¹⁸Population, Policy, and Practice, University College London Institute of Child Health, London WC1N 1EH, UK ²¹⁹Hannover Unified Biobank, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, D-30625 Hannover, Germany ²²⁰National Institute for Health and Welfare, FI-90101 Oulu, Finland ²²¹MRC Health Protection Agency (HPA) Centre for Environment and Health, School of Public Health, Imperial College London, UK ²²²Unit of Primary Care, Oulu University Hospital, FI-90220 Oulu, Finland ²²³Institute of Health Sciences, FI-90014 University of Oulu, Finland ²²⁴UK Clinical Research Collaboration Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI), Queens University of Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland ²²⁵Institute of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland ²²⁶Unit of Primary Health Care/General Practice, Oulu University Hospital, Oulu, Finland ²²⁷Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London W12 0HS, UK ²²⁸Division of Public Health Sciences, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA 98109, USA ²²⁹Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College London, London WC1E 6BT, UK ²³⁰Department of Biological and Social Epidemiology, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ, UK ²³¹Department of Medicine, Kuopio University Hospital and University of Eastern Finland, FI-70210 Kuopio, Finland ²³²Department of Physiology, Institute of Biomedicine, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio Campus, Kuopio, Finland ²³³Department of Clinical Physiology and Nuclear Medicine, Kuopio University Hospital and University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland ²³⁴Epidemiology Program, University of Hawaii Cancer Center, Honolulu, HI USA ²³⁵Department of Clinical Chemistry, Fimlab Laboratories and School of Medicine University of Tampere, FI-33520 Tampere, Finland ²³⁶Steno Diabetes Center A/S, Gentofte DK-2820, Denmark ²³⁷Lund University Diabetes Centre and Department of Clinical Science, Diabetes & Endocrinology Unit, Lund University, Malmö 221 00, Sweden ²³⁸Institut Universitaire de Cardiologie et de Pneumologie de Québec, Faculty of Medicine, Laval University, Quebec, QC G1V 0A6, Canada ²³⁹Institute of Nutrition and Functional Foods, Laval University, Quebec, QC G1V 0A6, Canada ²⁴⁰Department of Biostatistics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA ²⁴¹Department of Respiratory Medicine, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Nedlands,

Western Australia 6009, Australia ²⁴²Epidemiology and Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada ²⁴³Genetic Epidemiology & Biostatistics Platform, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Toronto, Ontario M5G 0A3, Canada ²⁴⁴Department of Psychiatry, Neuroscience Campus, VU University Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands ²⁴⁵Department of Neurology, General Central Hospital, Bolzano 39100, Italy ²⁴⁶Department of Clinical Physiology and Nuclear Medicine, Turku University Hospital, FI-20521 Turku, Finland ²⁴⁷Research Centre of Applied and Preventive Cardiovascular Medicine, University of Turku, FI-20521 Turku, Finland ²⁴⁸Human Genomics Laboratory, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, USA ²⁴⁹Department of Psychiatry, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO 63110, USA ²⁵⁰Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA ²⁵¹Center for Systems Genomics, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, USA ²⁵²Croatian Centre for Global Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Split, 21000 Split, Croatia ²⁵³Department of Cardiovascular Sciences, University of Leicester, Glenfield Hospital, Leicester LE3 9QP, UK ²⁵⁴National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Leicester Cardiovascular Biomedical Research Unit, Glenfield Hospital, Leicester, LE3 9QP, UK ²⁵⁵South Carelia Central Hospital, 53130 Lappeenranta, Finland ²⁵⁶Paul Langerhans Institute Dresden, German Center for Diabetes Research (DZD), Dresden, Germany ²⁵⁷Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Nutrition, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21201, USA ²⁵⁸Program for Personalized and Genomic Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21201, USA ²⁵⁹Geriatric Research and Education Clinical Center, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Baltimore, MD 21201, USA ²⁶⁰Department of Epidemiology, Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands ²⁶¹Research Unit Hypertension and Cardiovascular Epidemiology, KU Leuven Department of Cardiovascular Sciences, University of Leuven, B-3000 Leuven, Belgium ²⁶²Department of Kinesiology, Laval University, Quebec, QC G1V 0A6, Canada ²⁶³Dipartimento di Scienze Farmacologiche e Biomolecolari, Università di Milano & Centro Cardiologico Monzino, Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico, Milan 20133, Italy ²⁶⁴Department of Food Science and Nutrition, Laval University, Quebec, QC G1V 0A6, Canada ²⁶⁵Department of Internal Medicine, University Hospital (CHUV) and University of Lausanne, 1011, Switzerland ²⁶⁶Department of Nutrition, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599, USA ²⁶⁷Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (IUMSP), Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois and University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland ²⁶⁸Ministry of Health, Victoria, Republic of Seychelles ²⁶⁹Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Imperial College London and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 637553 Singapore, Singapore ²⁷⁰Department of Internal Medicine I, Ulm University Medical Centre, D-89081 Ulm, Germany ²⁷¹Clinical Pharmacology and Barts and The London Genome Centre, William Harvey Research Institute, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ, UK ²⁷²Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University Medicine Greifswald, HELIOS-Hospital Stralsund, D-17475 Greifswald, Germany

²⁷³German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), Rostock, Greifswald, D-17475 Greifswald, Germany ²⁷⁴School of Population Health, The University of Western Australia, Nedlands, Western Australia 6009, Australia ²⁷⁵Center for Human Genetics, Division of Public Health Sciences, Wake Forest School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC 27157, USA ²⁷⁶Synlab Academy, Synlab Services GmbH, Mannheim, Germany ²⁷⁷Department of Clinical Genetics, Erasmus MC University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands ²⁷⁸Department of Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, CA, USA ²⁷⁹Finnish Diabetes Association, Kirjoniementie 15, FI-33680 Tampere, Finland ²⁸⁰Pirkanmaa Hospital District, Tampere, Finland ²⁸¹Center for Non-Communicable Diseases, Karachi, Pakistan ²⁸²Department of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA ²⁸³Helsinki University Central Hospital Heart and Lung Center, Department of Medicine, Helsinki University Central Hospital, FI-00290 Helsinki, Finland ²⁸⁴Faculty of Medicine, University of Iceland, Reykjavik 101, Iceland ²⁸⁵Instituto de Investigacion Sanitaria del Hospital Universitario LaPaz (IdiPAZ), Madrid, Spain ²⁸⁶Diabetes Research Group, King Abdulaziz University, 21589 Jeddah, Saudi Arabia ²⁸⁷Centre for Vascular Prevention, Danube-University Krems, 3500 Krems, Austria ²⁸⁸Department of Public Health and Clinical Nutrition, University of Eastern Finland, Finland ²⁸⁹Research Unit, Kuopio University Hospital, Kuopio, Finland ²⁹⁰Durrer Center for Cardiogenetic Research, Interuniversity Cardiology Institute Netherlands-Netherlands Heart Institute, 3501 DG Utrecht, The Netherlands ²⁹¹EPIMED Research Center, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy ²⁹²Institute of Cellular Medicine, Newcastle University, Newcastle NE1 7RU, UK ²⁹³Institute of Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology, Chair of Epidemiology, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, D-85764 Munich, Germany ²⁹⁴Klinikum Grosshadern, D-81377 Munich, Germany ²⁹⁵Institute of Epidemiology I, Helmholtz Zentrum München - German Research Center for Environmental Health, Neuherberg, Germany, D-85764 Neuherberg, Germany ²⁹⁶Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA ²⁹⁷Princess Al-Jawhara Al-Brahim Centre of Excellence in Research of Hereditary Disorders (PACER-HD), King Abdulaziz University, 21589 Jeddah, Saudi Arabia ²⁹⁸Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, Belfer 1306, NY 10461, USA ²⁹⁹Division of Population Health Sciences & Education, St George's, University of London, London SW17 0RE, UK ³⁰⁰Department of Human Genetics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA ³⁰¹Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland, Brisbane 4072, Australia ³⁰²The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute, The Translation Research Institute, Brisbane 4012, Australia ³⁰³Oxford NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Oxford, OX3 7LJ, UK ³⁰⁴Carolina Center for Genome Sciences, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599, USA ³⁰⁵University of Cambridge Metabolic Research Laboratories, Institute of Metabolic Science, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge CB2 0QQ, UK ³⁰⁶NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre, Institute of Metabolic Science, Addenbrooke's

