

# Genetic Identification of Cell Types Underlying Brain Complex Traits Yields Novel Insights Into the Etiology of Parkinson's Disease

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## Abstract

*Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have discovered hundreds of loci associated with complex brain disorders, and provide the best current insights into the etiology of these idiopathic traits. However, it remains unclear in which cell types these variants are active, which is essential for understanding etiology and subsequent experimental modeling. Here we integrate GWAS results with single-cell transcriptomic data from the entire mouse nervous system to systematically identify cell types underlying psychiatric disorders, neurological diseases, and brain complex traits. We show that psychiatric disorders are predominantly associated with cortical and hippocampal excitatory neurons, as well as medium spiny neurons from the striatum. Cognitive traits were generally associated with similar cell types but their associations were driven by different genes. Neurological diseases were associated with different cell types, which is consistent with other lines of evidence. Notably, we found that Parkinson's disease is not only genetically associated with cholinergic and monoaminergic neurons (which include dopaminergic neurons from the substantia nigra) but also with neurons from the enteric system and oligodendrocytes. Using post-mortem brain transcriptomic data, we confirmed alterations in these cells, even at the earliest stages of disease progression. Our study provides an important framework for understanding the cellular basis of complex brain maladies, and reveals an unexpected role of oligodendrocytes in Parkinson's disease.*

## Introduction

Understanding the genetic basis of complex brain disorders is critical for identifying individuals at risk, designing prevention strategies, and developing rational therapeutics. In the last 50 years, twin studies have shown that psychiatric disorders, neurological diseases, and cognitive traits are strongly

53 influenced by genetic factors, explaining a mean of ~50% of the variance in liability <sup>1</sup>, and GWAS  
54 have identified thousands of highly significant loci <sup>2-5</sup>. However, interpretation of GWAS results  
55 remains challenging. First, >90% of the identified variants are located in non-coding regions <sup>6</sup>,  
56 complicating precise identification of risk genes and mechanisms. Second, extensive linkage  
57 disequilibrium present in the human genome confounds efforts to pinpoint causal variants and the  
58 genes they influence. Finally, it remains unclear in which tissues and cell types these variants are  
59 active, and how they disrupt specific biological networks to impact disease risk.

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61 Functional genomic studies from brain are now seen as critical for interpretation of GWAS findings as  
62 they can identify functional regions (e.g., open chromatin, enhancers, transcription factor binding  
63 sites) and target genes (via chromatin interactions and eQTLs) <sup>7</sup>. Gene regulation varies substantially  
64 across tissues and cell types <sup>8,9</sup>, and hence it is critical to perform functional genomic studies in  
65 empirically identified cell types or tissues.

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67 Multiple groups have developed strategies to identify tissues associated with complex traits <sup>10-14</sup>, but  
68 few have focused on the identification of salient cell types within a tissue. Furthermore, studies aiming  
69 to identify relevant cell types often used only a small number of cell types derived from one or few  
70 different brain regions <sup>4,12-18</sup>. For example, we recently showed that, among 24 brain cell types, four  
71 types of neurons were consistently associated with schizophrenia <sup>12</sup>. We were explicit that this  
72 conclusion was limited by the relatively few brain regions we studied; other cell types from unsampled  
73 regions could conceivably contribute to the disorder.

74  
75 Here, we integrate a wider range of gene expression data – tissues across the human body and  
76 single-cell gene expression data from an entire nervous system – to identify tissues and cell types  
77 underlying a large number of complex traits (**Figure 1A,B**). We expand on our prior work by showing  
78 that additional cell types are associated with schizophrenia. We also find that psychiatric and cognitive  
79 traits are generally associated with similar cell types whereas neurological disorders are associated  
80 with different cell types. Notably, we show that Parkinson's disease is associated with **cholinergic and**  
81 **monoaminergic neurons (as expected as these include dopaminergic neurons from the substantia**  
82 **nigra), but also with enteric neurons and oligodendrocytes, providing new clues into its etiology.**

## 83 84 **Results**

### 85 86 Genetic correlations among complex traits

87  
88 Our goal was to use GWAS results to identify relevant tissues and cell types. Our primary focus was  
89 human phenotypes whose etiopathology is based in the central nervous system. We thus obtained  
90 18 sets of GWAS summary statistics from European samples for brain-related complex traits. These  
91 were selected because they had at least one genome-wide significant association (as of 2018; e.g.,  
92 Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, and IQ). For comparison, we included GWAS summary statistics  
93 for 8 diseases and traits with large sample sizes whose etiopathology is not rooted in the central  
94 nervous system (e.g., type 2 diabetes). The selection of these conditions allowed contrasts of tissues  
95 and cells highlighted by our primary interest in brain phenotypes with non-brain traits. For Parkinson's  
96 disease, we meta-analyzed summary statistics from a published GWAS <sup>19</sup> (9,581 cases, 33,245  
97 controls) with self-reported Parkinson's disease from 23andMe (12,657 cases, 941,588 controls) after  
98 finding a high genetic correlation ( $r_g$ ) <sup>20</sup> between the samples ( $r_g=0.87$ , s.e=0.068). In this new meta-  
99 analysis, we identified 61 independent loci associated with Parkinson's disease (49 reported  
100 previously <sup>18</sup> and 12 novel) (**Figure S1**).

101  
102 We estimated the genetic correlations ( $r_g$ ) between these 26 traits. We confirmed prior reports <sup>21,22</sup>  
103 that psychiatric disorders were strongly inter-correlated (e.g., high positive correlations for  
104 schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and MDD) and shared little overlap with neurological disorders

105 (Figure S2 and Table S1). Parkinson's disease was genetically correlated with intracranial volume<sup>18</sup>  
106 ( $r_g=0.29$ ,  $s.e=0.05$ ) and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS,  $r_g=0.19$ ,  $s.e=0.08$ ), while ALS was  
107 negatively correlated with intelligence ( $r_g=-0.24$ ,  $s.e=0.06$ ) and hippocampal volume ( $r_g=-0.24$ ,  
108  $s.e=0.12$ ). These results indicate that there is substantial genetic heterogeneity across traits, which  
109 is a necessary (but not sufficient) condition for trait associations with different tissues or cell types.

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#### 111 [Association of traits with tissues using bulk-tissue RNA-seq](#)

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113 We first aimed to identify the human tissues showing enrichment for genetic associations using bulk-  
114 tissue RNA-seq (37 tissues) from GTEx<sup>8</sup> (Figure 1). To robustly identify the tissues implied by these  
115 26 GWAS, we used two approaches (MAGMA<sup>23</sup> and LDSC<sup>13,24</sup>) which employ different assumptions  
116 (Methods). For both methods, we tested whether the 10% most specific genes in each tissue were  
117 enriched in genetic associations with the different traits (Figure 1B).

118

119 Examination of non-brain traits found, as expected, associations with salient tissues. For example, as  
120 shown in Figure 1D and Table S2, inflammatory bowel disease was strongly associated with immune  
121 tissues (blood, spleen) and alimentary tissues impacted by the disease (small intestine and colon).  
122 Lung and adipose tissue were also significantly associated with inflammatory bowel disease, possibly  
123 because of the high specificity of immune genes in these two tissues (Figure S3). Type 2 diabetes  
124 was associated with the pancreas, while hemoglobin A1C, which is used to diagnose type 2 diabetes  
125 and monitor glycemic controls in diabetic patients, was associated with the pancreas, liver and  
126 stomach (Figure 1D). Stroke and coronary artery disease were most associated with blood vessels  
127 (Figure 1D, Figure S4) and waist to hip ratio was most associated with adipose tissue (Figure S4).  
128 Thus, our approach can identify the expected tissue associations given the pathophysiology of the  
129 different traits.

130

131 For brain-related traits (Figure 1C, S4 and Table S2), 13 of 18 traits were significantly associated  
132 with one or more GTEx brain regions. For example, schizophrenia, intelligence, educational  
133 attainment, neuroticism, BMI and MDD were most significantly associated with brain cortex, frontal  
134 cortex or anterior cingulate cortex, while Parkinson's disease was most significantly associated with  
135 the substantia nigra (as expected) and spinal cord (Figure 1C). Alzheimer's disease was associated  
136 with tissues with prominent roles in immunity (blood and spleen) consistent with other studies<sup>25-27</sup>,  
137 but also with the substantia nigra and spinal cord. Stroke was associated with blood vessel (consistent  
138 with a role of arterial pathology in stroke)<sup>28</sup>. Traits with no or unexpected associations could occur  
139 because the primary GWAS had insufficient sample size for its genetic architecture<sup>29</sup> or because the  
140 tissue RNA-seq data omitted the correct tissue or cell type.

141

142 In conclusion, we show that tissue-level gene expression allows identification of relevant tissues for  
143 complex traits, indicating that our methodology is suitable to explore trait-gene expression  
144 associations at the cell type level.

145

#### 146 [Association of brain phenotypes with cell types from the mouse central and peripheral nervous system](#)

147

148 We leveraged gene expression data from 39 broad categories of cell types from the mouse central  
149 and peripheral nervous system<sup>30</sup> to systematically map brain-related traits to cell types (Figures 2A,  
150 S5). Our use of mouse data to inform human genetic findings was carefully considered (see  
151 Discussion).

152

153 As in our previous study of schizophrenia based on a small number of brain regions<sup>12</sup>, we found the  
154 strongest signals for telencephalon projecting neurons (i.e. excitatory neurons from the cortex,  
155 hippocampus and amygdala), telencephalon projecting inhibitory neurons (i.e. medium spiny neurons  
156 from the striatum) and telencephalon inhibitory neurons (Figure 2A and Table S3). We also found

157 that other types of neurons were associated with schizophrenia albeit less significantly (e.g., dentate  
158 gyrus granule neurons or hindbrain neurons). Other psychiatric and cognitive traits had similar cellular  
159 association patterns to schizophrenia (Figures S5-6 and Table S3). We did not observe any  
160 significant associations with immune or vascular cells for any psychiatric disorder or cognitive traits.

161  
162 Neurological disorders generally implicated fewer cell types, possibly because neurological GWAS  
163 had lower signal than GWAS of cognitive, anthropometric, and psychiatric traits (Figure S7).  
164 Consistent with the genetic correlations reported above, the pattern of associations for neurological  
165 disorders was distinct from psychiatric disorders (Figures S5-6), again reflecting that neurological  
166 disorders have minimal functional overlap with psychiatric disorders<sup>21</sup> (Figure S2).

167  
168 Stroke was significantly associated with vascular smooth muscle cells (Figure 2A) consistent with an  
169 important role of vascular processes for this trait. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (a motor neuron  
170 disease) was significantly associated with peripheral sensory neurofilament neurons, possibly  
171 because of transcriptomic similarities between peripheral sensory and motor neurons (which were not  
172 sampled) (Figure S5). Alzheimer's disease had the strongest signal in microglia, as reported  
173 previously<sup>11,17,31</sup>, but the association did not survive multiple testing correction.

174  
175 We found that Parkinson's disease was significantly associated with cholinergic and monoaminergic  
176 neurons (Figure 2A and Table S3). This cluster consists of neurons (Table S4) that are known to  
177 degenerate in Parkinson's disease<sup>32-34</sup>, such as dopaminergic neurons from the substantia nigra (the  
178 hallmark of Parkinson's disease), but also serotonergic and glutamatergic neurons from the raphe  
179 nucleus<sup>35</sup>, noradrenergic neurons<sup>36</sup>, as well as neurons from afferent nuclei in the pons<sup>37</sup> and the  
180 medulla (the brain region associated with the earliest lesions in Parkinson's disease<sup>32</sup>). In addition,  
181 hindbrain neurons and peptidergic neurons were also significantly associated with Parkinson's  
182 disease (with LDSC only). Therefore, our results capture expected features of Parkinson's disease  
183 and suggest that biological mechanisms intrinsic to these neuronal cell types lead to their selective  
184 loss. Interestingly, we also found that enteric neurons were significantly associated with Parkinson's  
185 disease (Figure 2A), which is consistent with Braak's hypothesis, which postulates that Parkinson's  
186 disease could start in the gut and travel to the brain via the vagus nerve<sup>38,39</sup>. Furthermore, we found  
187 that oligodendrocytes (mainly sampled in the midbrain, medulla, pons, spinal cord and thalamus,  
188 Figure S8) were significantly associated with Parkinson's disease, indicating a strong glial component  
189 to the disorder. This finding was unexpected but consistent with the strong association of the spinal  
190 cord at the tissue level (Figure 1C), as the spinal cord contains the highest proportion of  
191 oligodendrocytes (71%) in the nervous system<sup>30</sup>. Altogether, these findings provide genetic evidence  
192 for a role of enteric neurons, cholinergic and monoaminergic neurons, as well as oligodendrocytes in  
193 Parkinson's disease etiology.

