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A genome-wide association study of anorexia nervosa

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A genome-wide association study of anorexia nervosa

Vesna Boraska, PhD^{1,2,*}, Christopher S Franklin, PhD^{1,*}, James AB Floyd, PhD^{1,3,*}, Laura M Thornton, PhD^{4,*}, Laura M Huckins¹, Lorraine Southam, BSc¹, N William Rayner, PhD^{1,5,6}, Ioanna Tachmazidou, PhD¹, Kelly L Klump, PhD⁷, Janet Treasure, PhD, FRCP, FRCPsych⁸, Cathryn M Lewis, PhD⁸, Ulrike Schmidt, MD, PhD, FRCPsych⁸, Federica Tozzi, MD⁴, Kirsty Kiezebrink, PhD, RNutr¹⁰, Johannes Hebebrand, MD¹¹, Philip Gorwood, MD, PhD^{12,13}, Roger AH Adan, PhD^{14,15}, Martien JH Kas, PhD¹⁴, Angela Favaro, MD, PhD¹⁶, Paolo Santonastaso, MD¹⁶, Fernando Fernández-Aranda, PhD^{17,18}, Monica Gratacos, MD, PhD^{19,20,21,22}, Filip Rybakowski, MD, PhD²³, Monika Dmitrzak-Weglaz, PhD²⁴, Jaakko Kaprio, MD, PhD^{25,26,27}, Anna Keski-Rahkonen, MD, PhD, MPH²⁵, Anu Raevuori, MD, PhD^{25,28}, Eric F Van Furth, PhD^{29,30}, Margarita CT Slof-Oop t Landt, PhD^{29,31}, James I Hudson, MD, ScD³², Ted Reichborn-Kjennerud, MD, PhD^{33,34}, Gun Peggy S Knudsen, PhD³³, Palmiero Monteleone, MD^{35,36}, Allan S Kaplan, MD, MSc, FRCP(C)^{37,38}, Andreas Karwautz, MD³⁹, Hakon Hakonarson, MD, PhD^{40,41}, Wade H Berrettini, MD, PhD⁴², Yiran Guo, PhD⁴⁰, Dong Li, PhD⁴⁰, Nicholas J. Schork, PhD⁴³, Gen Komaki, MD, PhD^{44,45}, Tetsuya Ando, MD, PhD⁴⁴, Hidetoshi Inoko, PhD⁴⁶, Tõnu Esko, PhD⁴⁷, Krista Fischer, PhD⁴⁷, Katrin Männik, PhD^{48,49}, Andres Metspalu, MD, PhD^{47,48}, Jessica H Baker, PhD⁴, Roger D Cone, PhD⁵⁰, Jennifer Dackor, PhD⁵¹, Janiece E DeSocio, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC⁵², Christopher E Hilliard, BS⁴, Julie K O'Toole, MD, MPH⁵³, Jacques Pantel, PhD⁵⁴, Jin P Szatkiewicz, PhD⁵¹, Chrysecolla Taico, MSW, LCSW⁴, Stephanie Zerwas, PhD⁴, Sara E Trace, PhD⁴, Oliver SP Davis, PhD^{9,55}, Sietske Helder, PhD⁹, Katharina Bühren, MD⁵⁶, Roland Burghardt, MD⁵⁷, Martina de Zwaan, MD^{58,59}, Karin Egberts, MD⁶⁰, Stefan Ehrlich, MD^{61,62}, Beate Herpertz-Dahlmann, MD⁵⁶, Wolfgang Herzog, MD⁶³, Hartmut Imgart, MD⁶⁴, André Scherag, PhD⁶⁵, Susann Scherag, PhD¹¹, Stephan Zipfel, MD⁶⁶, Claudette Boni, PhD¹², Nicolas Ramoz, PhD¹², Audrey Versini, PhD¹², Marek K Brandys, MSc^{14,15}, Unna N Danner, PhD¹⁵, Carolien de Kovel, PhD⁶⁷, Judith Hendriks¹⁴, Bobby PC Koeleman, PhD⁶⁷, Roel A Ophoff, PhD^{68,69}, Eric Strengman, MSc⁶⁷, Annemarie A van Elburg, MD, PhD^{15,70}, Alice Bruson, PhD⁷¹, Maurizio Clementi, MD⁷¹, Daniela Degortes, PhD¹⁶, Monica Forzan, PhD⁷¹, Elena Tenconi, PhD¹⁶, Elisa Docampo, MD, PhD^{19,20,21,22}, Geòrgia Escaramís, PhD^{19,20,21,22}, Susana Jiménez-Murcia, PhD^{17,18}, Jolanta Lissowska, PhD⁷², Andrzej Rajewski, MD, PhD⁷³, Neonila Szeszenia-Dabrowska, MD, PhD⁷³, Agnieszka Slopian, MD, PhD²⁴, Joanna Hauser, MD, PhD²⁴, Leila Karhunen, PhD⁷⁴, Ingrid Meulenbelt, PhD³¹, P Eline Slagboom, PhD^{31,75}, Alfonso Tortorella, MD³⁵, Mario Maj, MD, PhD³⁵, George Dedoussis, PhD⁷⁶, Dimitris Dikeos, MD⁷⁷, Fragiskos Gonidakis, MD⁷⁸, Konstantinos Tziouvas, MD, MSc⁷⁶, Artemis Tsitsika, MD, PhD⁷⁹, Hana Papezova, MD, PhD⁸⁰, Lenka Slachtova, MSc⁸¹, Debora Martaskova, MSc⁸⁰, James L. Kennedy, MD, MSc, FRCP(C)^{37,38},

*These authors contributed equally to this manuscript

**These authors contributed equally to this manuscript as investigators

+These authors contributed equally to this manuscript

Conflicts of Interest

Patrick F. Sullivan was on the SAB of Expression Analysis (Durham, NC).

Cynthia Bulik was a consultant for Shire Pharmaceuticals at the time the manuscript was written.

Federica Tozzi was full time employee of GSK at the time when the study was performed.

David A. Collier was employed by Eli Lilly UK for a portion of the time that this study was performed.

James L. Kennedy has received honoraria from Eli Lilly and Roche.

Robert D. Levitan has received honorarium from Astra-Zeneca.

Supplementary information is available at *Molecular Psychiatry's* website.