Hospital, Cambridge CB2 0QQ, UK ³⁰⁷The Charles Bronfman Institute for Personalized Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY 10029, USA ³⁰⁸The Genetics of Obesity and Related Metabolic Traits Program, The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY 10029, USA ³⁰⁹The Mindich Child Health and Development Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY 10029, USA ³¹⁰Department of Biostatistics, University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3GA, UK

Acknowledgments

We thank the more than 224,000 volunteers who participated in this study. Detailed acknowledgment of funding sources is provided in the Supplementary Note.

REFERENCES

1. Pischon T, et al. General and abdominal adiposity and risk of death in Europe. *N. Engl. J. Med.* 2008; 359:2105–2120. [PubMed: 19005195]
2. Wang Y, Rimm EB, Stampfer MJ, Willett WC, Hu FB. Comparison of abdominal adiposity and overall obesity in predicting risk of type 2 diabetes among men. *Am. J. Clin. Nutr.* 2005; 81:555–563. [PubMed: 15755822]
3. Canoy D. Distribution of body fat and risk of coronary heart disease in men and women. *Curr. Opin. Cardiol.* 2008; 23:591–598. [PubMed: 18830075]
4. Snijder MB, et al. Associations of hip and thigh circumferences independent of waist circumference with the incidence of type 2 diabetes: the Hoorn Study. *Am. J. Clin. Nutr.* 2003; 77:1192–1197. [PubMed: 12716671]
5. Yusuf S, et al. Obesity and the risk of myocardial infarction in 27,000 participants from 52 countries: a case-control study. *Lancet.* 2005; 366:1640–1649. [PubMed: 16271645]
6. Mason C, Craig CL, Katzmarzyk PT. Influence of central and extremity circumferences on all-cause mortality in men and women. *Obesity (Silver Spring).* 2008; 16:2690–2695. [PubMed: 18927548]
7. Heid IM, et al. Meta-analysis identifies 13 new loci associated with waist-hip ratio and reveals sexual dimorphism in the genetic basis of fat distribution. *Nat. Genet.* 2010; 42:949–960. [PubMed: 20935629]
8. Randall JC, et al. Sex-stratified genome-wide association studies including 270,000 individuals show sexual dimorphism in genetic loci for anthropometric traits. *PLoS Genet.* 2013; 9:e1003500. [PubMed: 23754948]
9. Fox CS, et al. Genome-wide association of pericardial fat identifies a unique locus for ectopic fat. *PLoS Genet.* 2012; 8:e1002705. [PubMed: 22589742]
10. Fox CS, et al. Genome-wide association for abdominal subcutaneous and visceral adipose reveals a novel locus for visceral fat in women. *PLoS Genet.* 2012; 8:e1002695. [PubMed: 22589738]
11. Voight BF, et al. The metabochip, a custom genotyping array for genetic studies of metabolic, cardiovascular, and anthropometric traits. *PLoS Genet.* 2012; 8:e1002793. [PubMed: 22876189]
12. Sanna S, et al. Common variants in the GDF5-UQCC region are associated with variation in human height. *Nat. Genet.* 2008; 40:198–203. [PubMed: 18193045]
13. Lango Allen H, et al. Hundreds of variants clustered in genomic loci and biological pathways affect human height. *Nature.* 2010; 467:832–838. [PubMed: 20881960]
14. Yang J, et al. Conditional and joint multiple-SNP analysis of GWAS summary statistics identifies additional variants influencing complex traits. *Nat. Genet.* 2012; 44:369–375. [PubMed: 22426310]
15. Yang J, et al. Common SNPs explain a large proportion of the heritability for human height. *Nat. Genet.* 2010; 42:565–569. [PubMed: 20562875]