#### 194 195 Neuronal prioritization in the mouse central nervous system

196  
197 A key goal of this study was to prioritize specific cell types for follow-up experimental studies. As our  
198 metric of gene expression specificity was computed based on all cell types in the nervous system, it  
199 is possible that the most specific genes in a given cell type capture genes that are shared within a  
200 high level category of cell types (e.g. neurons). To rule out this possibility, we computed new  
201 specificity metrics based only on neurons from the central nervous system (CNS). We then tested  
202 whether the top 10% most specific genes for each CNS neuron were enriched in genetic association  
203 for the brain related traits that had a significant association with a CNS neuron (13/18) in our initial  
204 analysis.

205  
206 Using the CNS neuron gene expression specificity metrics, we observed a reduction in the number  
207 of neuronal cell types associated with the different traits (Figure S9), suggesting that some of the  
208 signal was driven by core neuronal genes. For example, the association of telencephalon projecting



209 excitatory neurons with intracranial volume (**Figure S5**) was not significant using the CNS neuron  
210 specificity metric (**Figure S9**). However, we found that multiple neuronal cell types remained  
211 associated with a number of traits. For example, we found that telencephalon projecting excitatory  
212 and projecting inhibitory neurons were strongly associated with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder,  
213 educational attainment and intelligence using both LDSC and MAGMA. Similarly, telencephalon  
214 projecting excitatory neurons were significantly associated with BMI, neuroticism, MDD, autism and  
215 anorexia using one of the two methods (**Figure S9**), while hindbrain neurons and cholinergic and  
216 monoaminergic neurons remained significantly associated with Parkinson's disease (**Figure S9**).

217  
218 Altogether, these results suggest that specific types of CNS neurons can be prioritized for follow-up  
219 experimental studies for multiple traits.

### 220 Cell type-specific and trait-associated genes are enriched in specific biological functions

221  
222 Understanding which biological functions are dysregulated in different cell types is a key component  
223 of the etiology of complex traits. To obtain insights into the biological functions driving cell-type/trait  
224 associations, we evaluated GO term enrichment of genes that were specifically expressed (top 20%  
225 in a given cell type) and highly associated with a trait (top 10% MAGMA gene-level genetic  
226 association). Genes that were highly associated with schizophrenia and specific to telencephalon  
227 projecting excitatory neurons were enriched for GO terms related to neurogenesis, synapses, and  
228 voltage-gated channels (**Table S5**), suggesting that these functions may be fundamental to  
229 schizophrenia. Similarly, genes highly associated with educational attainment, intelligence, bipolar  
230 disorder, neuroticism, BMI, anorexia and MDD and highly specific to their most associated cell types  
231 were enriched in terms related to neurogenesis, synaptic processes and voltage-gated channels  
232 (**Table S5**). In contrast, genes highly associated with stroke and specific to vascular cells were  
233 enriched in terms related to vasculature development, while genes highly associated with ALS and  
234 peripheral sensory neurofilament neurons were enriched in terms related to lysosomes.

235  
236 Genes highly associated with Parkinson's disease and highly specific to cholinergic and  
237 monoaminergic neurons were significantly enriched in terms related to endosomes and synapses  
238 (**Table S5**). Similarly, genes highly specific to oligodendrocytes and Parkinson's disease were  
239 enriched in endosomes. These results support the hypothesis that the endosomal pathway plays an  
240 important role in the etiology of Parkinson's disease <sup>40</sup>.

241  
242 Taken together, we show that cell type-trait associations are driven by genes belonging to specific  
243 biological pathways, providing insight into the etiology of complex brain related traits.

### 244 Distinct traits are associated with similar cell types, but through different genes

245  
246 As noted above, the pattern of associations of psychiatric and cognitive traits were highly correlated  
247 across the 39 different cell types tested (**Figure S6**). For example, the Spearman rank correlation of  
248 cell type associations ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) between schizophrenia and intelligence was 0.96 (0.94 for educational  
249 attainment) as both traits had the strongest signal in telencephalon projecting excitatory neurons and  
250 little signal in immune or vascular cells. In addition, we observed that genes driving the association  
251 signal in the top cell types of the two traits were enriched in relatively similar GO terms involving  
252 neurogenesis and synaptic processes. We evaluated two possible explanations for these findings: (a)  
253 schizophrenia and intelligence are both associated with the same genes that are specifically  
254 expressed in the same cell types or (b) schizophrenia and intelligence are associated with different  
255 sets of genes that are both highly specific to the same cell types. Given that these two traits have a  
256 significant negative genetic correlation ( $r_g = -0.22$ , from GWAS results alone) (**Figure S2** and **Table**  
257 **S1**), we hypothesized that the strong overlap in cell type associations for schizophrenia and  
258 intelligence was due to the second explanation.  
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To evaluate these hypotheses, we tested whether the 10% most specific genes for each cell type were enriched in genetic association for schizophrenia controlling for the gene-level genetic association of intelligence using MAGMA. We found that the pattern of associations were largely unaffected by controlling the schizophrenia cell type association analysis for the gene-level genetic association of intelligence and vice versa (**Figure S10**). Similarly, we found that controlling for educational attainment had little effect on the schizophrenia associations and vice versa (**Figure S11**). In other words, genes driving the cell type associations of schizophrenia appear to be distinct from genes driving the cell types associations of cognitive traits.

#### Multiple cell types are independently associated with brain complex traits

Many neuronal cell types passed our stringent significance threshold for multiple brain traits (**Figure 2A** and **S5**). This could be because gene expression profiles are highly correlated across cell types and/or because many cell types are independently associated with the different traits. In order to address this, we performed univariate conditional analysis using MAGMA, testing whether cell type associations remained significant after controlling for the 10% most specific genes from other cell types (**Table S6**). We observed that multiple cell types were independently associated with age at menarche, anorexia, autism, bipolar, BMI, educational attainment, intelligence, MDD, neuroticism and schizophrenia (**Figure S12**). As in our previous study<sup>12</sup>, we found that the association between schizophrenia and telencephalon projecting inhibitory neurons (i.e. medium spiny neurons) appears to be independent from telencephalon projecting excitatory neurons (i.e. pyramidal neurons). For Parkinson's disease, we found that enteric neurons, oligodendrocytes and cholinergic and monoaminergic neurons were independently associated with the disorder (**Figure 2B**), suggesting that these three different cell types play an independent role in the etiology of the disorder.

#### Replication in other single-cell RNA-seq datasets

To assess the robustness of our results, we repeated these analyses in independent RNA-seq datasets. A key caveat is that these other datasets did not sample the entire nervous system as in the analyses above.

First, we used a single-cell RNA-seq dataset that identified 88 broad categories of cell types (565 subclusters) in 690K single cells from 9 mouse brain regions (frontal cortex, striatum, globus pallidus externus/nucleus basalis, thalamus, hippocampus, posterior cortex, entopeduncular nucleus/subthalamic nucleus, substantia nigra/ventral tegmental area, and cerebellum)<sup>41</sup>. We found similar patterns of association in this external dataset (**Figure 3A, S14** and **Table S7**). Notably, for schizophrenia, we strongly replicated associations with neurons from the cortex, hippocampus and striatum. We also observed similar cell type associations for other psychiatric and cognitive traits (**Figure 3A, S13, S14** and **S15**). For neurological disorders, we found that stroke was significantly associated with mural cells while Alzheimer's disease was significantly associated with microglia (**Figure S14**). The associations of Parkinson's disease with neurons from the substantia nigra and oligodendrocytes were significant at a nominal level in this dataset ( $P=0.006$  for neurons from the substantia nigra,  $P=0.027$  for oligodendrocytes using LDSC) (**Table S3**). By computing gene expression specificity within neurons, we replicated our previous findings that neurons from the cortex can be prioritized for multiple traits (schizophrenia, bipolar, educational attainment, intelligence, BMI, neuroticism, MDD, anorexia) (**Figure S16**).

Second, we reanalyzed these GWAS datasets using our previous single-cell RNA-seq dataset (24 cell types from the neocortex, hippocampus, striatum, hypothalamus midbrain, and specific enrichments for oligodendrocytes, serotonergic neurons, dopaminergic neurons and cortical parvalbuminergic interneurons, 9970 single cells; **Figure 3B, S17** and **Table S8**). We again found

313 strong associations of pyramidal neurons from the somatosensory cortex, pyramidal neurons from  
314 the CA1 region of the hippocampus (both corresponding to telencephalon projecting excitatory  
315 neurons in our main dataset), and medium spiny neurons from the striatum (corresponding to  
316 telencephalon projecting inhibitory neurons) with psychiatric and cognitive traits. MDD and autism  
317 were most associated with neuroblasts, while intracranial volume was most associated with neural  
318 progenitors (suggesting that drivers of intracranial volume are cell types implicated in increasing cell  
319 mass). The association of dopaminergic adult neurons with Parkinson's disease was significant at a  
320 nominal level using LDSC ( $P=0.01$ ), while oligodendrocytes did not replicate in this dataset, perhaps  
321 because they were not sampled from the regions affected by the disorder (i.e. spinal cord, pons,  
322 medulla or midbrain). A within-neuron analysis again found that projecting excitatory (i.e. pyramidal  
323 CA1) and projecting inhibitory neurons (i.e. medium spiny neurons) can be prioritized for multiple  
324 traits (schizophrenia, bipolar, intelligence, educational attainment, BMI). In addition, we found that  
325 neuroblasts could be prioritized for MDD and that neural progenitors could be prioritized for  
326 intracranial volume (**Figure S18**) in this dataset.

327  
328 Third, we evaluated a human single-nuclei RNA-seq dataset consisting of 15 different cell types from  
329 cortex and hippocampus <sup>42</sup> (**Figure 4A** and **Table S9**). We replicated our findings with psychiatric and  
330 cognitive traits being associated with pyramidal neurons (excitatory) and interneurons (inhibitory) from  
331 the somatosensory cortex and from the CA1 region of the hippocampus. We also replicated the  
332 association of Parkinson's disease with oligodendrocytes (enteric neurons and cholinergic and  
333 monoaminergic neurons were not sampled in this dataset). No cell types reached our significance  
334 threshold using specificity metrics computed within-neurons, possibly because of similarities in the  
335 transcriptomes of neurons from the cortex and hippocampus.

336  
337 Fourth, we evaluated a human single-nuclei RNA-seq dataset consisting of 31 different cell types  
338 from 3 different brain regions (visual cortex, frontal cortex and cerebellum) (**Figure 4B** and **Table**  
339 **S10**). We found that schizophrenia, educational attainment, neuroticism and BMI were associated  
340 with excitatory neurons, while bipolar was associated with both excitatory and inhibitory neurons. As  
341 observed previously <sup>11,17,31</sup>, Alzheimer's disease was significantly associated with microglia.  
342 Oligodendrocytes were not significantly associated with Parkinson's disease in this dataset, again  
343 possibly because the spinal cord, pons, medulla and midbrain were not sampled. No cell types  
344 reached our significance threshold using specificity metrics computed within neurons in this dataset.

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346 Most cell type-trait associations were attenuated using human single-nuclei data compared with  
347 mouse single-cell RNA-seq data, suggesting that the transcripts that are lost by single-nuclei RNA-  
348 seq are important for a large number of disorders and/or that the controlled condition of mouse  
349 experiments provide more accurate gene expression quantifications (see **Discussion** and **Figure**  
350 **S19**).