Robert D. Levitan, MD, MSc, FRCP(C)^{37,38}, Zeynep Yilmaz, PhD^{4,37}, Julia Huemer, MD³⁹, Doris Koubek, MD³⁹, Elisabeth Merl, MD³⁹, Gudrun Wagner, MSc, Dr med sci³⁹, Paul Lichtenstein, PhD⁸², Jerome Breen, PhD⁹, Sarah Cohen-Woods, PhD⁹, Anne Farmer, MD, FRCPsych⁹, Peter McGuffin, MD, PhD⁹, Sven Cichon, PhD^{83,84,85}, Ina Giegling, PhD⁸⁶, Stefan Herms, PhD^{83,85}, Dan Rujescu, MD, PhD⁸⁶, Stefan Schreiber, MD⁸⁷, H-Erich Wichmann, MD^{88,89}, Christian Dina, PhD⁹⁰, Rob Sladek, MD⁹¹, Giovanni Gambaro, MD, PhD⁹², Nicole Soranzo, PhD¹, Antonio Julia, MD⁹³, Sara Marsal, MD, PhD⁹³, Raquel Rabionet, PhD^{19,22}, Valerie Gaborieau, MS⁹⁴, Danielle M Dick, PhD⁹⁵, Aarno Palotie, MD, PhD^{1,96,97}, Samuli Ripatti, PhD^{96,98}, Elisabeth Widén, MD, PhD^{96,98}, Ole A Andreassen, MD, PhD⁹⁹, Thomas Espeseth, PhD^{99,100}, Astri Lundervold, PhD^{101,102,103}, Ivar Reinvang, PhD¹⁰⁰, Vidar M Steen, MD, PhD^{104,105}, Stephanie Le Hellard, PhD^{104,105}, Morten Mattingsdal, MSc⁹⁹, Ioanna Ntalla, PhD⁷⁶, Vladimir Bencko, MD¹⁰⁶, Lenka Foretova, MD, PhD¹⁰⁷, Vladimir Janout, MD¹⁰⁸, Marie Navratilova, MD, PhD¹⁰⁷, Steven Gallinger, MD, MSc, FRCS¹⁰⁹, Dalila Pinto, PhD¹¹⁰, Stephen Scherer, PhD¹¹¹, Harald Aschauer, MD¹¹², Laura Carlberg, MD¹¹², Alexandra Schosser, MD, PhD¹¹², Lars Alfredsson, PhD¹¹³, Bo Ding, PhD¹¹³, Lars Klareskog, MD, PhD¹¹⁴, Leonid Padyukov, MD, PhD¹¹⁴, Chris Finan, PhD¹, Gursharan Kalsi, PhD⁹, Marion Roberts, PhD⁹, Darren W Logan, PhD¹, Leena Peltonen, PhD¹, Graham RS Ritchie, PhD^{1,115}, Jeffrey C Barrett, PhD¹, The Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium 3, Xavier Estivill, MD, PhD^{19,20,21,22,**}, Anke Hinney, PhD^{11,**}, Patrick F Sullivan, MD, FRANZCP^{4,51,+}, David A Collier, PhD^{9,116,+}, Eleftheria Zeggini, PhD^{1,+}, and Cynthia M Bulik, PhD^{4,117,+}

¹Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK
²University of Split School of Medicine, Split, Croatia ³William Harvey Research Institute, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London, John Vane Science Centre, Charterhouse Square, London, UK ⁴Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA ⁵Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics (WTCHG), University of Oxford, Oxford, UK ⁶Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism (OCDEM), Oxford, UK ⁷Department of Psychology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA ⁸Section of Eating Disorders, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, London, UK ⁹Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, London, UK ¹⁰Health Services Research Unit, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK ¹¹Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy, Universitätsklinikum Essen, University of Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany ¹²INSERM U894, Centre of Psychiatry and Neuroscience, Paris, France ¹³Sainte-Anne Hospital (CMME), University of Paris-Descartes, Paris, France ¹⁴Brain Center Rudolf Magnus, Department of Neuroscience and Pharmacology, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands ¹⁵Altrecht Eating Disorders Rintveld, Zeist, The Netherlands ¹⁶Department of Neurosciences, University of Padova, Padova, Italy ¹⁷Department of Psychiatry and CIBERON, University Hospital of Bellvitge-IDIBELL, Barcelona, Spain ¹⁸Department of Clinical Sciences, School of Medicine, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain ¹⁹Genomics and Disease Group, Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG), Barcelona, Spain ²⁰Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), Barcelona, Spain ²¹Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red en Epidemiología y Salud Pública (CIBERESP), Barcelona, Spain ²²Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute (IMIM), 08003, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain ²³Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw, Poland ²⁴Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poznan, Poland ²⁵Hjelt Institute, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland ²⁶Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland ²⁷Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Helsinki, Finland ²⁸Department of Adolescent Psychiatry, Helsinki University Central Hospital, Helsinki, Finland ²⁹Center for Eating Disorders Ursula, Leidschendam, The Netherlands ³⁰Leiden University Medical Centre, Department of

Psychiatry, Leiden, The Netherlands ³¹Leiden University Medical Centre, Molecular Epidemiology Section (Department of Medical Statistics), Leiden, The Netherlands ³²Department of Psychiatry, McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Belmont, MA, USA ³³Department of Genetics, Environment and Mental Health, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo, Norway ³⁴Institute of Clinical Medicine, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway ³⁵Department of Psychiatry, University of Naples SUN, Naples, Italy ³⁶Chair of Psychiatry, University of Salerno, Salerno, Italy ³⁷Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada ³⁸Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada ³⁹Eating Disorders Unit, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria ⁴⁰The Center for Applied Genomics, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, USA ⁴¹The Division of Human Genetics, Department of Pediatrics, The Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA ⁴²Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA ⁴³Department of Molecular and Experimental Medicine and The Scripps Translational Science Institute, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA, USA ⁴⁴Department of Psychosomatic Research, National Institute of Mental Health, NCNP, Tokyo, Japan ⁴⁵School of Health Sciences at Fukuoka, International University of Health and Welfare, Fukuoka, Japan ⁴⁶Department of Molecular Life Sciences, Tokai University School of Medicine, Kanagawa, Japan ⁴⁷Estonian Genome Center, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia ⁴⁸Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia ⁴⁹Center for Integrative Genomics, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland ⁵⁰Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN, USA ⁵¹Department of Genetics, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA ⁵²Seattle University College of Nursing, Seattle, WA, USA ⁵³Kartini Clinic, Portland, OR, USA ⁵⁴Centre de Psychiatrie et Neurosciences - Inserm U894, Paris, France ⁵⁵UCL Genetics Institute, Department of Genetics, Evolution and Environment, University College London, London, UK ⁵⁶Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy, University Clinics RWTH Aachen, Aachen, Germany ⁵⁷Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy, Charité, Berlin, Germany ⁵⁸Department of Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany ⁵⁹Department of Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen, Germany ⁶⁰Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy, University Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany ⁶¹Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Dresden University of Technology, Dresden, Germany ⁶²Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging, Psychiatric Neuroimaging Research Program, Charlestown, MA, USA ⁶³Departments of Psychosocial and Internal Medicine, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany ⁶⁴Parklandklinik, Bad Wildungen, Germany ⁶⁵Institute for Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology, Universitätsklinikum Essen, University of Duisburg-Essen, Essen, Germany ⁶⁶Department of Internal Medicine VI, Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy, University Medical Hospital Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany ⁶⁷Department of Medical Genetics, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands ⁶⁸Center for Neurobehavioral Genetics, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, USA ⁶⁹Brain Center Rudolf Magnus, Department of Psychiatry, University Medical Center Utrecht, The Netherlands ⁷⁰Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands ⁷¹Clinical Genetics Unit, Department of Woman and Child Health, University of Padova, Padova, Italy ⁷²M. Skłodowska-Curie Cancer Center and Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland ⁷³Department of Epidemiology, Institute of Occupational Medicine, Department of Epidemiology, Lodz, Poland ⁷⁴Department of Clinical Nutrition, Institute of Public Health and Clinical Nutrition, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland ⁷⁵Netherlands Consortium for Healthy Ageing, Leiden University Medical Center, The Netherlands ⁷⁶Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Harokopio University, Athens, Greece ⁷⁷1st Department of Psychiatry, Athens University Medical