16. Hindorff, LA., et al. [Accessed 31 Jan 2013] A Catalog of Published Genome-Wide Association Studies. Available at <http://www.genome.gov/gwastudies>
17. Freathy RM, et al. Variants in ADCY5 and near CCNL1 are associated with fetal growth and birth weight. *Nat. Genet.* 2010; 42:430–435. [PubMed: 20372150]
18. Hoopes SL, Willcockson HH, Caron KM. Characteristics of multi-organ lymphangiectasia resulting from temporal deletion of calcitonin receptor-like receptor in adult mice. *PLoS ONE.* 2012; 7:e45261. [PubMed: 23028890]
19. Raychaudhuri S, et al. Identifying relationships among genomic disease regions: predicting genes at pathogenic SNP associations and rare deletions. *PLoS Genet.* 2009; 5:e1000534. [PubMed: 19557189]
20. Segre AV, Groop L, Mootha VK, Daly MJ, Altshuler D. Common inherited variation in mitochondrial genes is not enriched for associations with type 2 diabetes or related glycemic traits. *PLoS Genet.* 2010; 6:e1001058. [PubMed: 20714348]
21. Elias I, Franckhauser S, Bosch F. New insights into adipose tissue VEGF-A actions in the control of obesity and insulin resistance. *Adipocyte.* 2013; 2:109–112. [PubMed: 23805408]
22. Pal A, et al. PTEN mutations as a cause of constitutive insulin sensitivity and obesity. *N. Engl. J. Med.* 2012; 367:1002–1011. [PubMed: 22970944]
23. Pers, T., et al. Biological interpretation of genome-wide association studies using predicted gene functions. 2014. Submitted
24. ENCODE Project Consortium. An integrated encyclopedia of DNA elements in the human genome. *Nature.* 2012; 489:57–74. [PubMed: 22955616]
25. Bernstein BE, et al. The NIH Roadmap Epigenomics Mapping Consortium. *Nat. Biotechnol.* 2010; 28:1045–1048. [PubMed: 20944595]
26. Nakagami H. The mechanism of white and brown adipocyte differentiation. *Diabetes Metab J.* 2013; 37:85–90. [PubMed: 23641348]
27. Li H, et al. miR-17-5p and miR-106a are involved in the balance between osteogenic and adipogenic differentiation of adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells. *Stem Cell Res.* 2013; 10:313–324. [PubMed: 23399447]
28. Mori M, Nakagami H, Rodriguez-Araujo G, Nimura K, Kaneda Y. Essential role for miR-196a in brown adipogenesis of white fat progenitor cells. *PLoS Biol.* 2012; 10:e1001314. [PubMed: 22545021]
29. Cao Y. Angiogenesis and vascular functions in modulation of obesity, adipose metabolism, and insulin sensitivity. *Cell Metab.* 2013; 18:478–489. [PubMed: 24035587]
30. Hagberg CE, et al. Vascular endothelial growth factor B controls endothelial fatty acid uptake. *Nature.* 2010; 464:917–921. [PubMed: 20228789]
31. Zygmunt T, et al. Semaphorin-PlexinD1 signaling limits angiogenic potential via the VEGF decoy receptor sFlt1. *Dev. Cell.* 2011; 21:301–314. [PubMed: 21802375]
32. Shimizu I, et al. Semaphorin3E-Induced Inflammation Contributes to Insulin Resistance in Dietary Obesity. *Cell Metab.* 2013; 18:491–504. [PubMed: 24093674]
33. Hanada R, et al. Neuromedin U has a novel anorexigenic effect independent of the leptin signaling pathway. *Nat. Med.* 2004; 10:1067–1073. [PubMed: 15448684]
34. Huang X, et al. FGFR4 prevents hyperlipidemia and insulin resistance but underlies high-fat diet induced fatty liver. *Diabetes.* 2007; 56:2501–2510. [PubMed: 17664243]
35. Foti D, et al. Lack of the architectural factor HMGA1 causes insulin resistance and diabetes in humans and mice. *Nat. Med.* 2005; 11:765–773. [PubMed: 15924147]
36. Locke AE, et al. Genetic studies of body mass index yield new insights for obesity biology. *Nature.* 2014 Accompanying manuscript.
37. Wood AR, et al. Defining the role of common variation in the genomic and biological architecture of adult human height. *Nat. Genet.* 2014 In press.
38. Jaager K, Neuman T. Human dermal fibroblasts exhibit delayed adipogenic differentiation compared with mesenchymal stem cells. *Stem Cells Dev.* 2011; 20:1327–1336. [PubMed: 21142453]

39. Goossens GH, et al. Expression of NLRP3 inflammasome and T cell population markers in adipose tissue are associated with insulin resistance and impaired glucose metabolism in humans. *Mol. Immunol.* 2012; 50:142–149. [PubMed: 22325453]
40. Maynard LM, et al. Childhood body composition in relation to body mass index. *Pediatrics.* 2001; 107:344–350. [PubMed: 11158468]
41. Wells JC. Sexual dimorphism of body composition. *Best Pract. Res. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab.* 2007; 21:415–430. [PubMed: 17875489]
42. Lovejoy JC, Champagne CM, de Jonge L, Xie H, Smith SR. Increased visceral fat and decreased energy expenditure during the menopausal transition. *Int. J. Obes.* 2008; 32:949–958.
43. Okada Y, et al. A genome-wide association study in 19,633 Japanese subjects identified LHX3-QSOX2 and IGF1 as adult height loci. *Hum. Mol. Genet.* 2010; 19:2303–2312. [PubMed: 20189936]
44. Winkler TW, et al. Quality control and conduct of genome-wide association meta-analyses. *Nat. Protoc.* 2014; 9:1192–1212. [PubMed: 24762786]
45. Devlin B, Roeder K. Genomic control for association studies. *Biometrics.* 1999; 55:997–1004. [PubMed: 11315092]
46. Buyske S, et al. Evaluation of the metabochip genotyping array in African Americans and implications for fine mapping of GWAS-identified loci: the PAGE study. *PLoS ONE.* 2012; 7:e35651. [PubMed: 22539988]
47. Willer CJ, Li Y, Abecasis GR. METAL: fast and efficient meta-analysis of genomewide association scans. *Bioinformatics.* 2010; 26:2190–2191. [PubMed: 20616382]
48. Benjamini Y, Hochberg Y. Controlling the false discovery rate: a practical and powerful approach to multiple testing. *J R Stat Soc Series B Stat Methodol.* 1995; 57:289–300.
49. Higgins JP, Thompson SG. Quantifying heterogeneity in a meta-analysis. *Stat. Med.* 2002; 21:1539–1558. [PubMed: 12111919]
50. Neale, MC.; Cardon, LR.; North Atlantic Treaty Organization. *Methodology for genetic studies of twins and families.* Kluwer Academic Publishers; 1992. Scientific Affairs Division.
51. Falconer, DS. *Introduction to Quantitative Genetics.* 3rd edn. Oliver and Boyd; 1990.
52. Almasy L, Blangero J. Multipoint quantitative-trait linkage analysis in general pedigrees. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 1998; 62:1198–1211. [PubMed: 9545414]
53. Neale, MC. *MX: Statistical Modeling.* 4th edn. Department of Psychiatry, Medical College of Virginia; 1997.
54. Yang J, Lee SH, Goddard ME, Visscher PM. GCTA: a tool for genome-wide complex trait analysis. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 2011; 88:76–82. [PubMed: 21167468]
55. Frazer KA, et al. A second generation human haplotype map of over 3.1 million SNPs. *Nature.* 2007; 449:851–861. [PubMed: 17943122]
56. Wakefield J. A Bayesian measure of the probability of false discovery in genetic epidemiology studies. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 2007; 81:208–227. [PubMed: 17668372]
57. Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium. Bayesian refinement of association signals for 14 loci in 3 common diseases. *Nat. Genet.* 2012; 44:1294–1301. [PubMed: 23104008]
58. Morris AP, et al. Large-scale association analysis provides insights into the genetic architecture and pathophysiology of type 2 diabetes. *Nat. Genet.* 2012; 44:981–990. [PubMed: 22885922]
59. Deloukas P, et al. Large-scale association analysis identifies new risk loci for coronary artery disease. *Nat. Genet.* 2013; 45:25–33. [PubMed: 23202125]
60. Ehret GB, et al. Genetic variants in novel pathways influence blood pressure and cardiovascular disease risk. *Nature.* 2011; 478:103–109. [PubMed: 21909115]
61. Global Lipids Genetics Consortium. Discovery and refinement of loci associated with lipid levels. *Nat. Genet.* 2013; 45:1274–1283. [PubMed: 24097068]
62. Scott RA, et al. Large-scale association analyses identify new loci influencing glycemic traits and provide insight into the underlying biological pathways. *Nat. Genet.* 2012; 44:991–1005. [PubMed: 22885924]