#### 351 [Comparison with case/control differentially expressed genes at the cell type level](#)

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354 We compared our findings for Alzheimer's disease (**Table S3**, **Figure 4B**, **Figure S14**) with a recent  
355 study that performed differential expression analysis at the cell type level between 24 Alzheimer's  
356 cases and 24 controls <sup>43</sup> (prefrontal cortex, Brodmann area 10). We tested whether the top 500, top  
357 1000 and top 2000 most differentially expressed genes (no pathology vs pathology) in six different  
358 cell types (excitatory neurons, inhibitory neurons, oligodendrocytes, oligodendrocytes precursor cells,  
359 astrocyte and microglia) were enriched in genetic associations with Alzheimer's disease using  
360 MAGMA. Consistently with our results, we found that genes differentially expressed in microglia were  
361 the most associated with Alzheimer's disease genetics (**Table S11**), indicating that our approach  
362 appropriately highlight the relevant cell type at a fraction of the cost of a case-control single cell RNA-  
363 seq study. As performing case-control single cell RNA-seq studies in the entire nervous system is  
364 currently cost prohibitive, the consistency of our results with the case-control study of Alzheimer's

365 disease suggests that our results could be leveraged to target specific brain regions and cell types in  
366 future case-control genomic studies of brain disorders.

### 367 Validation of oligodendrocyte pathology in Parkinson's disease

369 We investigated the role of oligodendrocyte lineage cells in Parkinson's disease. First, we confirmed  
370 the association of oligodendrocytes with Parkinson's disease by combining evidence across all  
371 datasets (Fisher's combined probability test,  $P=2.5 \times 10^{-7}$  using MAGMA and  $6.3 \times 10^{-3}$  using LDSC)  
372 (Table S3 and Figure S20). Second, we tested whether oligodendrocytes were significantly  
373 associated with Parkinson's disease conditioning on the top neuronal cell type in the different datasets  
374 using MAGMA and found: (a) that oligodendrocytes were independently associated from the top  
375 neuronal cell type in our main dataset and in the Habib replication dataset <sup>42</sup> at a Bonferroni significant  
376 level ( $P=7.3 \times 10^{-5}$  and  $P=1.7 \times 10^{-4}$  respectively), (b) nominal evidence in the Saunders dataset <sup>44</sup>  
377 ( $P=0.018$ ), (c) weak evidence in the Skene <sup>12</sup> ( $P=0.12$ ) and Lake <sup>45</sup> datasets ( $P=0.2$ ) and (d) combining  
378 the conditional evidence from all datasets, oligodendrocytes were significantly associated with  
379 Parkinson's disease independently of the top neuronal association ( $P=1.2 \times 10^{-7}$ , Fisher's combined  
380 probability test).  
381

382  
383 Third, we tested whether genes with rare variants associated with Parkinsonism (Table S12) were  
384 specifically expressed in cell types from the mouse nervous system (Method). As for the common  
385 variant, we found the strongest enrichment for cholinergic and monoaminergic neurons (Table S13).  
386 However, we did not observe any significant enrichments for oligodendrocytes or enteric neurons  
387 using genes associated with rare variants in Parkinsonism.  
388

389 Fourth, we applied EWCE <sup>11</sup> to test whether genes that are up/down-regulated in human post-mortem  
390 Parkinson's disease brains (from six separate cohorts) were enriched in cell types located in the  
391 substantia nigra and ventral midbrain (Figure 5). Three of the studies had a case-control design and  
392 measured gene expression in: (a) the substantia nigra of 9 controls and 16 cases <sup>46</sup>, (b) the medial  
393 substantia nigra of 8 controls and 15 cases <sup>47</sup>, and (c) the lateral substantia nigra of 7 controls and 9  
394 cases <sup>47</sup>. In all three studies, downregulated genes in Parkinson's disease were specifically enriched  
395 in dopaminergic neurons (consistent with the loss of this particular cell type in disease), while  
396 upregulated genes were significantly enriched in cells from the oligodendrocyte lineage. This  
397 suggests that an increased oligodendrocyte activity or proliferation could play a role in Parkinson's  
398 disease etiology. Surprisingly, no enrichment was observed for microglia, despite recent findings <sup>48,49</sup>.  
399

400 We also analyzed gene expression data from post-mortem human brains which had been scored by  
401 neuropathologists for their Braak stage <sup>50</sup>. Differential expression was calculated between brains with  
402 Braak scores of zero (controls) and brains with Braak scores of 1–2, 3–4 and 5–6. At the latter  
403 stages (Braak scores 3–4 and 5–6), downregulated genes were specifically expressed in  
404 dopaminergic neurons, while upregulated genes were specifically expressed in oligodendrocytes  
405 (Figure 5), as observed in the case-control studies. Moreover, Braak stage 1 and 2 are characterized  
406 by little degeneration in the substantia nigra and, consistently, we found that downregulated genes  
407 were not enriched in dopaminergic neurons at this stage. Notably, upregulated genes were already  
408 strongly enriched in oligodendrocytes at Braak Stages 1-2. These results not only support the genetic  
409 evidence indicating that oligodendrocytes may play a causal role in Parkinson's disease, but indicate  
410 that their involvement precedes the emergence of pathological changes in the substantia nigra.

### 411 **Discussion**

412  
413 In this study, we used gene expression data from cells sampled from the entire nervous system to  
414 systematically map cell types to GWAS results from multiple psychiatric, cognitive, and neurological  
415 complex phenotypes.  
416



417  
418 We note several limitations. First, we again emphasize that we can implicate a particular cell type but  
419 it is premature to exclude cell types for which we do not have data <sup>12</sup>. Second, we used gene  
420 expression data from mouse to understand human phenotypes. We believe our approach is  
421 appropriate for several reasons. (A) Crucially, the key findings replicated in human data. (B) Single-  
422 cell RNA-seq is achievable in mouse but difficult in human neurons (where single-nuclei RNA-seq is  
423 typical <sup>42,45,51,52</sup>). In brain, differences between single-cell and single-nuclei RNA-seq are important as  
424 transcripts that are missed by sequencing nuclei are important for psychiatric disorders, and we  
425 previously showed that dendritically-transported transcripts (important for schizophrenia) are  
426 specifically depleted from nuclei datasets <sup>12</sup> (we confirmed this finding in four additional datasets,  
427 **Figure S19**). (C) Correlations in gene expression for cell type across species is high (median  
428 correlation 0.68, **Figure S21**), and as high or higher than correlations across methods within cell type  
429 and species (single-cell vs single-nuclei RNA-seq, median correlation 0.6) <sup>53</sup>. (D) We evaluated  
430 protein-coding genes with 1:1 orthologs between mouse and human. These constitute most human  
431 protein-coding genes, and these genes are generally highly conserved particularly in the nervous  
432 system. We did not study genes present in one species but not in the other. (E) More specifically, we  
433 previously showed that gene expression data cluster by cell type and not by species <sup>12</sup>, indicating  
434 broad conservation of core brain cellular functions across species. (F) We used a large number of  
435 genes to map cell types to traits (~1500 genes for each cell type), minimizing potential bias due to  
436 individual genes differentially expressed across species. (G) If there were strong differences in cell  
437 type gene expression between mouse and human, we would not expect that specific genes in mouse  
438 cell types would be enriched in genetic associations with human disorders. However, it remains  
439 possible that some cell types have different gene expression patterns between mouse and human,  
440 are only present in one species, have a different function or are involved in different brain circuits.

441  
442 A third limitation is that gene expression data were from adolescent mice. Although many psychiatric  
443 and neurological disorders have onsets in adolescence, some have onsets earlier (autism) or later  
444 (Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease). It is thus possible that some cell types are vulnerable at  
445 specific developmental times. Data from studies mapping cell types across brain development and  
446 aging are required to resolve this issue.

447  
448 For schizophrenia, we replicated and extended our previous findings <sup>12</sup>. We found the most significant  
449 associations for neurons located in the cortex, hippocampus and striatum (**Figure 2A, 3**) in multiple  
450 independent datasets, and showed that these neuronal cell types can be prioritized among neurons  
451 (**Figure S9, S16 and S18**). These results are consistent with the strong schizophrenia heritability  
452 enrichment observed in open chromatin regions from: human dorsolateral prefrontal cortex <sup>54</sup>; human  
453 cortical, striatal and hippocampal neurons <sup>55</sup>; and mouse open chromatin regions from cortical  
454 excitatory and inhibitory neurons <sup>56</sup>. This degree of replication in independent transcriptomic datasets  
455 from multiple groups along with consistent findings using orthogonal open chromatin data is notable,  
456 and strongly implicates these cell types in the etiology of schizophrenia.

457  
458 Moreover, we found that other psychiatric traits implicated largely similar cell types. These biological  
459 findings are consistent with genetic and epidemiological evidence of a general psychopathy factor  
460 underlying diverse clinical psychiatric disorders <sup>21,57,58</sup>. Although intelligence and educational  
461 attainment implicated similar cell types, conditional analyses showed that the same cell types were  
462 implicated for different reasons. This suggests that different sets of genes highly specific to the same  
463 cell types contribute independently to schizophrenia and cognitive traits.

464  
465 A number of studies have argued that the immune system plays a causal role in some psychiatric  
466 disorders <sup>59,60</sup>. Our results did not implicate any brain immune cell types in psychiatric disorders. We  
467 interpret these negative findings cautiously as we did not fully sample the immune system. It is also  
468 possible that a small number of genes are active in immune cell types and that these cell types play

469 an important role in the etiology of psychiatric disorders. Finally, if immune functions are salient for a  
470 small subset of patients, GWAS may not identify these loci without larger and more detailed studies.  
471

472 Our findings for neurological disorders were strikingly different from psychiatric disorders. In contrast  
473 to previous studies that either did not identify any cell type associations with Parkinson's disease <sup>61</sup>  
474 or identified significant associations with cell types from the adaptive immune system <sup>49</sup>, [we found](#)  
475 [that cholinergic and monoaminergic neurons \(which include dopaminergic neurons\), enteric neurons](#)  
476 [and oligodendrocytes were significantly and independently associated with the disease](#). It is well  
477 established that loss of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra is a hallmark of Parkinson's  
478 disease. Our findings suggest that dopaminergic neuron loss in Parkinson's disease is at least partly  
479 due to intrinsic biological mechanisms. In addition, other type of cholinergic and monoaminergic  
480 neurons are known to degenerate in Parkinson's disease (e.g., raphe nucleus serotonergic neurons  
481 and cholinergic neurons of the pons), suggesting that specific pathological mechanisms may be  
482 shared across these neurons and lead to their degeneration. Two theories for the selective  
483 vulnerability of neuronal populations in Parkinson's disease currently exist: the "spread Lewy  
484 pathology model" which assumes cell-to-cell contacts enabling spreading of prion-like  $\alpha$ -synuclein  
485 aggregates <sup>62</sup>; and the "threshold theory" <sup>63,64</sup> which proposes that the vulnerable cell types  
486 degenerate due to molecular/functional biological similarities in a cell-autonomous fashion. While both  
487 theories are compatible and can co-exist, our findings support the existence of cell autonomous  
488 mechanisms contributing to selective vulnerability. We caution that we do not know if all cholinergic  
489 and monoaminergic neurons show degeneration or functional impairment. However, analysis of the  
490 cellular mechanisms driving the association of cholinergic and monoaminergic neurons with  
491 Parkinson's disease revealed endosomal trafficking as a plausible common pathogenic mechanism.  
492

493 [Interestingly, enteric neurons were also associated with Parkinson's disease. This result is in line with](#)  
494 [prior evidence implicating the gut in Parkinson's disease. Notably, dopaminergic defects and Lewy](#)  
495 [bodies \(i.e. abnormal aggregates of proteins enriched in  \$\alpha\$ -synuclein\) are found in the enteric nervous](#)  
496 [system of patients affected by Parkinson's disease <sup>65,66</sup>. In addition, Lewy bodies have been observed](#)  
497 [in patients up to 20 years prior to their diagnosis <sup>67</sup> and sectioning of the vagus nerve \(which connects](#)  
498 [the enteric nervous system to the central nervous system\) was shown to reduce the risk of developing](#)  
499 [Parkinson's disease <sup>68</sup>. Therefore, our results linking enteric neurons with Parkinson's disease](#)  
500 [provides new genetic evidence for Braak's hypothesis, which postulates that Parkinson's disease](#)  
501 [could start in the gut, travel along the vagus nerve, and affect the brain years after disease initiation](#)  
502 [38](#).