School, Athens, Greece ⁷⁸Eating Disorders Unit, 1st Department of Psychiatry, Athens University Medical School, Athens, Greece ⁷⁹Adolescent Health Unit (A.H.U.), 2nd Department of Pediatrics – Medical School, University of Athens “P. & A. Kyriakou” Children’s Hospital, Athens, Greece ⁸⁰Department of Psychiatry, 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic ⁸¹Department of Pediatrics, 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic ⁸²Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden ⁸³Institute of Human Genetics, Department of Genomics, Life & Brain Center, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany ⁸⁴Institute of Neuroscience and Medicine (INM-1), Research Center Jülich, Jülich, Germany ⁸⁵Division of Medical Genetics, Department of Biomedicine, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland ⁸⁶Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Klinikum der Medizinischen Fakultät, Halle/Saale, Germany ⁸⁷Institute of Clinical Molecular Biology, University of Kiel, Germany ⁸⁸Institute of Epidemiology, Helmholtz Zentrum München, German Research Center for Environmental Health, Neuherberg, Germany ⁸⁹Institute of Medical Informatics, Biometry and Epidemiology, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany ⁹⁰CNRS 8090-Institute of Biology, Pasteur Institute, Lille, France ⁹¹McGill University and Genome Quebec Innovation Centre, Montreal, Canada ⁹²Division of Nephrology, Department of Internal Medicine and Medical Specialties, Columbus-Gemelly Hospitals, Catholic University, Rome, Italy ⁹³Unitat de Recerca de Reumatologia (URR), Institut de Recerca Hospital Universitari Vall d’Hebron, Barcelona, Spain ⁹⁴Genetic Epidemiology Group, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Lyon, France ⁹⁵Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics, Department of Psychiatry, Virginia Commonwealth University, VA, USA ⁹⁶The Finnish Institute of Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM), University of Helsinki, Finland ⁹⁷The Program for Human and Population Genetics, The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, MA, USA ⁹⁸Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, Province of Southern Finland, Finland ⁹⁹NORMENT, K.G. Jebsen Centre for Psychosis Research, Division of Mental Health and Addiction, Oslo University Hospital & Institute of Clinical Medicine, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway ¹⁰⁰Department of Psychology, University of Oslo, Norway ¹⁰¹Department of Biological and Medical Psychology, University of Bergen, Norway ¹⁰²Kavli Research Centre for Aging and Dementia, Haraldsplass Deaconess Hospital, Bergen, Norway ¹⁰³K.G. Jebsen Centre for Research on Neuropsychiatric Disorders, University of Bergen, Norway ¹⁰⁴K.G. Jebsen Centre for Psychosis Research, Norwegian Centre For Mental Disorders Research (NORMENT), Department of Clinical Science, University of Bergen, Norway ¹⁰⁵Dr. Einar Martens Research Group for Biological Psychiatry, Center for Medical Genetics and Molecular Medicine, Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen, Norway ¹⁰⁶Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic ¹⁰⁷Department of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, Masaryk Memorial Cancer Institute, Brno, Czech Republic ¹⁰⁸Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic ¹⁰⁹University Health Network and Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto General Hospital, and Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute, Toronto, Ontario, Canada ¹¹⁰Departments of Psychiatry, and Genetics and Genomic Sciences, Seaver Autism Center, and the Mindich Child Health & Development Institute, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA ¹¹¹The Centre for Applied Genomics and Program in Genetics and Genome Biology, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada ¹¹²Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Medical University Vienna, Austria ¹¹³The Institute of Environmental Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden ¹¹⁴Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine at the Karolinska University Hospital, Solna, Sweden ¹¹⁵European Molecular Biology Laboratory, European Bioinformatics Institute, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge CB10 1SD ¹¹⁶Eli Lilly and Company Ltd, Erl Wood Manor, Windlesham, Surrey, UK ¹¹⁷Department of Nutrition, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Abstract

Anorexia nervosa (AN) is a complex and heritable eating disorder characterized by dangerously low body weight. Neither candidate gene studies nor an initial genome wide association study (GWAS) have yielded significant and replicated results. We performed a GWAS in 2,907 cases with AN from 14 countries (15 sites) and 14,860 ancestrally matched controls as part of the Genetic Consortium for AN (GCAN) and the Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium 3 (WTCCC3). Individual association analyses were conducted in each stratum and meta-analyzed across all 15 discovery datasets. Seventy-six (72 independent) SNPs were taken forward for *in silico* (two datasets) or *de novo* (13 datasets) replication genotyping in 2,677 independent AN cases and 8,629 European ancestry controls along with 458 AN cases and 421 controls from Japan. The final global meta-analysis across discovery and replication datasets comprised 5,551 AN cases and 21,080 controls. AN subtype analyses (1,606 AN restricting; 1,445 AN binge-purge) were performed. No findings reached genome-wide significance. Two intronic variants were suggestively associated: rs9839776 ($P=3.01\times 10^{-7}$) in *SOX2OT* and rs17030795 ($P=5.84\times 10^{-6}$) in *PPP3CA*. Two additional signals were specific to Europeans: rs1523921 ($P=5.76\times 10^{-6}$) between *CUL3* and *FAM124B* and rs1886797 ($P=8.05\times 10^{-6}$) near *SPATA13*. Comparing discovery to replication results, 76% of the effects were in the same direction, an observation highly unlikely to be due to chance ($P=4\times 10^{-6}$), strongly suggesting that true findings exist but that our sample, the largest yet reported, was underpowered for their detection. The accrual of large genotyped AN case-control samples should be an immediate priority for the field.