63. Manning AK, et al. A genome-wide approach accounting for body mass index identifies genetic variants influencing fasting glycemic traits and insulin resistance. *Nat. Genet.* 2012; 44:659–669. [PubMed: 22581228]
64. Saxena R, et al. Genetic variation in GIPR influences the glucose and insulin responses to an oral glucose challenge. *Nat. Genet.* 2010; 42:142–148. [PubMed: 20081857]
65. Dastani Z, et al. Novel loci for adiponectin levels and their influence on type 2 diabetes and metabolic traits: a multi-ethnic meta-analysis of 45,891 individuals. *PLoS Genet.* 2012; 8:e1002607. [PubMed: 22479202]
66. Pattaro C, et al. Genome-wide association and functional follow-up reveals new loci for kidney function. *PLoS Genet.* 2012; 8:e1002584. [PubMed: 22479191]
67. Boger CA, et al. CUBN is a gene locus for albuminuria. *J. Am. Soc. Nephrol.* 2011; 22:555–570. [PubMed: 21355061]
68. Stolk L, et al. Meta-analyses identify 13 loci associated with age at menopause and highlight DNA repair and immune pathways. *Nat. Genet.* 2012; 44:260–268. [PubMed: 22267201]
69. Elks CE, et al. Thirty new loci for age at menarche identified by a meta-analysis of genome-wide association studies. *Nat. Genet.* 2010; 42:1077–1085. [PubMed: 21102462]
70. Estrada K, et al. Genome-wide meta-analysis identifies 56 bone mineral density loci and reveals 14 loci associated with risk of fracture. *Nat. Genet.* 2012; 44:491–501. [PubMed: 22504420]
71. Gharavi AG, et al. Genome-wide association study identifies susceptibility loci for IgA nephropathy. *Nat. Genet.* 2011; 43:321–327. [PubMed: 21399633]
72. Painter JN, et al. Genome-wide association study identifies a locus at 7p15.2 associated with endometriosis. *Nat. Genet.* 2011; 43:51–54. [PubMed: 21151130]
73. Hindorf LA, et al. Potential etiologic and functional implications of genome-wide association loci for human diseases and traits. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* 2009; 106:9362–9367. [PubMed: 19474294]
74. Kamatani Y, et al. Genome-wide association study of hematological and biochemical traits in a Japanese population. *Nat. Genet.* 2010; 42:210–215. [PubMed: 20139978]
75. Franke A, et al. Genome-wide meta-analysis increases to 71 the number of confirmed Crohn's disease susceptibility loci. *Nat. Genet.* 2010; 42:1118–1125. [PubMed: 21102463]
76. Sawcer S, et al. Genetic risk and a primary role for cell-mediated immune mechanisms in multiple sclerosis. *Nature.* 2011; 476:214–219. [PubMed: 21833088]
77. Wang KS, Liu XF, Aragam N. A genome-wide meta-analysis identifies novel loci associated with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. *Schizophr. Res.* 2010; 124:192–199. [PubMed: 20889312]
78. Cirulli ET, et al. Common genetic variation and performance on standardized cognitive tests. *Eur. J. Hum. Genet.* 2010; 18:815–820. [PubMed: 20125193]
79. Gieger C, et al. New gene functions in megakaryopoiesis and platelet formation. *Nature.* 2011; 480:201–208. [PubMed: 22139419]
80. Need AC, et al. A genome-wide study of common SNPs and CNVs in cognitive performance in the CANTAB. *Hum. Mol. Genet.* 2009; 18:4650–4661. [PubMed: 19734545]
81. Purcell S, et al. PLINK: a tool set for whole-genome association and population-based linkage analyses. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 2007; 81:559–575. [PubMed: 17701901]
82. Abecasis GR, et al. A map of human genome variation from population-scale sequencing. *Nature.* 2010; 467:1061–1073. [PubMed: 20981092]
83. The International HapMap Project. *Nature.* 2003; 426:789–796. [PubMed: 14685227]
84. Suzuki R, Shimodaira H. Pvcust: an R package for assessing the uncertainty in hierarchical clustering. *Bioinformatics.* 2006; 22:1540–1542. [PubMed: 16595560]
85. 1000 Genomes Project Consortium. An integrated map of genetic variation from 1,092 human genomes. *Nature.* 2012; 491:56–65. [PubMed: 23128226]
86. Feng J, Liu T, Qin B, Zhang Y, Liu XS. Identifying ChIP-seq enrichment using MACS. *Nat. Protoc.* 2012; 7:1728–1740. [PubMed: 22936215]
87. Ashburner M, et al. The Gene Ontology Consortium. Gene ontology: tool for the unification of biology. *Nat. Genet.* 2000; 25:25–29. [PubMed: 10802651]

88. Mi H, Thomas P. PANTHER pathway: an ontology-based pathway database coupled with data analysis tools. *Methods Mol. Biol.* 2009; 563:123–140. [PubMed: 19597783]
89. Jimenez-Marin A, Collado-Romero M, Ramirez-Boo M, Arce C, Garrido JJ. Biological pathway analysis by ArrayUnlock and Ingenuity Pathway Analysis. *BMC Proc.* 2009; 3(Suppl 4):S6. [PubMed: 19615119]
90. Kanehisa M, Goto S. KEGG: Kyoto encyclopedia of genes and genomes. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2000; 28:27–30. [PubMed: 10592173]
91. Cvejic A, et al. SMIM1 underlies the Vel blood group and influences red blood cell traits. *Nat. Genet.* 2013; 45:542–545. [PubMed: 23563608]
92. Lage K, et al. A human phenome-interactome network of protein complexes implicated in genetic disorders. *Nat. Biotechnol.* 2007; 25:309–316. [PubMed: 17344885]
93. Bult, CJ.; Blake, JA.; Kadin, JA.; Ringwald, M.; Eppig, JT.; Mouse Genome Database Group. IEEE International Symposium on Bio-Informatics and Biomedical Engineering. p. 29-32. R. J.
94. Croft D, et al. Reactome: a database of reactions, pathways and biological processes. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2011; 39:D691–697. [PubMed: 21067998]
95. Kanehisa M, Goto S, Sato Y, Furumichi M, Tanabe M. KEGG for integration and interpretation of large-scale molecular data sets. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2012; 40:D109–114. [PubMed: 22080510]
96. Saito R, et al. A travel guide to Cytoscape plugins. *Nat. Methods.* 2012; 9:1069–1076. [PubMed: 23132118]