503  
504 The association of oligodendrocytes with Parkinson's disease was more unexpected. A possible  
505 explanation is that this association could be due to a related disorder (e.g., multiple system atrophy,  
506 characterized by Parkinsonism and accumulation of  $\alpha$ -synuclein in glial cytoplasmic inclusions <sup>69</sup>).  
507 However, this explanation is unlikely as multiple system atrophy is a very rare disorder; hence, only  
508 a few patients are likely to have been included in the Parkinson's disease GWAS which could not  
509 have affected the GWAS results. In addition, misdiagnosis is unlikely to have led to the association  
510 of Parkinson's disease with oligodendrocytes. Indeed, we found a high genetic correlation between  
511 self-reported diagnosis from the 23andMe cohort and a previous GWAS of clinically-ascertained  
512 Parkinson's disease <sup>19</sup>. In addition, self-report of Parkinson's disease in 23andMe subjects was  
513 confirmed by a neurologist in all 50 cases evaluated <sup>70</sup>.  
514

515 We did not find an association of oligodendrocytes with Parkinsonism for genes affected by rare  
516 variants. [This result may reflect etiological differences between sporadic and familial forms of the](#)  
517 [disease or the low power and insufficient number of genes tested](#). Prior evidence has suggested an  
518 involvement of oligodendrocytes in Parkinson's disease. For example,  $\alpha$ -synuclein-containing  
519 inclusions have been reported in oligodendrocytes in Parkinson's disease brains <sup>71</sup>. These inclusions  
520 ("coiled bodies") are typically found throughout the brainstem nuclei and fiber tracts <sup>72</sup>. Although the

521 presence of coiled bodies in oligodendrocytes is a common, specific, and well-documented  
522 neuropathological feature of Parkinson's disease, the importance of this cell type and its early  
523 involvement in disease has not been fully recognized. Our findings suggest that intrinsic genetic  
524 alterations in oligodendrocytes occur at an early stage of disease, which precedes the emergence of  
525 neurodegeneration in the substantia nigra, arguing for a key role of this cell type in Parkinson's  
526 disease etiology.

527  
528 Taken together, we integrated genetics and single-cell gene expression data from the entire nervous  
529 system to systematically identify cell types underlying brain complex traits. We believe that this a  
530 critical step in the understanding of the etiology of brain disorders and that these results will guide  
531 modelling of brain disorders and functional genomic studies.

532

## 533 **Methods**

534

### 535 GWAS results

536 Our goal was to use GWAS results to identify relevant tissues and cell types. Our primary focus was  
537 human phenotypes whose etiopathology is based in the central nervous system. We thus obtained  
538 18 sets of GWAS summary statistics from European samples for brain-related complex traits. These  
539 were selected because they had at least one genome-wide significant association (as of 2018; e.g.,  
540 Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, and IQ). For comparison, we included GWAS summary statistics  
541 for 8 diseases and traits with large sample sizes whose etiopathology is not rooted in the central  
542 nervous system (e.g., type 2 diabetes). The selection of these conditions allowed contrasts of tissues  
543 and cells highlighted by our primary interest in brain phenotypes with non-brain traits.

544

545 The phenotypes were: schizophrenia <sup>2</sup>, educational attainment <sup>3</sup>, intelligence <sup>15</sup>, body mass index <sup>5</sup>,  
546 bipolar disorder <sup>73</sup>, neuroticism <sup>4</sup>, major depressive disorder <sup>74</sup>, age at menarche <sup>75</sup>, autism <sup>76</sup>, migraine  
547 <sup>77</sup>, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis <sup>78</sup>, ADHD <sup>79</sup>, Alzheimer's disease <sup>26</sup>, age at menopause <sup>80</sup>, coronary  
548 artery disease <sup>81</sup>, height <sup>5</sup>, hemoglobin A1c <sup>82</sup>, hippocampal volume <sup>83</sup>, inflammatory bowel disease  
549 <sup>84</sup>, intracranial volume <sup>85</sup>, stroke <sup>86</sup>, type 2 diabetes mellitus <sup>87</sup>, type 2 diabetes adjusted for BMI <sup>87</sup>,  
550 waist-hip ratio adjusted for BMI <sup>88</sup>, and anorexia nervosa <sup>89</sup>.

551

552 For Parkinson's disease, we performed an inverse variance-weighted meta-analysis <sup>90</sup> using  
553 summary statistics from Nalls et al. <sup>19</sup> (9,581 cases, 33,245 controls) and summary statistics from  
554 23andMe (12,657 cases, 941,588 controls). We found a very high genetic correlation ( $r_g$ ) <sup>20</sup> between  
555 results from these cohorts ( $r_g=0.87$ , s.e.=0.068) with little evidence of sample overlap (LDSC bivariate  
556 intercept=0.0288, s.e.=0.0066). The P-values from the meta-analysis strongly deviated from the  
557 expected (**Figure S22**) but was consistent with polygenicity (LDSC intercept=1.0048, s.e.=0.008)  
558 rather than uncontrolled inflation <sup>20</sup>.

559

### 560 Gene expression data

561 We collected publicly available single-cell RNA-seq data from different studies. The core dataset of  
562 our analysis is a study that sampled more than 500K single cells from the entire mouse nervous  
563 system (19 regions) and identified 39 broad categories (level 4) and 265 refined cell types (level 5)  
564 <sup>30</sup>. The 39 cell types expressed a median of 16417 genes, had a median UMI total count of ~8.6M  
565 and summed the expression of a median of 1501 single cells (**Table S14**). The replication datasets  
566 were: 1) a mouse study that sampled 690K single cells from 9 brain regions and identified 565 cell  
567 types <sup>91</sup> (note that we averaged the UMI counts by broad categories of cell type in each brain region,  
568 resulting in 88 different cell types); 2) our prior mouse study of ~10K cells from 5 different brain regions  
569 (and samples enriched for oligodendrocytes, dopaminergic neurons, serotonergic neurons and  
570 cortical parvalbuminergic interneurons) that identified 24 broad categories and 149 refined cell types  
571 <sup>12</sup>; 3) a study that sampled 19,550 nuclei from frozen adult human post-mortem hippocampus and  
572 prefrontal cortex and identified 16 cell types <sup>42</sup>; 4) a study that generated 36,166 single-nuclei

573 expression measurements (after quality control) from the human visual cortex, frontal cortex and  
574 cerebellum <sup>45</sup>. We also obtained bulk tissues RNA-seq gene expression data from 53 tissues from the  
575 GTEx consortium <sup>8</sup> (v8, median across samples).

576

#### 577 [Gene expression data processing](#)

578 All datasets were processed uniformly. First we computed the mean expression for each gene in each  
579 cell type from the single-cell expression data (if this statistics was not provided by the authors). [We](#)  
580 [used the pre-computed median expression across individuals for the GTEx dataset and excluded](#)  
581 [tissues that were not sampled in at least 100 individuals, non-natural tissues \(e.g. EBV-transformed](#)  
582 [lymphocytes\) and testis \(outlier using hierarchical clustering\). We then averaged the expression of](#)  
583 [tissues by organ \(with the exception of brain tissues\) resulting in gene expression profiles of a total](#)  
584 [of 37 tissues.](#) For all datasets, we filtered out any genes with non-unique names, genes not expressed  
585 in any cell types, non-protein coding genes, and, for mouse datasets, genes that had no expert  
586 curated 1:1 orthologs between mouse and human (Mouse Genome Informatics, The Jackson  
587 laboratory, version 11/22/2016). Gene expression was then scaled to a total of 1M UMIs (or transcript  
588 per million (TPM)) for each cell type/tissue. We then calculated a metric of gene expression specificity  
589 by dividing the expression of each gene in each cell type by the total expression of that gene in all  
590 cell types, leading to values ranging from 0 to 1 for each gene (0: meaning that the gene is not  
591 expressed in that cell type, 0.6: that 60% of the total expression of that gene is performed in that cell  
592 type, 1: that 100% of the expression of that gene is performed in that cell type). The top 10% most  
593 specific genes ([Table S15](#) and [Table S16](#)) in each tissue/cell type partially overlapped for related  
594 tissues/cell types, did not overlap for unrelated tissue/cell types and allowed to cluster related  
595 tissues/cell types as expected ([Figure S23](#) and [Figure S24](#)).

596

#### 597 [MAGMA primary and conditional analyses](#)

598 MAGMA (v1.06b) <sup>23</sup> is a software for gene-set enrichment analysis using GWAS summary statistics.  
599 Briefly, MAGMA computes a gene-level association statistic by averaging P-values of SNPs located  
600 around a gene (taking into account LD structure). The gene-level association statistic is then  
601 transformed to a Z-value. MAGMA can then be used to test whether a gene set is a predictor of the  
602 gene-level association statistic of the trait (Z-value) in a linear regression framework. MAGMA  
603 accounts for a number of important covariates such as gene size, gene density, mean sample size  
604 for tested SNPs per gene, the inverse of the minor allele counts per gene and the log of these metrics.

605

606 For each GWAS summary statistics, we excluded any SNPs with INFO score <0.6, with MAF < 1%  
607 or with estimated odds ratio > 25 or smaller than 1/25, the MHC region (chr6:25-34 Mb) for all GWAS  
608 and the *APOE* region (chr19:45020859–45844508) for the Alzheimer's GWAS. We set a window of  
609 35kb upstream to 10kb downstream of the gene coordinates to compute gene-level association  
610 statistics and used the European reference panel from the phase 3 of the 1000 genomes project <sup>92</sup>  
611 as the reference population. For each trait, we then used MAGMA to test [whether the 10% most](#)  
612 [specific gene in each tissue/cell type was associated with gene-level genetic association with the trait.](#)  
613 Only genes with at least 1TPM or 1 UMI per million in the tested cell type were used for this analysis.  
614 [The significance level of the different cell types was highly correlated with the effect size of the cell](#)  
615 [type \(\[Figure S25\]\(#\)\) with values ranging between 0.999 and 1 across the 18 brain related traits in the](#)  
616 [Zeisel et al. dataset <sup>93</sup>. The significance threshold was set to a 5% false discovery rate across all](#)  
617 [tissues/cell types and traits within each dataset.](#)

618

619 MAGMA can also perform conditional analyses given its linear regression framework. We used  
620 MAGMA to test whether cell types were associated with a specific trait conditioning on the gene-level  
621 genetic association of another trait (Z-value from MAGMA .out file) [or to look for associations of cell](#)  
622 [types conditioning on the 10% most specific genes from other cell types by adding these variables as](#)  
623 [covariate in the model.](#)

624



625 To test whether MAGMA was well-calibrated, we randomly permuted the gene labels of the  
626 schizophrenia gene-level association statistic file a thousand times. We then looked for association  
627 between the 10% most specific genes in each cell type and the randomized gene-level schizophrenia  
628 association statistics. We observed that MAGMA was slightly conservative with less than 5% of the  
629 random samplings having a P-value <0.05 (Figure S26).  
630

631 We also evaluated the effect of varying window sizes (for the SNPs to gene assignment step of  
632 MAGMA) on the schizophrenia cell type associations strength ( $-\log_{10}(P)$ ). We observed strong  
633 Pearson correlations in cell type associations strength ( $-\log_{10}(P)$ ) across the different window sizes  
634 tested (Figure S27). Our selected window size (35kb upstream to 10 kb downstream) had Pearson  
635 correlations ranging from 0.94 to 0.98 with the other window sizes, indicating that our results are  
636 robust to this parameter.  
637

638 In a recent paper, Watanabe et al.<sup>94</sup> introduced a different methodology to test for cell type – complex  
639 trait association based on MAGMA. Their proposed methodology tests for a positive relationship  
640 between gene expression levels and gene-level genetic associations with a complex trait (using all  
641 genes). Their method uses the average expression of each gene in all cell types in the dataset as a  
642 covariate. We examined the method of Watanabe et al. in detail, and decided against its use for  
643 multiple reasons.  
644