Keywords

anorexia nervosa; eating disorders; GWAS; genome-wide association study; body mass index; metabolic

Introduction

Anorexia nervosa (AN) is a perplexing biologically-influenced psychiatric disorder characterized by the maintenance of dangerously low body weight, fear of weight gain, and seeming indifference to the seriousness of the illness.¹ AN affects ~1% of the population.^{2, 3} Females are disproportionately afflicted, although males also develop the condition.⁴ The most common age of onset is 15-19 years;⁵ however, the incidence appears to be increasing in the pre-pubertal period⁶ and in older adults.⁷ AN is often comorbid with major depressive disorder, anxiety disorders, and multiple somatic complications.⁸⁻¹² Although most individuals recover, ~25% develop a chronic and relapsing course.¹³ AN ranks among the ten leading causes of disability among young women¹⁴ and has one of the highest mortality rates of any psychiatric disorder.¹⁵⁻¹⁹ The evidence base for treatment for AN has been described as “weak,”^{20, 21} and treatment and extended inpatient hospitalizations for weight restoration are costly.^{22, 23} In sum, the public health impact of AN is considerable, and AN carries substantial morbidity, mortality, and personal, familial, and societal costs.

As with most idiopathic psychiatric disorders, the inheritance of AN is complex. The core features of AN [i.e., the ability and determination to maintain low body mass index (BMI)] are remarkably homogeneous across time and cultures.^{24, 25} Genetic epidemiological studies have documented the familiarity of AN (relative risk 11.3 in first-degree relatives of AN probands)^{26, 27} and the estimated twin-based heritability of AN ranges from 33 to 84%.²⁸⁻³² Genome-wide linkage studies did not narrow the genomic search space in a compelling manner.³³⁻³⁵ Findings from candidate gene studies of AN resemble those for most complex biomedical diseases—initial intriguing findings diminished by the absence of rigorous replication.³⁶⁻³⁸

Given the centrality of weight dysregulation to AN, genes implicated in the regulation of body weight might also be involved in the etiology of AN.^{39, 40} Therefore genetic variants with a profound effect on BMI are worthy of consideration.³⁸

Two genome-wide association studies (GWAS) of AN have been conducted. One study that used DNA pooling and genotyping with a modest number of microsatellite markers with follow-up genotyping detected evidence for association with rs2048332 on chromosome 1, but this finding did not reach genome-wide significance.⁴¹ A GWAS of 1033 AN cases from the USA, Canada, and Europe compared with 3733 pediatric controls yielded no genome-wide significant findings.⁴² Recently, a sequencing and genotyping study of 152 candidate genes in 1205 AN cases and 1948 controls suggested a novel association of a cholesterol metabolism influencing *EPHX2* gene with susceptibility to AN.⁴³

In recognition of the need for large-scale sample collections to empower GWAS, we established the Genetic Consortium for Anorexia Nervosa (GCAN) in 2007—a worldwide collaboration combining existing DNA samples of AN patients into a single resource. As part of the Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium 3 (WTCCC3), we have conducted the largest GWAS for AN to date.

Materials and Methods

Discovery dataset

We conducted a GWAS across 15 discovery datasets, comprising a total of 2,907 AN cases and 14,860 ancestrally matched controls of European origin (Table 1). All AN cases were female. Diagnostic determination was via semi-structured or structured interview or population assessment strategy based on DSM diagnostic criteria. Cases met DSM-IV criteria for lifetime AN (restricting or binge-purge subtype) or lifetime DSM-IV eating disorders “not otherwise specified” (EDNOS) AN-subtype (i.e., exhibiting the core features of AN). We did not require the presence of amenorrhea as this criterion does not increase diagnostic specificity.^{44, 45} Given the frequency of diagnostic crossover, a lifetime history of bulimia nervosa was allowed.⁴⁶ Exclusion criteria included the diagnosis of medical or psychiatric conditions that might have confounded the diagnosis of AN (e.g., psychotic disorders, mental retardation, or a medical or neurological condition causing weight loss). Controls were carefully selected to match for ancestry within each site and chosen primarily from existing GWAS genotypes through collaboration and genotyping repository (dbGAP) access. Each site obtained ethical approval from the local ethics committee, and all participants provided written informed consent in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

Genotyping, imputation and quality control

AN cases from the 15 sites were genotyped using Illumina 660W-Quad arrays (Illumina, Inc., San Diego, CA, USA) at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute. Funding was available only for genotyping AN cases. Thus, control genotypes were selected from existing datasets matched as closely as possible to the ancestry of cases and Illumina arrays as similar as possible to the 660W array (Table S1). Quality control (QC) of directly typed variants was performed within each of the 15 case-control datasets (Table S2, Supplementary Information).

Phasing and imputation was performed separately for each of the 15 datasets using a common set of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) passing QC (Table S2) using the program Impute2 v2.1.2 (Supplementary Information).⁴⁷ The imputation reference panel was HapMap 3 release 2. We used all available HapMap3 populations for imputation as it

was shown that the increase in the reference panel decreases error.^{48, 49} Post-imputation filters were applied to remove SNPs with INFO scores < 0.4 or with MAF < 0.05 . We observe high imputation accuracy (as captured by the INFO score) across a range of minor allele frequencies (Figure S1). There was high concordance between directly genotyped variants with imputed dosages of the same variants after masking (Figure S2).

Statistical analysis

Single-SNP association analyses were performed under an additive genetic model separately within each of the 15 datasets (Supplementary Information). We tested for association across the autosomes and the non-pseudoautosomal region of the X chromosome. Imputation and association analysis of the non-pseudoautosomal region of the chromosome X data were based on females (2,907 AN cases and 10,594 controls). Association analyses were performed using SNPTTEST v2.2.0⁴⁹ under an additive model and using a score test. To guard against false positives due to population stratification, we carried out association analysis within each dataset and then combined the results using meta-analysis (for the French dataset, the first principal component was added as a covariate). Fixed-effects meta-analyses were performed using GWAMA.⁵⁰ All 15 discovery datasets were corrected for the genomic control (GC) inflation factor (λ_{GC}) prior to performing meta-analysis (Table S2; Supplementary Information).