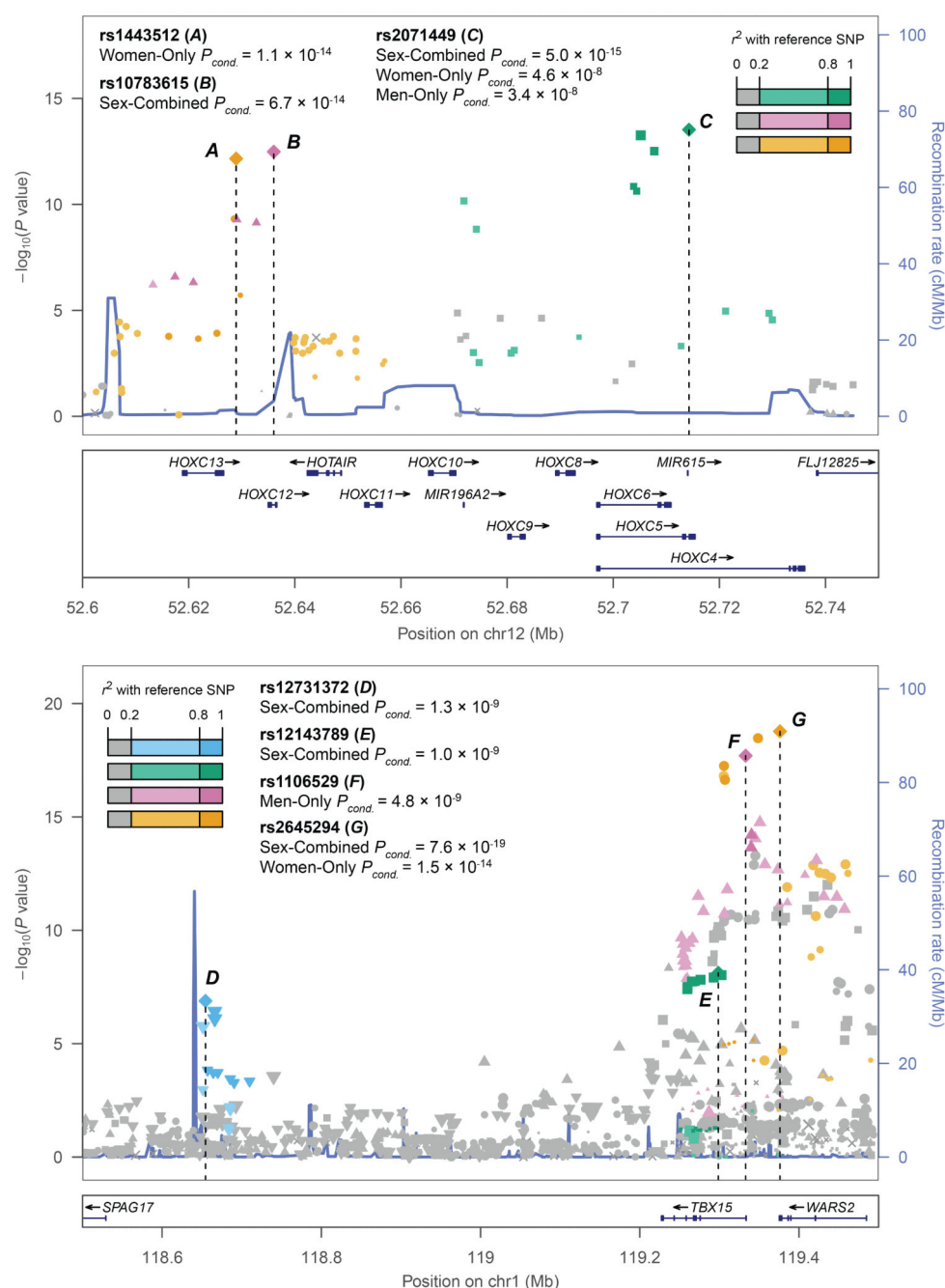


Figure 1. Regional SNP association plots illustrating the complex genetic architecture at two WHRadjBMI loci

Sex-combined meta-analysis SNP associations in European individuals were plotted with $-\log_{10} P$ values (left y-axis) and estimated local recombination rate in blue (right y-axis). Three index SNPs near *HOXC6-HOXC13* (a–c) and four near *TBX15-WARS2-SPAG17* (d–g) were identified through approximate conditional analyses of sex-combined or sex-specific associations (values shown as $P_{conditional} < 5 \times 10^{-8}$, see Methods). The signals are distinguished by both color and shape, and linkage disequilibrium (r^2) of nearby SNPs is shown by color intensity gradient.



a, Reconstituted gene sets found to be significantly enriched by DEPICT (FDR<5%) are represented as nodes, with pairwise overlap denoted by the width of connecting lines and empirical enrichment *P* value indicated by color intensity (darker is more significant). **b**, The ‘Decreased Liver Weight’ meta-node, which consisted of 12 overlapping gene sets, including adiponectin signaling and insulin sensitivity. **c**, Based on expression patterns in 37,427 human microarray samples, annotations found to be significantly enriched by DEPICT are shown, grouped by type and significance.

Table 1
WHRadjBMI loci achieving genome-wide significance ($P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) in sex-combined and/or sex-specific meta-analyses