645 First, Watanabe et al. hypothesize that genes with higher levels of expression should be more  
646 associated with a trait. In extended discussions among our team (which include multiple  
647 neuroscientists), we have strong reservations about the appropriateness and biological  
648 meaningfulness of this hypothesis; it is a strong requirement and is at odds with decades of  
649 neuroscience research where molecules expressed a low levels can have profound biological impact.  
650 For instance, many cell-type specific genes that are disease relevant are expressed at moderate  
651 levels (e.g., *Drd2* is in the 10% most specific genes in telencephalon projecting inhibitory neurons but  
652 in the bottom 30% of expression levels). Our method does not make this hypothesis.  
653

654 Second, the method of Watanabe et al. corrects for the average expression of all cell types in a  
655 dataset. This practice is, in our view, problematic as it necessarily forces dependence on the  
656 composition of a scRNA-seq dataset. For instance, if a dataset consists mostly of neurons, this  
657 amounts to correcting for neuronal expression and necessarily erodes power to detect trait  
658 enrichment in neurons. Alternatively, if a dataset is composed mostly of non-neuronal cells, this will  
659 impact the detection of enrichment in non-neuronal cells.  
660

661 Third, preliminary results indicate that the method of Watanabe et al. is sensitive to scaling. As  
662 different cell types express different numbers of genes, scaling to the same total read counts affects  
663 the average gene expression across cell types (which they use as a covariate), leading to different  
664 results with different choices of scaling factors (e.g., scaling to 10k vs 1 million reads). Our method is  
665 not liable to this issue.  
666

#### 667 LD score regression analysis

668 We used partitioned LD score regression<sup>95</sup> to test whether the top 10% most specific genes of each  
669 cell type (based on our specificity metric described above) were enriched in heritability for the diverse  
670 traits. Only genes with at least 1TPM or 1 UMI per million in the tested cell type were used for this  
671 analysis. In order to capture most regulatory elements that could contribute to the effect of the region  
672 on the trait, we extended the gene coordinates by 100kb upstream and by 100kb downstream of each  
673 gene as previously<sup>13</sup>. SNPs located in 100kb regions surrounding the top 10% most specific genes  
674 in each cell type were added to the baseline model (consisting of 53 different annotations)  
675 independently for each cell type (one file for each cell type). We then selected the coefficient z-score  
676 p-value as a measure of the association of the cell type with the traits. The significance threshold was

677 set to a 5% false discovery rate across all tissues/cell types and traits within each dataset. All plots  
678 show the mean  $-\log_{10}(P)$  of partitioned LDscore regression and MAGMA. All results for MAGMA or  
679 LDSC are available in supplementary data files.

680  
681 We evaluated the effect of varying window sizes and varying the percentage of most specific genes  
682 on the schizophrenia cell type associations strength ( $-\log_{10}P$ ). We observed strong Pearson  
683 correlations in cell type associations strength ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) across the different percentage and window  
684 sizes tested (Figure S28). Our selected window size (100 kb upstream to 100 kb downstream, top  
685 10% most specific genes) had Pearson correlations ranging from 0.96 to 1 with the other window  
686 sizes and percentage, indicating that our results are robust to these parameters.

687  
688 MAGMA vs LDSC ranking  
689 In order to test whether the cell type ranking obtained using MAGMA and LDSC in the Zeisel et al.  
690 dataset<sup>30</sup> were similar, we computed the Spearman rank correlation of the cell types association  
691 strength ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) between the two methods for each complex trait. The Spearman rank correlation  
692 was strongly correlated with  $\lambda_{GC}$  (a measure of the deviation of the GWAS test statistics from the  
693 expected) (Spearman  $\rho=0.89$ ) (Figure S29) and with the average number of cell types below our  
694 stringent significance threshold (Spearman  $\rho=0.92$ ), indicating that the overall ranking of the cell types  
695 is very similar between the two methods, provided that the GWAS is well powered (Figure S30). In  
696 addition, we found that  $\lambda_{GC}$  was strongly correlated with the strength of association of the top tissue  
697 ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) (Spearman  $\rho=0.88$ ) (Figure S31), as well as with the effect size (beta) of the top tissue  
698 (Spearman  $\rho=0.9$ ), indicating that cell type – trait associations are stronger for well powered GWAS.  
699 The significance level ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) was also strongly correlated with the effect size (Spearman  $\rho=0.996$ )  
700 (Figure S31) for the top cell type of each trait.

701  
702  
703 Dendritic depletion analysis  
704 This analysis was performed as previously described<sup>12</sup>. In brief, all datasets were reduced to a set of  
705 six common cell types: pyramidal neurons, interneurons, astrocytes, microglia and oligodendrocyte  
706 precursors. Specificity was recalculated using only these six cell types. Comparisons were then made  
707 between pairs of datasets (denoted in the graph with the format 'X versus Y'). The difference in  
708 specificity for a set of dendrite enriched genes is calculated between the datasets. Differences in  
709 specificity are also calculated for random sets of genes selected from the background gene set. The  
710 probability and z-score for the difference in specificity for the dendritic genes is thus estimated.  
711 Dendritically enriched transcripts were obtained from Supplementary Table 10 of Cajigas et al.<sup>96</sup>. For  
712 the KI dataset<sup>12</sup>, we used S1 pyramidal neurons. For the Zeisel 2018 dataset<sup>30</sup> we used all ACTE\*  
713 cells as astrocytes, TEGLU\* as pyramidal neurons, TEINH\* as interneurons, OPC as oligodendrocyte  
714 precursors and MGL\* as microglia. For the Saunders dataset<sup>41</sup>, we used all Neuron.Slc17a7 cell  
715 types from FC, HC or PC as pyramidal neurons; all Neuron.Gad1Gad2 cell types from FC, HC or PC  
716 as interneurons; Polydendrocyte as OPCs; Astrocyte as astrocytes, and Microglia as microglia. The  
717 Lake datasets both came from a single publication<sup>45</sup> which had data from frontal cortex, visual cortex  
718 and cerebellum. The cerebellum data was not used here. Data from frontal and visual cortices were  
719 analyzed separately. All other datasets were used as described in our previous publication<sup>12</sup>. The  
720 code and data for this analysis are available as an R package (see code availability below).

721  
722 GO term enrichment  
723 We tested whether genes that were highly specific to a trait-associated cell type (top 20% in a given  
724 cell type) AND highly associated with the genetics of the traits (top 10% MAGMA gene-level genetic  
725 association) were enriched in biological functions using the *topGO* R package<sup>97</sup>. As background, we  
726 used genes that were highly specific to the cell type (top 20%) OR highly associated with the trait (top  
727 10% MAGMA gene-level genetic association).

728

729 [Parkinson's disease rare variant enrichments](#)  
730 We searched the literature for genes associated with Parkinsonism on the basis of rare and familial  
731 mutations. We found 66 genes (listed in **Table S12**). We used linear regression to test whether the z-  
732 scaled specificity metric (per cell type) of the 66 genes were greater than 0 in the different cell types.  
733

#### 734 [Parkinson's disease post-mortem transcriptomes](#)

735 The Moran dataset <sup>47</sup> was obtained from GEO (accession GSE8397). Processing of the U133a and  
736 U133b Cel files was done separately. The data was read in using the ReadAffy function from the R  
737 affy package <sup>98</sup>, then Robust Multi-array Averaging (RMA) was applied. The U133a and U133b array  
738 expression data were merged after applying RMA. Probe annotations and mapping to HGNC symbols  
739 was done using the biomaRt R package <sup>99</sup>. Differential expression analysis was performed using  
740 limma <sup>100</sup> taking age and gender as covariates. The Lesnick dataset <sup>46</sup> was obtained from GEO  
741 (accession GSE7621). Data was processed as for the Moran dataset: however, age was not available  
742 to use as a covariate. The Disjkstra dataset <sup>50</sup> was obtained from GEO (accession GSE49036) and  
743 processed as above: the gender and RIN values were used as covariates. As the transcriptome  
744 datasets measured gene expression in the substantia nigra, we only kept cell types that are present  
745 in the substantia nigra or ventral midbrain for our EWCE <sup>11</sup> analysis. We computed a new specificity  
746 matrix based on the substantia nigra or ventral midbrain cells from the Zeisel dataset (level 5) using  
747 EWCE <sup>11</sup>. The EWCE analysis was performed on the 500 most up or down regulated genes using  
748 10,000 bootstrapping replicates.  
749

#### 750 **Code availability**

751 The code used to generate these results is available at: [https://github.com/jbryois/scRNA\\_disease](https://github.com/jbryois/scRNA_disease).  
752 An R package for performing cell type enrichments using magma is also available from:  
753 [https://github.com/NathanSkene/MAGMA\\_Celltyping](https://github.com/NathanSkene/MAGMA_Celltyping).  
754

#### 755 **Data availability**

756 All single-cell expression data are publicly available. Most summary statistics used in this study are  
757 publicly available. The migraine GWAS can be obtained by contacting the authors <sup>77</sup>. The Parkinson's  
758 disease summary statistics from 23andMe can be obtained under an agreement that protects the  
759 privacy of 23andMe research participants (<https://research.23andme.com/collaborate/#publication> ).  
760

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782 Tung, Vladimir Vacic, and Catherine H. Wilson.

783 **Author contributions**

784 J.B., N.G.S., J.H.-L. and P.F.S. designed the study, wrote and reviewed the manuscript; J.B  
785 performed the analyses pertaining to Figure 1-4, Figure S1-S18, Figure S20-S31, table S1-S11 and  
786 table S13-S16; N.G.S performed the analyses pertaining to Figure 5, Figure S19 and table S12-S13;  
787 T.F.H, L.K. and the I.H.G.C provided the migraine GWAS summary statistics; H.W., the  
788 E.D.W.G.P.G.C, G.B. and C.M.B performed the anorexia GWAS; Z.L. contributed to the revision of  
789 the manuscript, The 23andMe R.T. provided GWAS summary statistics for Parkinson's disease in  
790 the 23andMe cohort. L.B. contributed to the post-mortem differential expression analysis (Figure 5);  
791 E.A. and K.H. provided expert knowledge on Parkinson's disease and reviewed the manuscript.

792

793 **Potential conflicts of interest**

794 P.F.S. reports the following potentially competing financial interests. Current: Lundbeck (advisory  
795 committee, grant recipient). Past three years: Pfizer (scientific advisory board), Element Genomics  
796 (consultation fee), and Roche (speaker reimbursement). C.M. Bulik reports: Shire (grant recipient,  
797 Scientific Advisory Board member); Pearson and Walker (author, royalty recipient).

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799



800 **Tables**

801 **Table S1:** Genetic correlations across traits

802 **Table S2:** Association P-value between GTEx tissues and all traits

803 **Table S3:** Association P-value between cell types from the entire mouse nervous system and all  
804 traits (Zeisel et al. 2018)

805 **Table S4:** Sub clusters of cell types corresponding to the 39 broad categories of cell types across  
806 the mouse nervous system

807 **Table S5:** GO term enrichment of genes highly specific to cell type and diseases

808 **Table S6:** Univariate conditional analysis results using MAGMA

809 **Table S7:** Association P-value between cell types from 9 mouse brain regions and all traits  
810 (Saunders et al. 2018)

811 **Table S8:** Association P-value between cell types from 5 mouse brain regions and all traits (Skene  
812 et al. 2018)

813 **Table S9:** Association P-value between cell types from 2 human brain regions and all traits (Habib  
814 et al. 2017)

815 **Table S10:** Association P-value between cell types from 3 human brain regions and all traits (Lake  
816 et al. 2018)

817 **Table S11:** Association of Alzheimer's disease differentially expressed genes in 6 different cell  
818 types with Alzheimer's common variant genetics using MAGMA.

819 **Table S12:** Rare and familial genetic mutations associated with Parkinsonism

820 **Table S13:** Cell type enrichment results using rare and familial genetic mutations associated with  
821 Parkinsonism. The one-sided p-values were computed using linear regression, testing whether the  
822 average specificity metric of the gene set was higher than 0 (z-scaled specificity metrics per tissue).