Replication

We prioritized directly genotyped and imputed SNPs for replication based on statistical significance ($P < 10^{-4}$), robust QC metrics, and vicinity to plausible candidate genes. In total 96 SNPs (95 autosomal and one on chromosome X) in 66 genomic regions showed nominal evidence for association. We selected 72 independent, uncorrelated variants representing each of the 66 associated genomic regions and added 4 proxies for the most associated SNPs resulting in 76 SNPs for replication. Cluster plots of all prioritized SNPs were examined using Evoker⁵¹ in cases and controls separately to minimize the possibility of spurious association due to genotyping error. We included 27 ancestry-informative markers (AIMs) for genotyping in the replication datasets, to guard against population stratification (Supplementary Information).⁵²

Our replication data included 15 datasets—two existing *in silico* datasets and 13 datasets for *de novo* genotyping (Table 1). The *in silico* dataset from the USA came from an existing GWAS of AN genotyped using the Illumina HumanHap610 platform (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA)⁵³ and the other *in silico* dataset came from Estonian Genome Center (www.biobank.ee) and was genotyped using the Illumina OmniExpress array. *De novo* genotyped samples included newly collected AN cases and controls from members of the GCAN and samples from the same sites as the discovery samples that had failed GWAS QC (including saliva and whole genome amplified samples). *De novo* SNP genotyping was carried out using the iPLEX Gold Assay (Sequenom, Inc., San Diego, CA, USA). SNPs with poor Sequenom design metrics were replaced with high-LD proxies. Sample and SNP QC were performed within each replication dataset. QC included checking for sex inconsistencies and exclusions based on sample call rate $< 80\%$, SNP call rate $< 90\%$ and exact Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE) $p < 0.0001$. In total, replication genotypes (*in silico* and *de novo*) of 76 prioritized SNPs and 27 AIMs were available from 2,677 AN cases and 8,629 controls of European ethnicity and 458 AN cases and 421 controls from Japan.

Association analyses of prioritized SNPs were performed under an additive genetic model within each replication dataset with and without adjustment for AIMs. AIMs that showed nominally significant p-values for allele frequency differences between *de novo* typed cases and controls were used for conditional analysis (Table S3). As there were no qualitative

differences between these results, the main text reports the unadjusted results. The USA replication dataset contained individuals who were related to individuals from the USA discovery dataset. As such, those samples were excluded from the discovery dataset and combined with replication USA samples to correctly account for relatedness between samples for the final global meta-analysis and sign test. Software packages GenABEL⁵⁴ and GEMMA⁵⁵ were used for replication analysis of the USA dataset. Fixed-effects meta-analysis across the replication datasets was performed using GWAMA⁵⁰ (with and without adjustment for AIMs and in samples of European ancestry only, i.e., excluding Japan, also with and without adjustment for AIMs). We also performed meta-analyses across the discovery and replication datasets, comprising a total of 5,551 AN cases and 21,080 controls (USA discovery samples were included only once as part of the replication phase). We calculated the power of the final global meta-analysis using QUANTO.⁵⁶

Seventy-two independent SNPs were used to compare the direction of effects between the discovery and replication meta-analyses using R.⁵⁷ For this analysis, the USA samples were used only once as part of the replication meta-analysis.

Additional analyses

We performed three additional analyses: 1) genome-wide complex trait analysis (GCTA), designed to estimate the proportion of phenotypic variance explained by genome-wide SNPs for complex traits,⁵⁸ a network analysis, and a gene-based association test (Supplementary Information).

AN subtype analyses

Two subtype (Supplementary Information) association analyses were performed for the 76 prioritized SNPs across the discovery and replication datasets (Table 1). In total, the AN restricting subtype global meta-analysis included 1,606 cases and the AN binge-purge subtype analysis included 1,445 cases. Both analyses used the same set of 16,303 controls (Supplementary Information).

Related traits

Using the discovery meta-analysis, we investigated evidence for association using SNP results from published studies: 9 SNPs with nominal evidence of association with AN;⁴² 14 SNPs suggestively associated with eating disorder-related symptoms, behaviors, or personality traits;^{59, 60} 89 SNPs with genome-wide significance in studies of BMI or obesity;^{61, 62} and 15 SNPs related to morbid obesity.⁶¹ We also investigated evidence for association across the 72 replication SNPs using published GWAS results from the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (<https://pgc.unc.edu>) for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depressive disorder.⁶³⁻⁶⁶

Expression studies

We prioritized the top 20 SNPs in terms of statistical significance and quantified the expression of the two nearest genes per SNP (Table S4) in 12 inbred strains of mice. We obtained publicly available RNAseq data from whole brain tissue samples and used standard software to map and count the sequence reads (Supplementary Information).

Results

Main association results

Of 1,185,559 imputed SNPs that passed QC, 287 showed evidence for association in the discovery stage with $P < 10^{-4}$. These variants represented 66 independent signals and had

frequencies and effect sizes commensurate with observations in other common complex diseases. One variant, not surrounded by other SNPs achieving low p-values and for which genotypes were only available in two of the 15 initial study groups, surpassed genome-wide significance (rs4957798, $P=1.67 \times 10^{-12}$) but was not subsequently replicated in the global meta-analysis across discovery and replication samples. The overall λ_{GC} was 1.03 (Figures S3 and S4). Seventy-six SNPs (of which 72 were independent) were prioritized for follow-up through *in silico* and *de novo* replication (Table S5). Nine SNPs showed association with $P < 0.05$ (minimum p-value was 0.003) in the replication dataset meta-analysis (binomial $P=0.0135$) (Table S5). Based on 72 independent SNPs taken forward, we would expect $0.05 \times 72 = 3.6$ SNPs to reach $P=0.05$ by chance. The 0.0135 P value reflects this enrichment in signal. No signals surpassed genome-wide significance ($P=5 \times 10^{-8}$) in the final global meta-analysis across all discovery and replication samples (Table S5) or in the AN subtype analyses (Tables S6-S7).

Of critical importance, we observed significant evidence of SNP effect sizes in the replication data in the same direction as the discovery set (55/72 signals, sign test binomial $P=4 \times 10^{-6}$). This enrichment was also observed for the AN restricting (58/72, $P=8 \times 10^{-8}$) and binge-purge (56/72, $P=1 \times 10^{-6}$) subtype analyses. These results strongly indicate that the prioritized set of variants is likely to contain true positive signals for AN but that the current sample size is insufficient to detect these effects.

Our analysis revealed two notable variants: rs9839776 ($P=3.01 \times 10^{-7}$) in *SOX2OT* (*SOX2* overlapping transcript) and rs17030795 ($P=5.84 \times 10^{-6}$) in *PPP3CA* (protein phosphatase 3, catalytic subunit, alpha isozyme) (Table 2). Two additional signals emerged from the analysis focused on European replication samples only: rs1523921 ($P=5.76 \times 10^{-6}$) located between *CUL3* (cullin 3) and *FAM124B* (family with sequence similarity 124B) and rs1886797 ($P=8.05 \times 10^{-6}$) located 18kb from *SPATA13* (spermatogenesis associated 13) (Table S5). Four signals were in neurodevelopmental genes regulating synapse and neuronal network formation (*SYN2*, *NCAM2*, *CNTNAP2* and *CTNNA2*; Table 2).