<div>Sex-combined</div> <div>Women</div> <div>Men</div> <div>Sex diff.<i>P</i>^b</div>														
SNP	Chr	Locus	EA ^a	EAF	β	<i>P</i>	<i>N</i>	β	<i>P</i>	<i>N</i>	β	<i>P</i>	<i>N</i>	
Novel loci achieving genome-wide significance in European-ancestry meta-analyses														
rs905938	1	DCST2	T	0.74	0.025	7.3E-10	207,867	0.034	4.9E-10	115,536	0.015	1.10E-02	92,461	1.6E-02
rs10919388	1	GORAB	C	0.72	0.024	3.2E-09	181,049	0.033	4.8E-10	102,446	0.013	2.98E-02	78,738	9.8E-03
rs1385167	2	MEIS1	G	0.15	0.029	1.9E-09	206,619	0.023	4.0E-04	114,668	0.036	2.32E-07	92,085	1.6E-01
rs1569135	2	CALCRL	A	0.53	0.021	5.6E-10	209,906	0.023	6.9E-07	116,642	0.019	1.48E-04	93,398	5.8E-01
rs10804591	3	PLXND1	A	0.79	0.025	6.6E-09	209,921	0.040	6.1E-13	116,667	0.004	5.28E-01	93,387	5.7E-06
rs17451107	3	LEKR1	T	0.61	0.026	1.1E-12	207,795	0.023	1.0E-06	115,735	0.030	1.42E-08	92,194	3.5E-01
rs3805389	4	NMU	A	0.28	0.012	1.5E-03	209,218	0.027	4.6E-08	116,226	−0.007	2.09E-01	93,125	1.6E-06
rs9991328	4	FAM13A	T	0.49	0.019	4.5E-08	209,925	0.028	3.4E-10	116,652	0.007	1.69E-01	93,407	8.5E-04
rs303084	4	SPATA5-FGF2	A	0.80	0.023	3.9E-08	209,941	0.029	3.4E-07	116,662	0.016	9.91E-03	93,412	1.1E-01
rs9687846	5	MAP3K1	A	0.19	0.024	7.1E-08	208,181	0.041	3.8E-12	115,897	0.000	9.69E-01	92,417	1.3E-06
rs6556301	5	FGFR4	T	0.36	0.022	2.6E-08	178,874	0.018	7.1E-04	101,638	0.029	1.00E-06	77,370	1.4E-01
rs7759742	6	BTNL2	A	0.51	0.023	4.4E-11	208,263	0.024	1.7E-07	115,648	0.023	5.49E-06	92,749	8.6E-01
rs1776897	6	HMGA1	G	0.08	0.030	1.1E-05	177,879	0.052	6.8E-09	100,516	0.003	7.42E-01	77,497	1.8E-04
rs7801581	7	HOXA11	T	0.24	0.027	3.7E-10	195,215	0.025	7.7E-06	108,866	0.029	2.39E-06	86,483	6.9E-01
rs7830933	8	NKX2-6	A	0.77	0.022	7.4E-08	209,766	0.037	1.2E-12	116,567	0.001	8.35E-01	93,333	1.4E-06
rs12679556	8	MSC	G	0.25	0.027	2.1E-11	203,826	0.033	2.1E-10	114,369	0.017	4.15E-03	89,591	2.8E-02
rs10991437	9	ABCA1	A	0.11	0.031	1.0E-08	209,941	0.040	2.8E-08	116,644	0.022	6.13E-03	93,430	7.2E-02
rs7917772	10	SFXN2	A	0.62	0.014	5.6E-05	209,642	0.027	5.5E-09	116,514	−0.001	8.57E-01	93,263	2.3E-05
rs11231693	11	MACROD1-VEGFB	A	0.06	0.041	4.5E-08	198,072	0.068	2.7E-11	110,164	0.009	4.20E-01	88,043	2.5E-05
rs4765219	12	CCDC92	C	0.67	0.028	1.6E-15	209,807	0.037	1.0E-14	116,592	0.018	5.32E-04	93,350	5.7E-03
rs8042543	15	KLF13	C	0.78	0.026	1.2E-09	208,255	0.023	6.7E-05	115,760	0.030	1.01E-06	92,629	3.6E-01
rs8030605	15	RFX7	A	0.14	0.030	8.8E-09	208,374	0.031	1.0E-05	115,864	0.031	5.91E-05	92,644	9.9E-01
rs1440372	15	SMAD6	C	0.71	0.024	1.1E-10	207,447	0.022	1.1E-05	115,201	0.027	1.39E-06	92,380	5.2E-01
rs2925979	16	CMIP	T	0.31	0.018	1.2E-06	207,828	0.032	3.4E-11	115,431	−0.002	7.86E-01	92,531	1.2E-06
rs4646404	17	PEMT	G	0.67	0.027	1.4E-11	198,196	0.034	5.3E-11	115,337	0.017	2.45E-03	87,857	2.6E-02
rs8066985	17	KCNJ2	A	0.50	0.018	1.4E-07	209,977	0.026	4.0E-09	116,683	0.007	1.89E-01	93,428	1.8E-03
rs12454712	18	BCL2	T	0.61	0.016	1.0E-04	169,793	0.035	1.1E-09	96,182	−0.007	2.45E-01	73,576	1.6E-07
rs12608504	19	JUND	A	0.36	0.022	8.8E-10	209,990	0.017	2.6E-04	116,689	0.028	1.05E-07	93,435	1.2E-01
rs4081724	19	CEBPA	G	0.85	0.035	7.4E-12	207,418	0.033	9.2E-07	115,322	0.039	1.41E-07	92,230	5.0E-01
rs979012	20	BMP2	T	0.34	0.027	3.3E-14	209,941	0.026	1.0E-07	116,668	0.028	6.59E-08	93,407	6.7E-01
rs224333	20	GDF5	G	0.62	0.020	2.6E-08	208,025	0.009	7.4E-02	115,803	0.036	9.00E-12	92,356	6.4E-05
rs6090583	20	EYA2	A	0.48	0.022	6.2E-11	209,435	0.029	2.8E-10	116,382	0.015	2.37E-03	93,187	3.2E-02
Novel loci achieving genome-wide significance in all-ancestry meta-analyses														
rs1534696	7	SNX10	C	0.43	0.011	1.3E-03	212,501	0.027	2.1E-08	118,187	−0.006	2.64E-01	92,243	2.1E-06

Previously reported loci achieving genome-wide significance in European-ancestry meta-analyses