823 **Table S14:** Summary statistics of cell types from the mouse nervous system (Zeisel et al. 2018)

824 **Table S15:** Top 10% most specific genes per tissue for the GTEx dataset

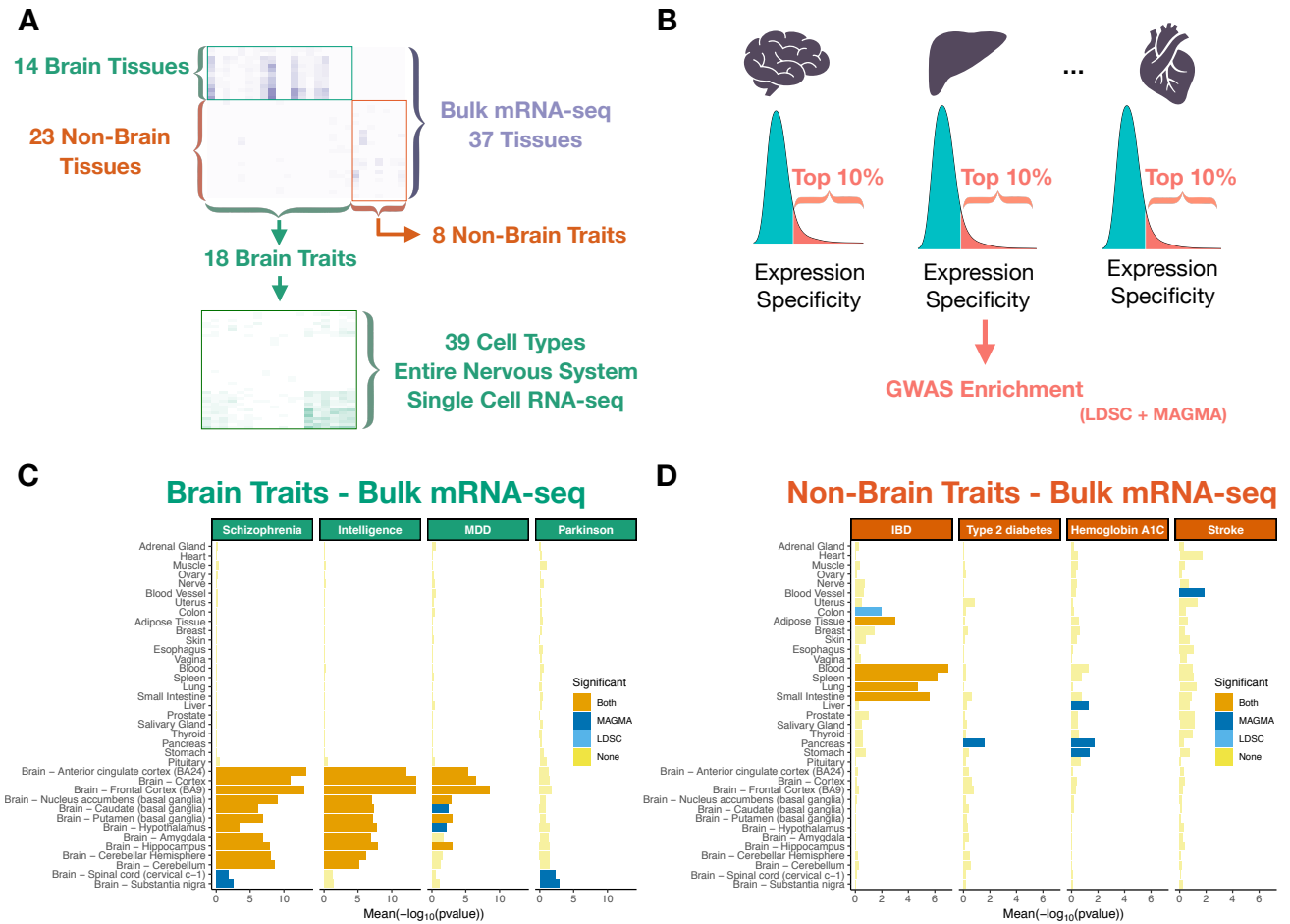
825 **Table S16:** Top 10% most specific genes per cell type for the Zeisel dataset

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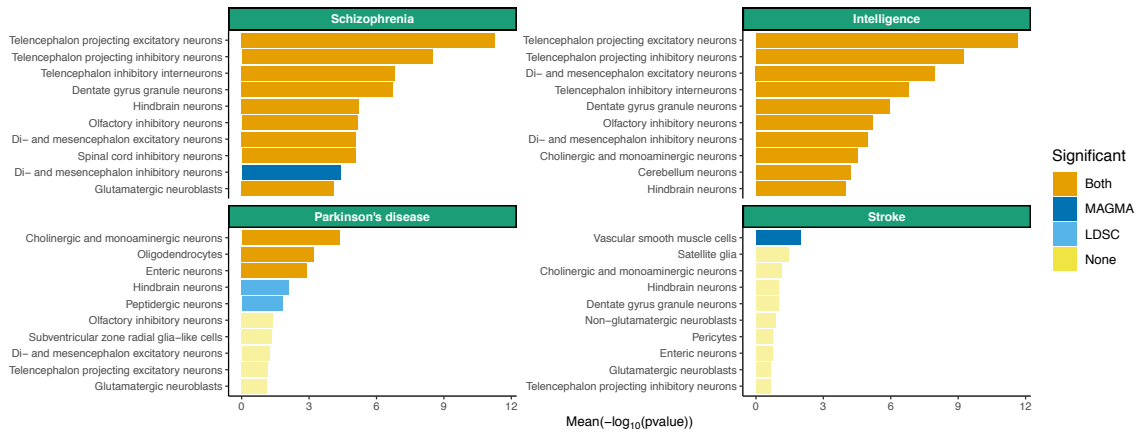
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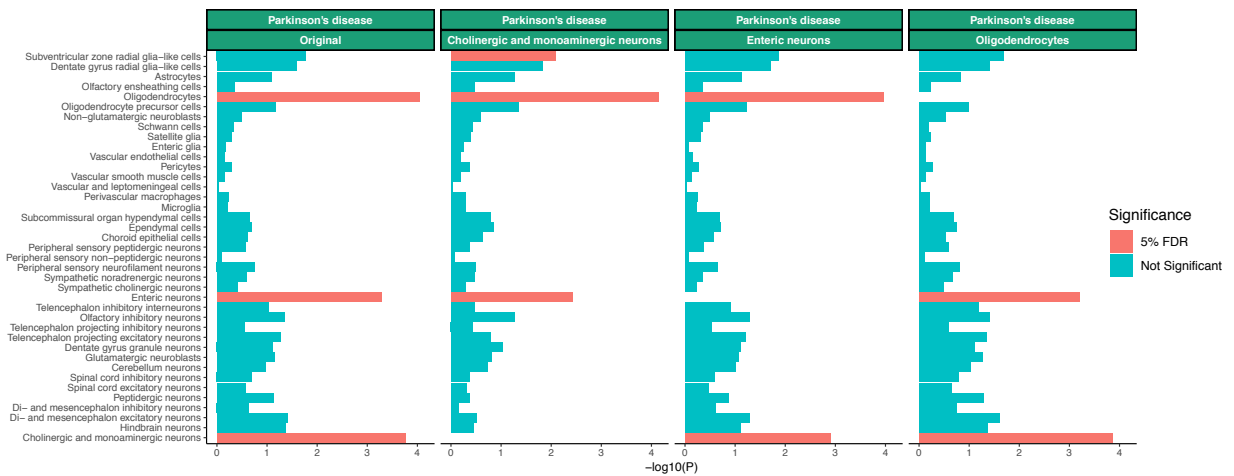
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**Figure 1:** Study design and tissue-level associations. Heat map of trait – tissue/cell types associations (-log<sub>10</sub>P) for the selected traits. (A) Trait – tissue/cell types associations were performed using MAGMA and LDSC (testing for enrichment in genetic association of the top 10% most specific genes in each tissue/cell type). (B) Tissue – trait associations for selected brain related traits. (C) Tissue – trait associations for selected non-brain related traits. (D) The mean strength of association (-log<sub>10</sub>P) of MAGMA and LDSC is shown and the bar color indicates whether the tissue is significantly associated with both methods, one method or none (significance threshold: 5% false discovery rate).

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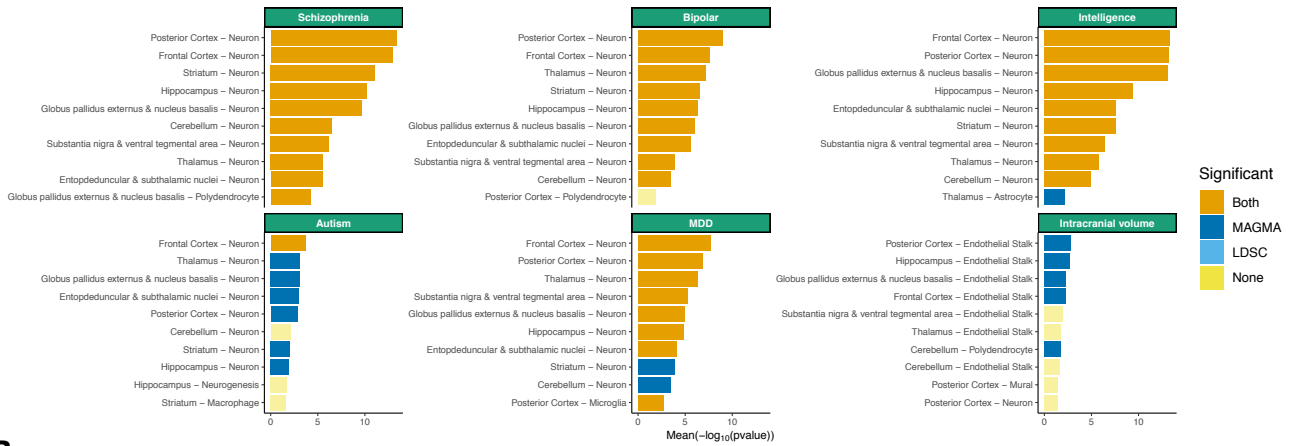
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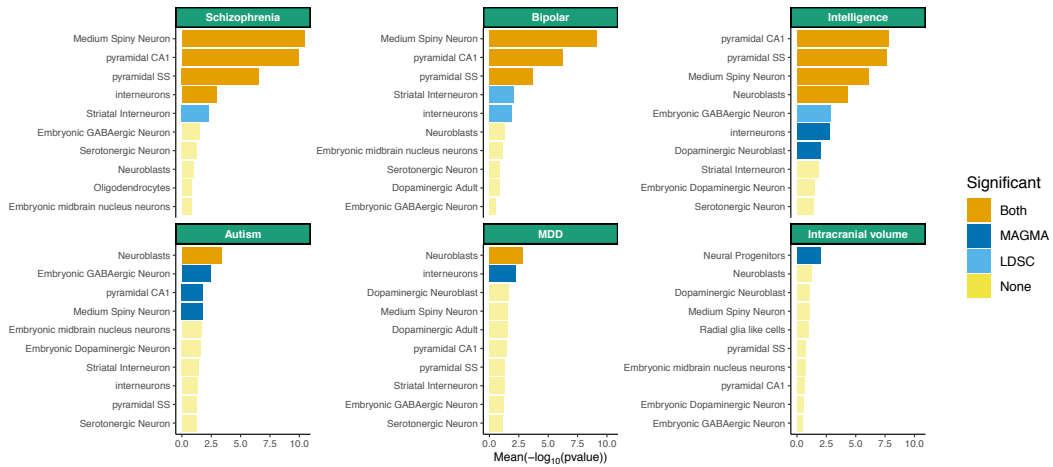
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**Figure 2:** Association of selected brain related traits with cell types from the entire nervous system. Associations of the top 10 most associated cell types are shown. **(A)** Conditional analysis results for Parkinson's disease using MAGMA. The label indicates the cell type the association analysis is being conditioned on. **(B)** The mean strength of association (-log<sub>10</sub>P) of MAGMA and LDSC is shown and the bar color indicates whether the cell type is significantly associated with both methods, one method or none (significance threshold: 5% false discovery rate).