AN subtype analyses

In the AN restricting subtype analyses, the two most significant signals were rs1523921 (as in the main analysis, $P=8.39 \times 10^{-5}$) and rs10777211 ($P=8.95 \times 10^{-5}$) located 333kb from *ATP2B1* (ATPase, calcium transporting, plasma membrane 1), both detected in the European-only analysis (Table S6). The most significant result for AN binge-purge analysis was rs9839776 (as in the main analysis, $P=3.97 \times 10^{-4}$) in *SOX2OT*, also in Europeans only (Table S7). Overall, signals from the main AN case-control analysis display similar levels of association across both AN subtypes (Table S8).

Additional analyses

GCTA is technically challenging when synthesizing data across multiple strata with small individual sample sizes. When we applied it to our data we saw great variability in the estimates of variance and did not judge the results reliable. Results of the gene-based association test and network analysis are presented in their entirety in Supplemental Information and Figure S5, both of which were unremarkable.

Related traits

Nine out of the 11 previously reported variants suggestively associated with AN⁴² were found in our discovery meta-analysis, and six of these 9 SNPs had the same direction of effect as originally reported ($P=0.508$) (Table S9). Twelve out of 14 variants previously reported to be associated with eating disorder-related symptoms, behaviors, and personality traits^{59, 60} were found in our discovery meta-analysis and 7 had the same direction of effect

($P=0.774$) (Table S10), with one SNP (inside *RUFY1*) having $P<0.05$ (binomial $P=0.459$). We did not find evidence for signal enrichment in the 60 independent SNPs found in the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium data for ADHD, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depressive disorder⁶³⁻⁶⁶ (Table S11).

When we compared 76 (53 independent) SNPs from the AN results with 89 established BMI/obesity SNPs,^{61, 62} five SNPs (inside *NEGR1*, *PTBP2*, *TMEM18*, *FTO* and *MC4R*) had $P<0.05$ (binomial $P=0.1906$). Twenty-six of these 53 SNPs had the same direction of effect as originally reported (binomial P value=1) (Table S12). Thirteen of 15 SNPs associated with extreme obesity were extracted from our dataset and 9 of these were independent. Four of these 9 SNPs had the same direction of effect as originally reported (binomial P value=1) (Table S13). Three SNPs (in *TMEM18*, *FTO* and *MC4R*) had $P<0.05$ (binomial P value=0.0084), indicating modest enrichment of nominally associated SNPs from extreme obesity in our discovery dataset.

Expression studies

We analyzed RNAseq data for whole-brain tissue obtained from 12 different mouse strains (Figure 1). We performed this analysis for 32 mouse orthologues of the 34 human genes identified (Table S4). All 32 genes were expressed in the brain, above an average of 2 FPKM (Fragments Per Kilobase of exon per Million fragments mapped). Specifically, we find extremely high expression levels for *Ppp3ca* (FPKM value 36.40). Further, we find high expression for *Sox2ot*, with an FPKM value of 8.02, and similar expression values for *Cul3* (10.01) and *Ctnna2* (10.79).

Discussion

Given that the evidence base for the treatment of AN remains weak and that no effective medications for its treatment exist,^{20, 67} advances in our understanding of the underlying biology of the disorder are essential in order to develop novel therapeutics and to reduce the loss of life and diminution of quality of life associated with the disorder. The GCAN/WTCCC3 investigation represents an unprecedented international genetic collaboration in the study of AN, which sets the foundation for further genetic studies.

Our final global meta-analysis had 80% power to detect SNPs with allele frequency of 0.35 and genotypic relative risk of 1.15 ($\alpha=5\times 10^{-8}$, additive model).⁶⁸ The AN subtype meta-analysis had 80% power to detect SNPs with allele frequency of 0.35 and genotypic relative risk 1.27 for the AN restricting subtype and 1.28 for the AN binge-purge subtype. Given these limitations in power, our strongest indicator that larger sample sizes could detect genetic variants associated with AN was revealed in the sign tests. The strong and significant evidence for SNP effect sizes in the same direction between discovery and replication sets ($P=4\times 10^{-6}$) clearly suggests that larger sample sizes could successfully identify variants associated with AN and with the AN subtypes potentially enabling differentiation on a genetic level between restricting and binge/purge subtypes.

Several genetic variants were suggestively associated with AN ($P<10^{-5}$) (Table 2). Two variants, rs9839776 in *SOX2OT* and rs17030795 in *PPP3CA*, were identified through analysis of all discovery and replication datasets. Two additional variants with $P<10^{-5}$, rs1523921 located between *CUL3* and *FAM124B* and rs1886797 located near *SPATA13*, were identified through analysis of individuals of European descent only (Table S5), suggesting either heterogeneity in the effects of these SNPs by ancestry or low power. The genes displayed in Table 2 are discussed in greater detail in the Supplementary Information; however, we highlight that four of these variants are neurodevelopmental genes that regulate synapse and neuronal network formation (*SYN2*, *NCAM2*, *CNTNAP2* and *CTNNA2*) and two

have been associated with Alzheimer's disease (*SOX2OT* and *PPP3CA*). Additionally, one of our prioritized SNPs (rs6558000) (Table S5) is located in close vicinity (9kb upstream) of the *EPHX2* gene that was recently identified as a susceptibility locus to AN through candidate gene sequencing study of early-onset severe AN cases and controls.⁴³

Our expression studies further extend the GWAS findings. It is reasonable, although perhaps not essential, to expect that genes implicated in AN be expressed in the brain. Supporting this assumption, 32 mouse orthologues of 34 human genes identified as being of interest were expressed at least at a low level in mouse brain. Moreover, genes corresponding to the more strongly associated genetic variants tended to be more highly expressed. For example, high FPKM values for *Ppp3ca*, *Cul3*, and *Sox2ot* underscore that these genes may play a neuropsychiatric role.

AN subtype analyses were included to determine whether differences might exist between the classic restricting subtype of AN and the subtype marked by dysregulation characterized by binge eating and/or purging behavior. These analyses had lower power due to the smaller sample sizes. Only two SNPs, rs1523921 (also found to be suggestively associated in the main case-control analysis) and rs10777211 located 333kb upstream of *ATP2B1*, showed association at the 10^{-5} significance level (Table S6). Similarly, subsequent analyses pertaining to associated phenotypes (weight regulation: BMI/obesity loci,^{40, 61, 69, 70} and loci for extreme obesity,^{61, 71, 72} psychiatric comorbidities: ADHD, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depressive disorder) or previous equivocal association findings for AN or eating disorders (AN variants,⁴² eating disorder related symptoms, behaviors, and personality traits variants^{59, 60}) did not reveal significant findings. More adequately powered analyses that could allow us to detect variants that can distinguish between these two subtypes could be clinically meaningful in predicting clinical course and outcome and eventually in designing targeted therapeutics.