SNP	Chr	Locus	EA ^a	EAF	Sex-combined			Women			Men			Sex diff. ^b
					β	<i>P</i>	<i>N</i>	β	<i>P</i>	<i>N</i>	β	<i>P</i>	<i>N</i>	
rs2645294	1	<i>TBX15-WARS2</i>	T	0.58	0.031	1.7E-19	209,808	0.035	1.5E-14	116,596	0.027	1.46E-07	93,346	2.0E-01
rs714515	1	<i>DNM3-PIGC</i>	G	0.43	0.027	4.4E-15	203,401	0.029	1.8E-10	113,939	0.025	8.54E-07	89,596	5.1E-01
rs2820443	1	<i>LYPLAL1</i>	T	0.72	0.035	5.3E-21	209,975	0.062	5.7E-35	116,672	0.002	6.91E-01	93,437	2.6E-17
rs10195252	2	<i>GRB14-COBL1</i>	T	0.59	0.027	5.9E-15	209,395	0.052	4.7E-30	116,329	-0.003	5.33E-01	93,199	2.4E-17
rs17819328	3	<i>PPARG</i>	G	0.43	0.021	2.4E-09	208,809	0.035	4.6E-14	116,072	0.005	3.26E-01	92,871	5.1E-06
rs2276824	3	<i>PBRM1^c</i>	C	0.43	0.024	3.2E-11	208,901	0.028	3.7E-09	116,128	0.020	1.35E-04	92,907	2.0E-01
rs2371767	3	<i>ADAMTS9</i>	G	0.72	0.036	1.6E-20	194,506	0.056	1.2E-26	108,624	0.012	3.49E-02	86,016	3.6E-09
rs1045241	5	<i>TNFAIP8-HSD17B4</i>	C	0.71	0.019	4.4E-07	209,710	0.035	6.6E-12	116,560	-0.001	9.29E-01	93,284	8.3E-07
rs7705502	5	<i>CPEB4</i>	A	0.33	0.027	4.7E-14	209,827	0.027	1.9E-08	116,609	0.027	2.30E-07	93,352	1.0E+00
rs1294410	6	<i>LY86</i>	C	0.63	0.031	2.0E-18	209,830	0.037	1.6E-15	116,624	0.025	1.37E-06	93,340	6.3E-02
rs1358980	6	<i>VEGFA</i>	T	0.47	0.039	3.1E-27	206,862	0.060	3.7E-34	115,047	0.015	4.02E-03	91,949	3.7E-11
rs1936805	6	<i>RSP03</i>	T	0.51	0.043	3.6E-35	209,859	0.052	3.7E-30	116,602	0.031	3.08E-10	93,392	1.0E-03
rs10245353	7	<i>NFE2L3</i>	A	0.20	0.035	8.4E-16	210,008	0.041	7.9E-13	116,704	0.027	1.43E-05	93,438	7.2E-02
rs10842707	12	<i>ITPR2-SSPN</i>	T	0.23	0.032	4.4E-16	210,023	0.041	6.1E-15	116,704	0.022	1.44E-04	93,453	1.1E-02
rs1443512	12	<i>HOXC13</i>	A	0.24	0.028	6.9E-13	209,980	0.040	1.1E-14	116,688	0.013	2.77E-02	93,425	1.6E-04
rs2294239	22	<i>ZNRF3</i>	A	0.59	0.025	7.2E-13	209,454	0.028	6.9E-10	116,414	0.024	2.31E-06	93,173	5.0E-01

P values and β coefficients for the association with WHRadjBMI in the meta-analyses of combined GWAS and Metabochip studies. The smallest *P* value for each SNP is shown in bold.

^aThe effect allele is the WHRadjBMI-increasing allele in the sex-combined analysis.

^bTest for sex difference; values significant at the table-wise Bonferroni threshold of $0.05/49=1.02 \times 10^{-3}$ are marked in bold.

^cLocus previously named *NISCH-STAB1*. Additional analyses that showed no significant evidence of heterogeneity between studies or due to ascertainment are provided in Supplementary Tables 27 and 28 (Supplementary Note). Chr, chromosome; EA, effect allele; EAF, effect allele frequency.

Table 2
Candidate genes at new WHRadjBMI loci

SNP	Locus	Expression QTL ($P < 10^{-5}$) ^a	GRAIL ($P < 0.05$) ^b	DEPICT (FDR < 0.05) ^c	Literature ^d	Other GWAS signals ^e
rs905938	<i>DCST2</i>	<i>ZBTB7B</i> (PB, Blood)	-	-	-	-
rs10919388	<i>GORAB</i>	-	-	-	-	-
rs1385167	<i>MEIS1</i>	-	-	-	<i>MEIS1</i>	-
rs1569135	<i>CALCRL</i>	-	<i>TFPI</i>	-	<i>CALCRL</i>	-
rs10804591	<i>PLXND1</i>	-	-	-	<i>PLXND1</i>	-
rs17451107	<i>LEKR1</i>	<i>TIPARP</i> (S,O), <i>LEKR1</i> (S)	-	-	-	Birthweight: <i>CCNLI</i> , <i>LEKR1</i>
rs3805389	<i>NMU</i>	-	-	-	<i>NMU</i>	-
rs9991328	<i>FAM13A</i>	<i>FAM13A</i> (S)	-	<i>FAM13A</i>	-	FI: <i>FAM13A</i>
rs303084	<i>SPATA5-FGF2</i>	-	<i>FGF2</i>	-	<i>FGF2</i> , <i>NUDT6</i> , <i>SPRY1</i>	-
rs9687846	<i>MAP3K1</i>	-	<i>MAP3K1</i>	-	<i>MAP3K1</i>	FI, TG: <i>ANKRD55</i> , <i>MAP3K1</i>
rs6556301	<i>FGFR4</i>	-	<i>MXD3</i>	-	<i>FGFR4</i>	Height
rs7759742	<i>BTNL2</i>	<i>HLA-DRA</i> (S), <i>KLHL31</i> (S)	-	(not analyzed)	-	-
rs1776897	<i>HMGAI</i>	-	-	(not analyzed)	<i>HMGAI</i>	Height: <i>HMGAI</i> , <i>C6orf106</i> , <i>LBH</i>
rs1534696	<i>SNX10</i>	<i>SNX10</i> (S), <i>CBX3</i> (S)	-	-	<i>SNX10</i>	-
rs7801581	<i>HOXA11</i>	-	<i>HOXA11</i>	<i>HOXA11</i>	<i>HOXA11</i>	-
rs7830933	<i>NKX2-6</i>	<i>STC1</i> (S)	-	-	<i>NKX2-6</i> , <i>STC1</i>	-
rs12679556	<i>MSC</i>	-	<i>EYA1</i>	<i>RP11-1102P16.1</i>	<i>MSC</i> , <i>EYA1</i>	-
rs10991437	<i>ABCA1</i>	-	-	-	<i>ABCA1</i>	-
rs7917772	<i>SFXN2</i>	-	-	-	<i>SFXN2</i>	Height
rs11231693	<i>MACROD1-VEGFB</i>	-	<i>VEGFB</i>	<i>MACROD1</i>	<i>MACROD1</i> , <i>VEGFB</i>	-
rs4765219	<i>CCDC92</i>	<i>CCDC92</i> (S, O, L), <i>ZNF664</i> (S, O)	<i>FAM101A</i>	-	-	Adiponectin, FI, HDL, TG: <i>CCDC92</i> , <i>ZNF664</i>
rs8042543	<i>KLF13</i>	-	<i>KLF13</i>	-	<i>KLF13</i>	-
rs8030605	<i>RFX7</i>	-	-	-	-	-
rs1440372	<i>SMAD6</i>	<i>SMAD6</i> (Blood)	<i>SMAD6</i>	<i>SMAD6</i>	<i>SMAD6</i>	Height
rs2925979	<i>CMIP</i>	<i>CMIP</i> (S)	-	-	<i>CMIP</i> , <i>PLCG2</i>	Adiponectin, FI, HDL: <i>CMIP</i>
rs4646404	<i>PEMT</i>	-	-	<i>PEMT</i>	<i>PEMT</i>	-
rs8066985	<i>KCNJ2</i>	-	-	-	<i>KCNJ2</i>	-
rs12454712	<i>BCL2</i>	-	-	-	<i>BCL2</i>	-
rs12608504	<i>JUND</i>	<i>KIAA1683</i> (PB, O), <i>JUND</i> (LCL)	<i>JUND</i>	-	<i>JUND</i>	-
rs4081724	<i>CEBPA</i>	-	<i>CEBPA</i>	-	<i>CEBPA</i> , <i>CEBPG</i>	-
rs979012	<i>BMP2</i>	-	<i>BMP2</i>	<i>BMP2</i>	<i>BMP2</i>	Height: <i>BMP2</i>
rs224333	<i>GDF5</i>	<i>CEP250</i> (S, O), <i>UQCC</i> (Blood, S, O, L, LCL)	<i>GDF5</i>	<i>GDF5</i>	<i>GDF5</i>	Height: <i>GDF5</i> , <i>UQCC</i>
rs6090583	<i>EYA2</i>	-	<i>EYA2</i>	<i>EYA2</i>	<i>EYA2</i>	-