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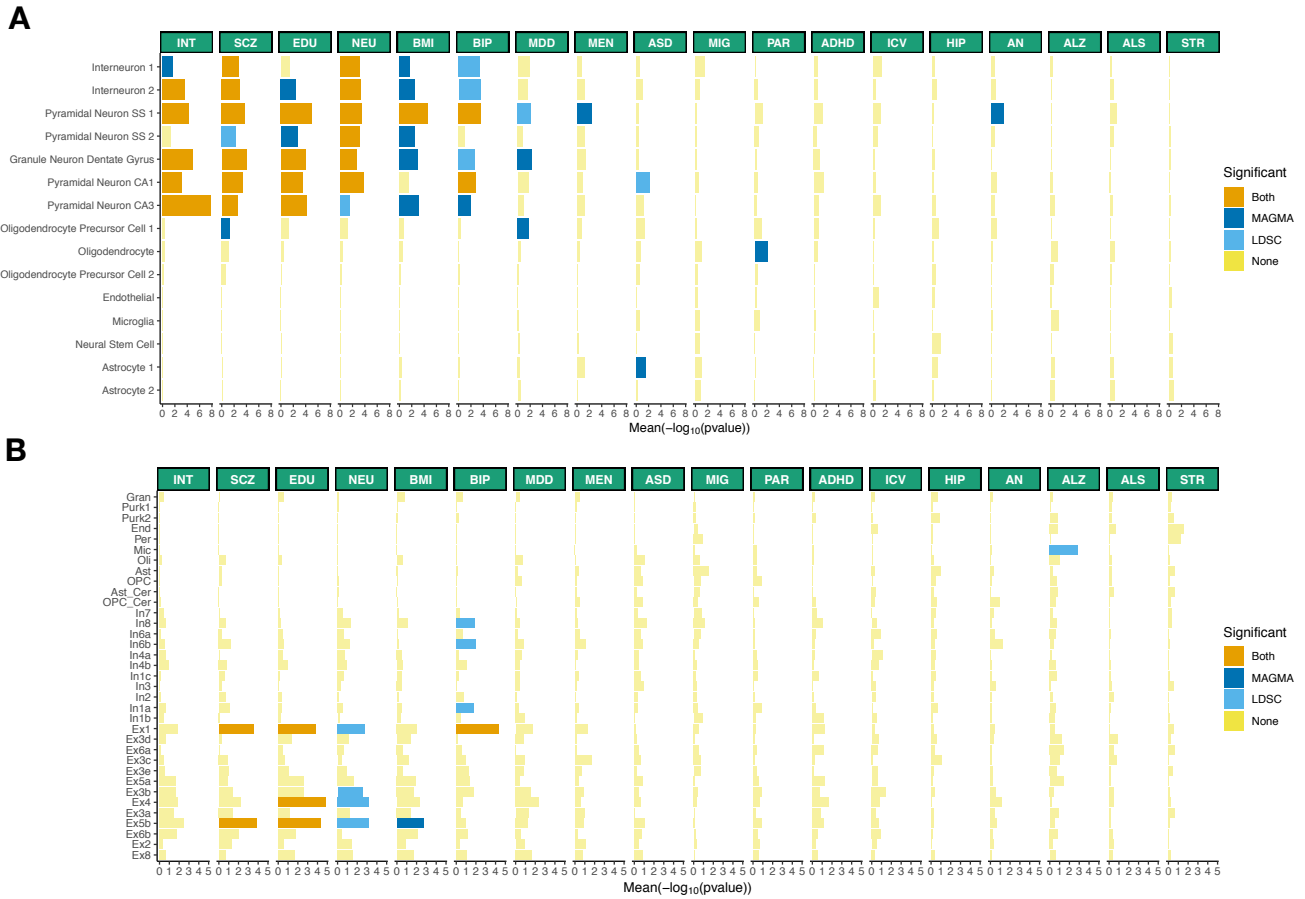
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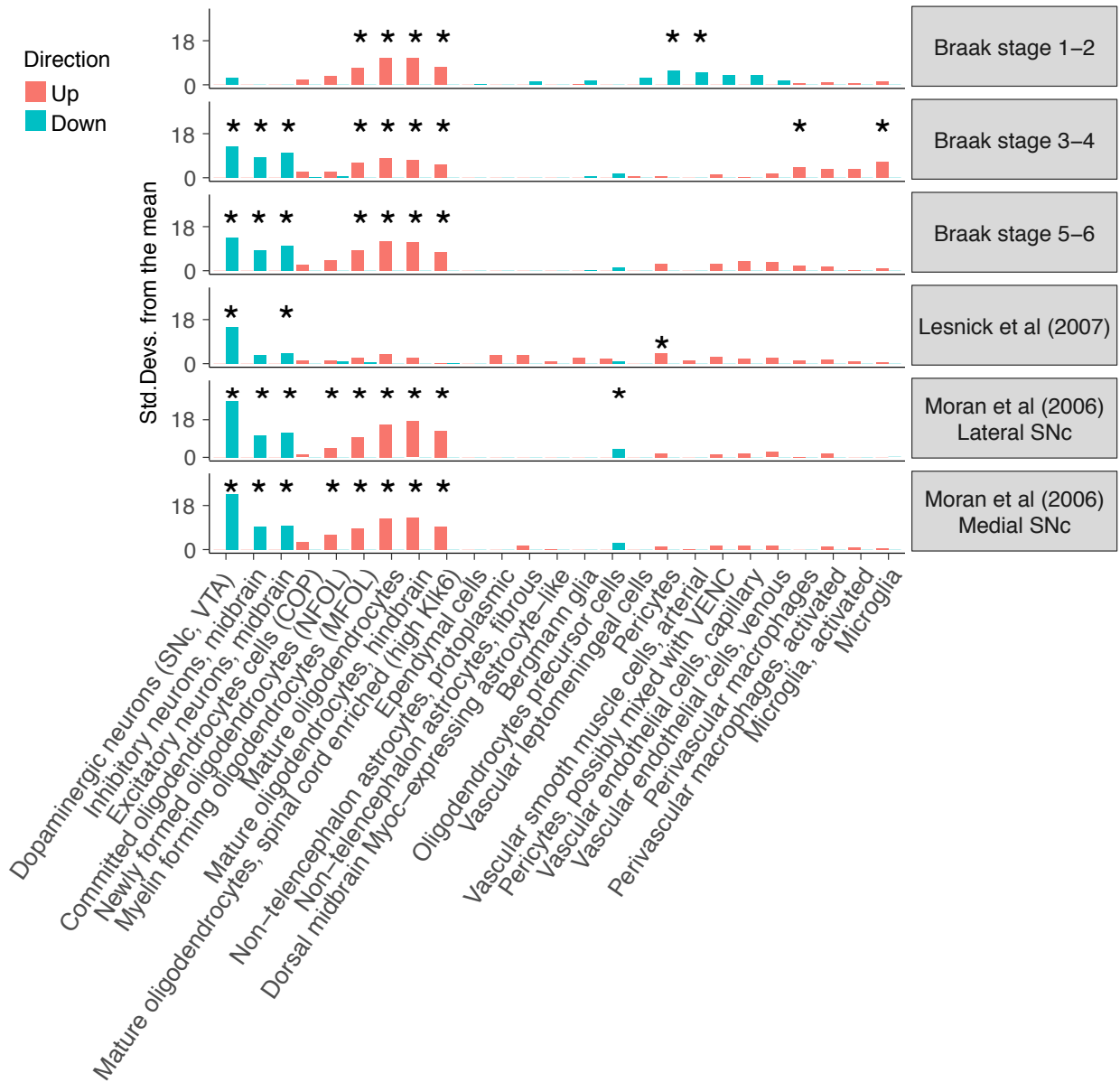
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**Figure 3:** Replication of cell type – trait associations in mouse datasets. Tissue – trait associations are shown for the 10 most association cell types among 88 cell types from 9 different brain regions. (A) Tissue – trait associations are shown for the 10 most association cell types among 24 cell types from 5 different brain regions. (B) The mean strength of association ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) of MAGMA and LDSC is shown and the bar color indicates whether the cell type is significantly associated with both methods, one method or none (significance threshold: 5 % false discovery rate).