Our understanding of the fundamental genetic architectures of complex medical diseases and psychiatric disorders has expanded rapidly.⁷³ It has also become manifestly clear that genomic searches for common variation via GWAS can successfully uncover biological pathways of etiological relevance. The major limitation to discovery is sample size.⁷⁴ A recent GWAS for schizophrenia reported the identification of 22 genome-wide significant loci for schizophrenia (21,000 cases and 38,000 controls), and the results yielded multiple themes of clear biological and translational significance (e.g., calcium biology and miR-137 regulation).⁷⁵ Moreover, given that cases and controls were derived from multiple sources and genotyped on multiple platforms, imputation was essential. Although effective, the preferred approach will always be to have samples genotyped on the same platform to maximize comparability and the capacity to identify genomic associations.

Although the underlying biology of AN remains incompletely understood, the relative homogeneity of the phenotype, replicated heritability estimates, and encouraging results of the sign tests presented herein strongly encourage continuing this path of discovery. Phenotypic refinement and the identification of biomarkers of illness (independent of biomarkers of starvation) could assist with identification of risk loci. We believe that the surest and fastest path to fundamental etiological knowledge about the biological basis of AN is via GWAS in larger samples.⁷⁴ This path is notably safe given that it relies on off-the-shelf technology whose utility has been proven in empirical results for multiple biomedical and psychiatric disorders. This approach is cost-effective due to recent sharp decreases in genotyping pricing. Therefore, we believe that accrual of large genotyped AN case-control samples should be an immediate priority for the field.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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Data Analysis Group: Carl A. Anderson¹, Jeffrey C. Barrett¹, James A.B. Floyd¹, Christopher S. Franklin¹, Ralph McGinnis¹, Nicole Soranzo¹, Eleftheria Zeggini¹.

UK Blood Services Controls: Jennifer Sambrook², Jonathan Stephens², Willem H. Ouwehand².

1958 Birth Cohort Controls: Wendy L. McArdle³, Susan M. Ring³, David P. Strachan⁴.

Management Committee: Graeme Alexander⁵, Cynthia M. Bulik⁶, David A. Collier⁷, Peter J. Conlon⁸, Anna Dominiczak⁹, Audrey Duncanson¹⁰, Adrian Hill¹¹, Cordelia Langford¹, Graham Lord¹², Alexander P. Maxwell¹³, Linda Morgan¹⁴, Leena Peltonen¹, Richard N. Sandford¹⁵, Neil Sheerin¹², Nicole Soranzo¹, Fredrik O. Vannberg¹¹, Jeffrey C. Barrett¹ (chair).

DNA, Genotyping, and Informatics Group: Hannah Blackburn¹, Wei-Min Chen¹⁶, Sarah Edkins¹, Mathew Gillman¹, Emma Gray¹, Sarah E. Hunt¹, Cordelia Langford¹, Suna Onengut-Gumuscu¹⁶, Simon Potter¹, Stephen S Rich¹⁶, Douglas Simpkin¹, Pamela Whittaker¹.

1. The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Hinxton, Cambridge CB10 1SA, UK
2. Division of Transfusion Medicine, Department of Haematology, University of Cambridge, NHSBT Cambridge Centre, Long Road, Cambridge, CB2 0PT, UK
3. Department of Social Medicine, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 2BN, UK
4. St. George's University, Division of Community Health Sciences, London SW19 0RE, UK
5. Department of Hepatology, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Cambridge CB2 0QQ, UK
6. Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA
7. Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, London SE5 8AF
8. Department of Nephrology, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin, Ireland and Royal College of Surgeons Dublin, Ireland
9. BHF Glasgow Cardiovascular Research Centre, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8TA, UK
10. Gibbs Building, 215 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE, UK
11. Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 2JA, UK
12. MRC Centre for Transplantation, King's College London, London SE1 9RT, UK
13. Belfast City Hospital, Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7AB, UK
14. School of Molecular Medical Sciences, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2UH, UK
15. Academic Department of Medical Genetics, Cambridge University, Cambridge CB2 0QQ, UK
16. Center for Public Health Genomics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, USA

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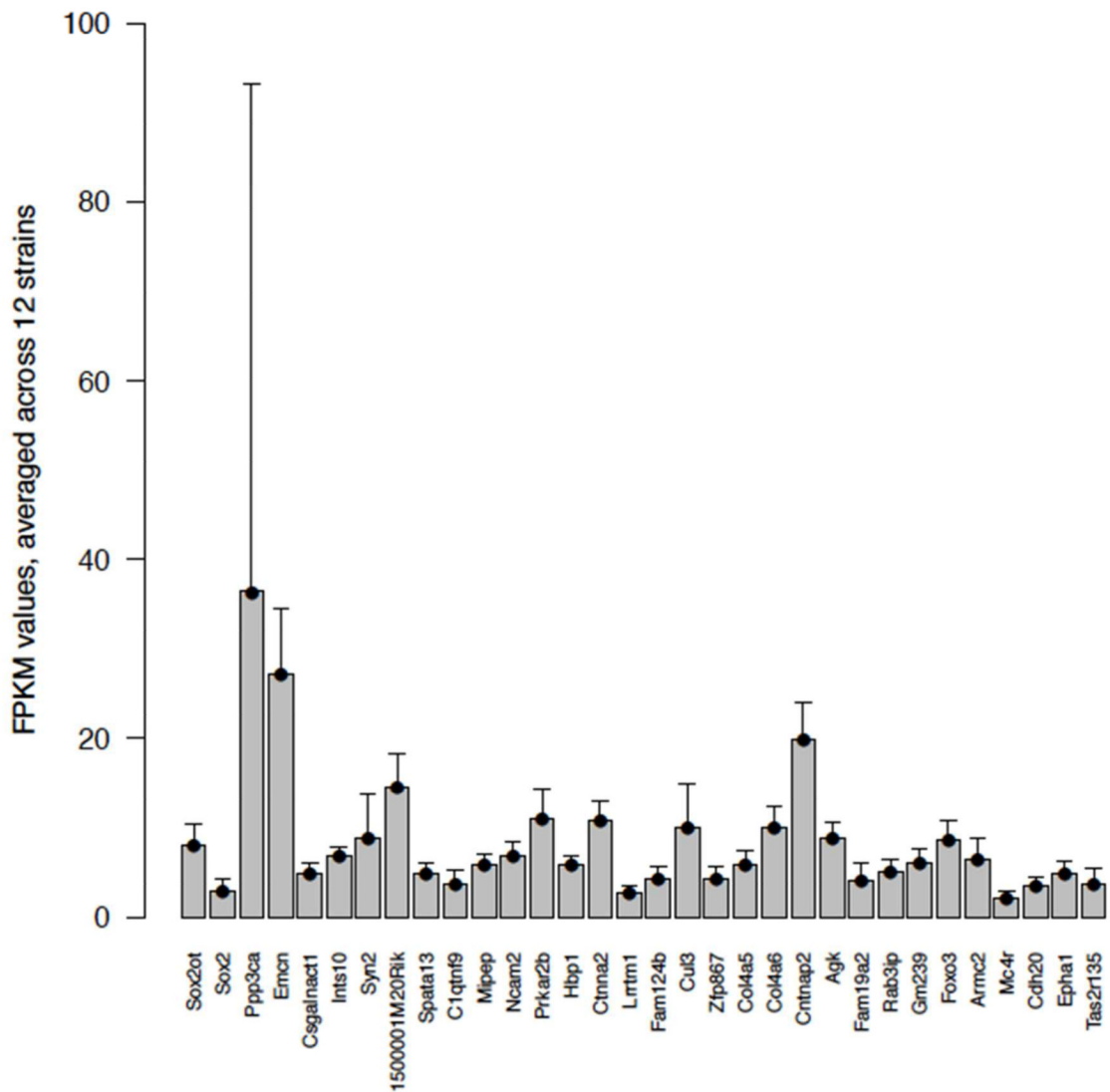