Candidate genes based on secondary analyses or literature review. Details are provided in Supplementary Tables 8-9, 11-13, 15, 19, 21 and the Supplementary Note. The only nonsynonymous variant in high LD with an index SNP was *GDF5* S276A. No copy number variants were identified.

^a Gene transcript levels associated with the SNP in the indicated tissue(s): PB, peripheral blood mononuclear cells; S, subcutaneous adipose; O, omental adipose; L, liver; Lcl, lymphoblastoid cell line.

^b Genes in pathways identified as enriched by GRAIL analysis

^cSignificant pathway genes derived by DEPICT using GWAS-only results.

^dMost plausible candidate genes based on literature review.

^eTraits associated at $P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$ in GWAS or the GWAS catalog using the index SNP or a proxy, and the genes(s) named. FI, fasting insulin adjusted for BMI; HDL, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; tg, triglycerides.

Table 3
New loci achieving genome-wide evidence of association ($P < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) with additional waist and hip circumference traits

Sex diff.																
Men																
Women																
Sex-combined																
SNP	Trait	Chr	Locus	E _A ^a	EAF	β	P	N	β	P	N	β	P	N	P	p ^b
Loci achieving genome-wide significance in European-ancestry meta-analyses																
rs10925060	WCadjBMI	1	OR2W5-NLRP3	T	0.03	0.017	2.2E-05	140,515	0.002	6.8E-01	85,186	0.045	9.1E-13	55,522	1.7E-08	
rs10929925	HIP	2	SOX11	C	0.55	0.020	4.5E-08	207,648	0.021	9.0E-06	115,428	0.018	3.2E-04	92,499	6.1E-01	
rs2124969	WCadjBMI	2	ITGB6	C	0.42	0.020	7.1E-09	231,284	0.016	3.5E-04	127,437	0.025	2.3E-07	104,039	1.4E-01	
rs17472426	WCadjBMI	5	CCN1L	T	0.92	0.014	3.1E-02	217,564	-0.014	1.0E-01	119,804	0.052	4.3E-08	97,954	3.9E-08	
rs7739232	HIPadjBMI	6	KLHL31	A	0.07	0.037	5.4E-05	131,877	0.063	1.0E-08	80,475	-0.004	7.5E-01	51,589	2.9E-05	
rs13241538	HIPadjBMI	7	KLF14	C	0.48	0.017	1.6E-06	210,935	0.033	9.9E-14	117,210	-0.003	5.0E-01	93,911	2.0E-09	
rs7044106	HIPadjBMI	9	C5	C	0.24	0.023	4.1E-05	143,412	0.039	5.7E-09	86,733	-0.003	6.9E-01	56,865	1.3E-05	
rs11607976	HIP	11	MYEOV	C	0.70	0.022	4.2E-08	212,815	0.019	1.9E-04	118,391	0.024	7.7E-06	94,701	4.4E-01	
rs1784203	WCadjBMI	11	KIAA1731	A	0.01	0.031	1.3E-08	63,892	0.000	9.9E-01	35,539	0.075	1.0E-19	28,353	1.2E-01	
rs1394461	WHR	11	CNTN5	C	0.25	0.017	4.7E-04	144,349	0.035	3.6E-08	87,441	-0.011	1.6E-01	57,094	1.1E-06	
rs319564	WHR	13	GPC6	C	0.45	0.014	3.4E-05	212,137	0.003	5.3E-01	117,970	0.027	1.6E-08	94,350	6.0E-05	
rs2047937	WCadjBMI	16	ZNF423	C	0.50	0.019	4.7E-08	231,009	0.022	5.5E-07	127,288	0.014	3.6E-03	103,914	2.0E-01	
rs2034088	HIPadjBMI	17	VP53	T	0.53	0.021	4.8E-09	210,737	0.028	9.6E-10	117,142	0.014	6.5E-03	93,781	2.5E-02	
rs1053593	HIPadjBMI	22	HMGXB4	T	0.65	0.021	3.9E-08	202,070	0.029	1.8E-09	114,347	0.011	5.1E-02	87,908	6.2E-03	
Loci achieving genome-wide significance in all-ancestry meta-analyses																
rs1664789	WCadjBMI	5	ARL15	C	0.41	0.014	2.6E-05	244,110	0.005	2.8E-01	133,052	0.026	3.6E-08	109,025	4.4E-04	
rs722585	HIPadjBMI	6	GMD5	G	0.68	0.015	2.1E-04	205,815	-0.001	8.8E-01	113,965	0.032	9.2E-09	89,831	4.3E-06	
rs1144	WCadjBMI	7	SRPK2	C	0.34	0.019	3.1E-08	239,342	0.020	1.2E-05	131,398	0.018	4.1E-04	105,911	7.8E-01	
rs2398893	WHR	9	PTPDC1	A	0.71	0.020	4.0E-08	226,572	0.019	5.1E-05	124,577	0.019	2.7E-04	99,968	9.5E-01	
rs4985155 ^c	HIP	16	PDXDC1	A	0.66	0.018	4.5E-07	227,296	0.011	1.6E-02	125,048	0.029	9.7E-09	100,313	6.3E-03	

P values and β coefficients for the association with the trait indicated in the meta-analysis of combined GWAS and Metabochip studies. The smallest P value for each SNP is shown in bold.

^aThe effect allele is the trait-increasing allele in the sex-combined analysis.

^bTest for sex difference; values significant at the table-wise Bonferroni threshold of $0.05/19 = 2.63 \times 10^{-3}$ are marked in bold.

^c $P = 7.3 \times 10^{-6}$ with height in Okada *et al.*⁴³ (index SNP rs1136001; $r^2 = 0.79$, distance = 2,515 bp). Chr, chromosome; EA, effect allele; EAF, effect allele frequency.