Figure 1. Analysis of RNAseq data for whole-brain tissue obtained from 12 different mouse strains for 32 mouse orthologues of the 34 human genes for which association to anorexia nervosa (AN) was identified. The average FPKM (Fragments Per Kilobase of exon per Million fragments mapped) values for 32 genes across 12 mouse strains are shown.

Table 1

List of ethnicities and numbers of samples for main case control and anorexia nervosa (AN) subtype analyses across discovery and replication datasets

Country	Cases (% of females)	AN RESTRICTING subtype cases	AN BINGE-PURGE subtype cases	Controls (% of females)
Discovery dataset *				
Canada	54	24	25	417 (46.52)
Czech Republic	72	40	29	331 (35.04)
Finland	131	39	29	404 (100)
France	293	137	135	619 (60.09)
Germany	475	147	55	1,205 (49.13)
Greece	70	10	5	79 (100)
Italy-North	203	103	99	841 (52.19)
Italy-South	75	31	26	52 (100)
Netherlands	348	115	90	593 (51.26)
Norway	82	24	15	602 (67.44)
Poland	175	68	107	564 (29.43)
Spain	186	45	44	185 (75.14)
Sweden	39	28	11	975 (72.10)
UK	213	97	97	5,163 (49.43)
USA	491	311	165	2,830 (41.31)
Total discovery	2,907	1,219	932	14,860 (51.73)
In silico replication				
USA-Hakonarson	1,033 (97.67)	0	0	3,775 (45.85)
Estonia	31 (100)	0	0	106 (100)
De novo replication				
Austria	48 (100)	0	0	183 (65.03)
Czech Republic	32 (71.88)	0	0	22 (100)
Finland	15 (100)	0	0	94 (8.51)
France	55 (100)	0	0	123 (100)
Germany	174 (99.43)	31	64	380 (66.84)
Greece	16 (100)	0	0	53 (100)
Italy-South	156 (96.79)	32	24	63 (100)
Netherlands	229 (100)	45	23	380 (27.11)
Poland	52 (98.08)	0	0	93 (100)
Spain	10 (100)	0	0	328 (41.46)
UK	155 (100)	28	55	199 (65.83)
USA **	671 (100)	349	272	2,830 (41.31)
Japan	458 (100)	213	240	421 (100)
Total replication	3,135 (98.72)	698	678	9,050 (50.08)
Total global meta-analysis	5,551	1,606	1,445	21,080

* All AN cases from discovery dataset were females.

** USA samples from discovery dataset were merged together with USA replication samples for replication analysis. The same USA control dataset was used.

Table 2 Global meta-analysis results of SNPs with the greatest evidence of association for the main anorexia nervosa (AN) case-control analysis

SNP information				Global meta-analysis across discovery and replication datasets									
CHR	POS	MARKER	NEAREST GENE	EA	NEA	EAF	OR	OR_95L	OR_95U	P	I ²	N_st	N_sa
3	182794261	rs9839776	<i>SOX2OT</i>	T	C	0.270	1.158	1.095	1.225	3.01E-07	0	27	21857
4	102267099	rs17030795	<i>PPP3CA</i>	G	A	0.192	1.149	1.082	1.220	5.84E-06	0	24	23111
8	19584542	rs11204064	<i>CSGALNACT1</i>	G	A	0.477	1.118	1.063	1.176	1.57E-05	0.008	28	21477
3	12013264	rs2618405	7.5kb from <i>SYN2</i>	C	A	0.218	1.152	1.079	1.229	2.03E-05	0.244	22	18566
13	23433988	rs1886797	18kb from <i>SPATA13</i>	T	C	0.301	1.133	1.070	1.200	2.18E-05	0.317	25	15827
21	21257379	rs10482915	35kb from <i>NCAM2</i>	A	G	0.074	1.193	1.097	1.297	3.96E-05	0	28	26164
7	106473684	rs2395833	<i>PRKAR2B</i>	T	G	0.334	1.101	1.051	1.154	5.62E-05	0.132	29	26511
2	80768625	rs1370339	39kb from <i>CTNNA2</i>	C	T	0.472	1.098	1.049	1.149	5.68E-05	0	29	26508
13	63470128	rs9539891	255kb from <i>OR7E156P</i>	C	T	0.332	0.891	0.842	0.942	5.88E-05	0	23	20389
2	225017222	rs1523921	26kb from <i>CUL3</i> / 42kb from <i>FAM124B</i>	T	C	0.210	1.131	1.065	1.201	5.95E-05	0.162	26	21858
19	11650015	rs206863	<i>ZNF833P</i>	A	G	0.899	0.864	0.804	0.928	6.47E-05	0.076	28	26402
23	107578961	rs5929098	<i>COL4A5</i>	T	C	0.771	1.135	1.066	1.210	8.37E-05	0.002	29	19249
7	146565029	rs6943628	<i>CNTNAP2</i>	A	G	0.097	1.161	1.077	1.251	9.38E-05	0	29	26377

CHR - chromosome; POS - position in hg18; EA - effect allele; NEA - non-effect allele; EAF - effect allele frequency; OR - odds ratio; OR_95L - lower 95% confidence interval; OR_95U - upper 95% confidence interval; P - p-value; I² - measure of heterogeneity; N_st - number of contributing studies; N_sa - number of contributing samples.