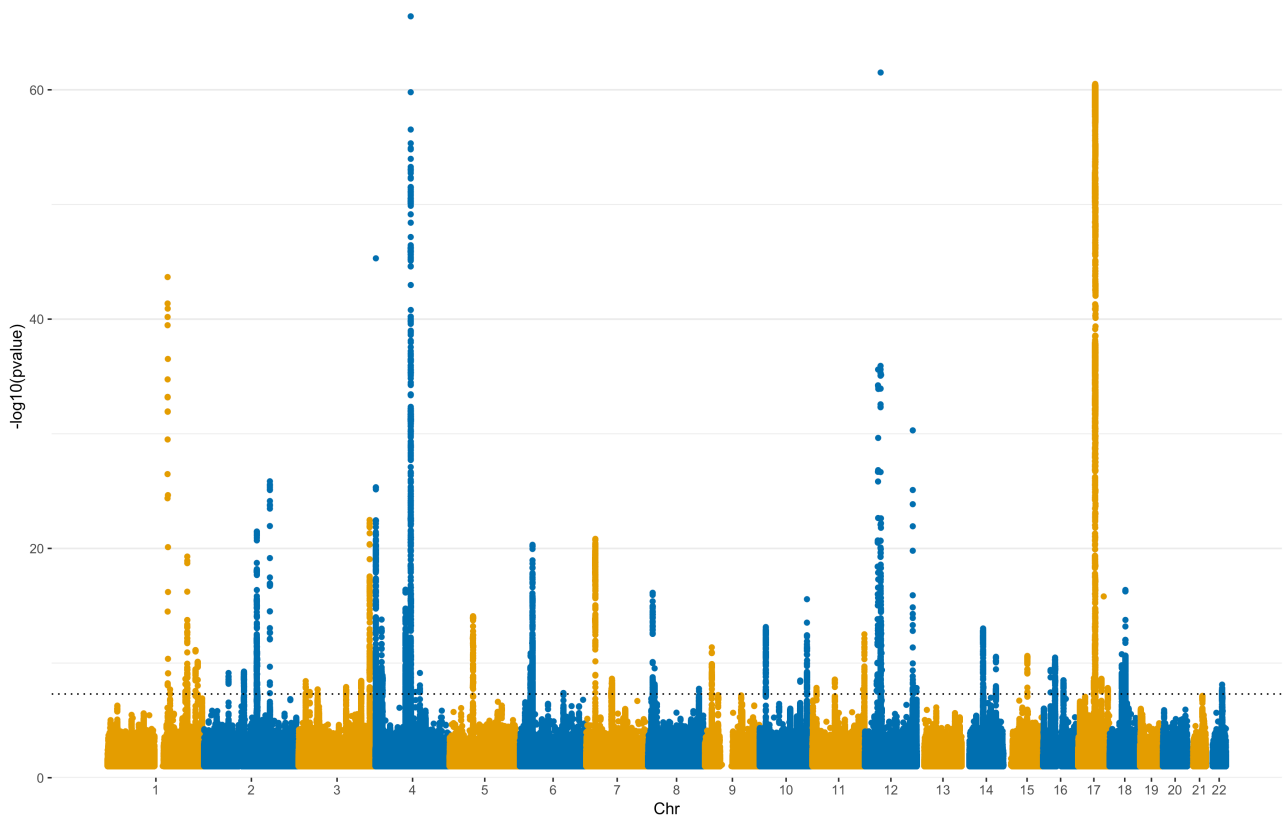


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 856 **Figure 4:** Human replication of cell type – trait associations. Cell type - trait associations for 15 cell  
 857 types (derived from single-nuclei RNA-seq) from 2 different brain regions (cortex, hippocampus). **(A)**  
 858 Cell type - trait associations for 31 cell types (derived from single-nuclei RNA-seq) from 3 different  
 859 brain regions (frontal cortex, visual cortex and cerebellum). **(B)** The mean strength of association ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) of MAGMA and LDSC is shown and the bar color indicates whether the cell type is significantly  
 860 associated with both methods, one method or none (significance threshold: 5% false discovery rate).  
 861 INT (intelligence), SCZ (schizophrenia), EDU (educational attainment), NEU (neuroticism), BMI (body  
 862 mass index), BIP (bipolar disorder), MDD (Major depressive disorder), MEN (age at menarche), ASD  
 863 (autism spectrum disorder), MIG (migraine), PAR (Parkinson’s disease), ADHD (attention deficit  
 864 hyperactivity disorder), ICV (intracranial volume), HIP (hippocampal volume), AN (anorexia nervosa),  
 865 ALZ (Alzheimer’s disease), ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), STR (stroke).  
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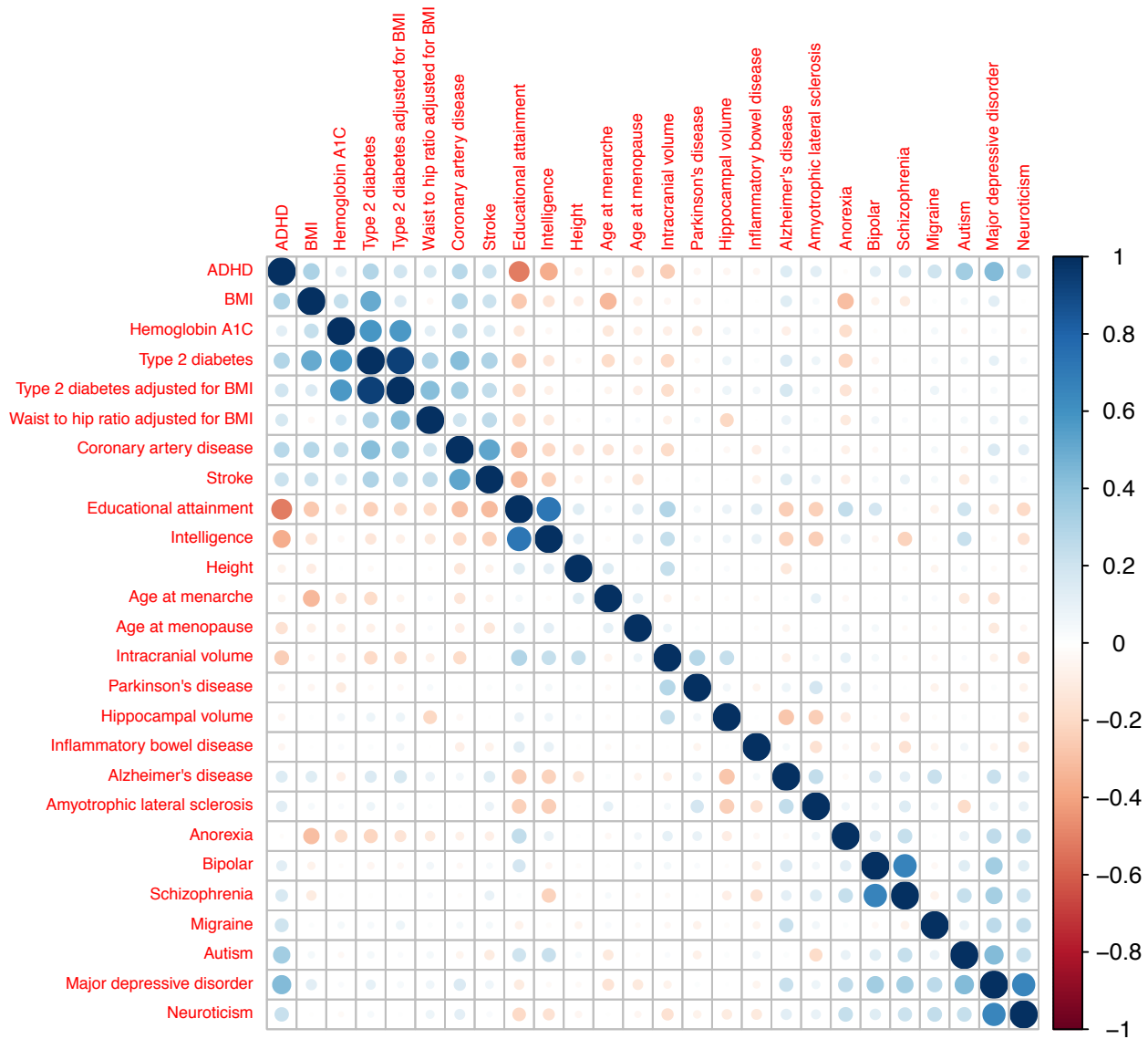


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**Figure 5:** Enrichment of Parkinson's disease differentially expressed genes in cell types from the substantia nigra. Enrichment of the 500 most up/down regulated genes (Braak stage 0 vs Braak stage 1–2, 3–4 and 5–6, as well as cases vs controls) in postmortem human substantia nigra gene expression samples. The enrichments were obtained using EWCE<sup>11</sup>. A star shows significant enrichments after multiple testing correction ( $P < 0.05 / (25 * 6)$ ).



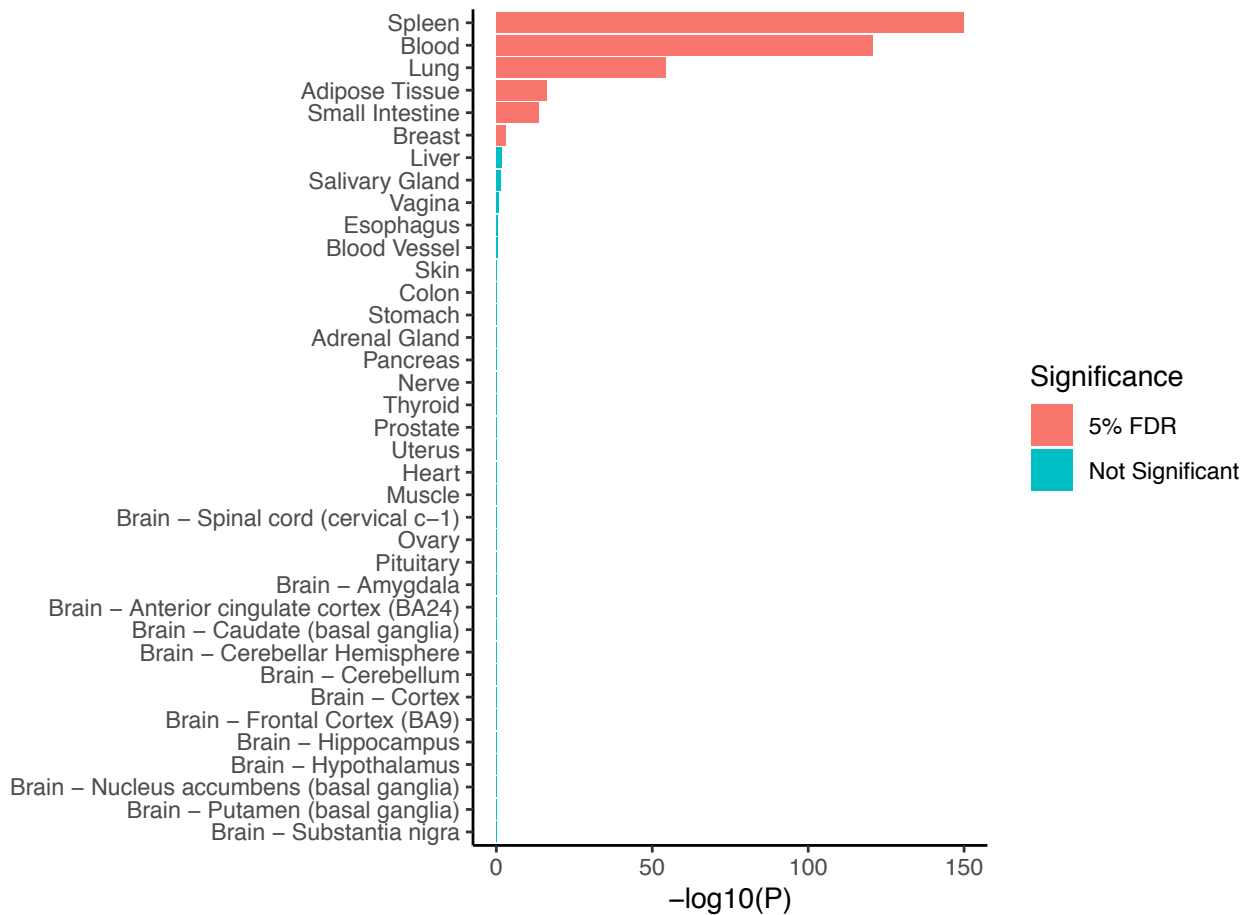
878 **Figure S1:** Manhattan plot of Parkinson's disease meta-analysis. The black dotted line represents  
879 the genome-wide significance threshold ( $5 \times 10^{-8}$ ).  
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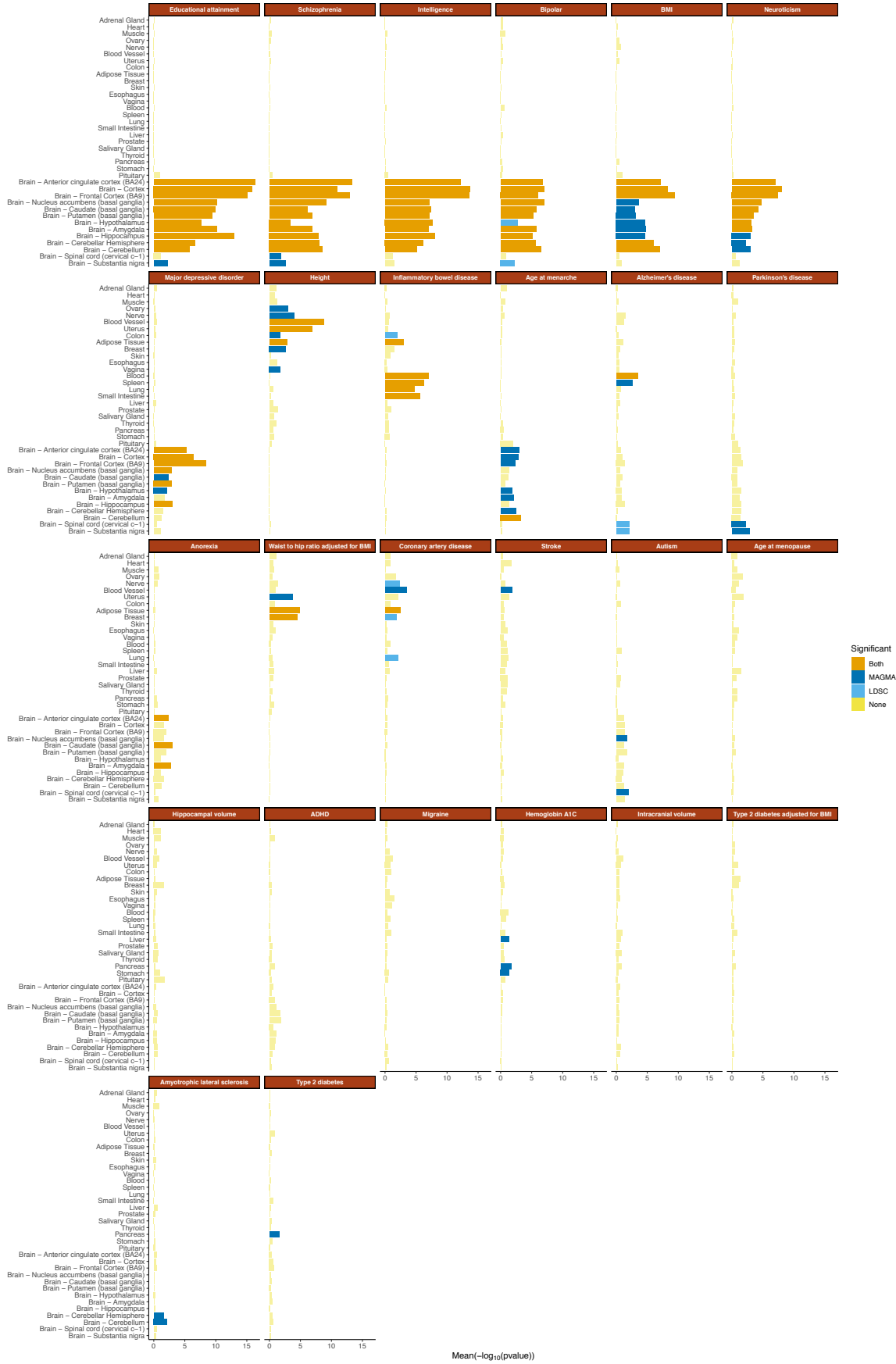
**Figure S2:** Genetic correlation across traits. The genetic correlation across traits were computed using LDSC<sup>101</sup>. Traits are ordered based on hierarchical clustering.





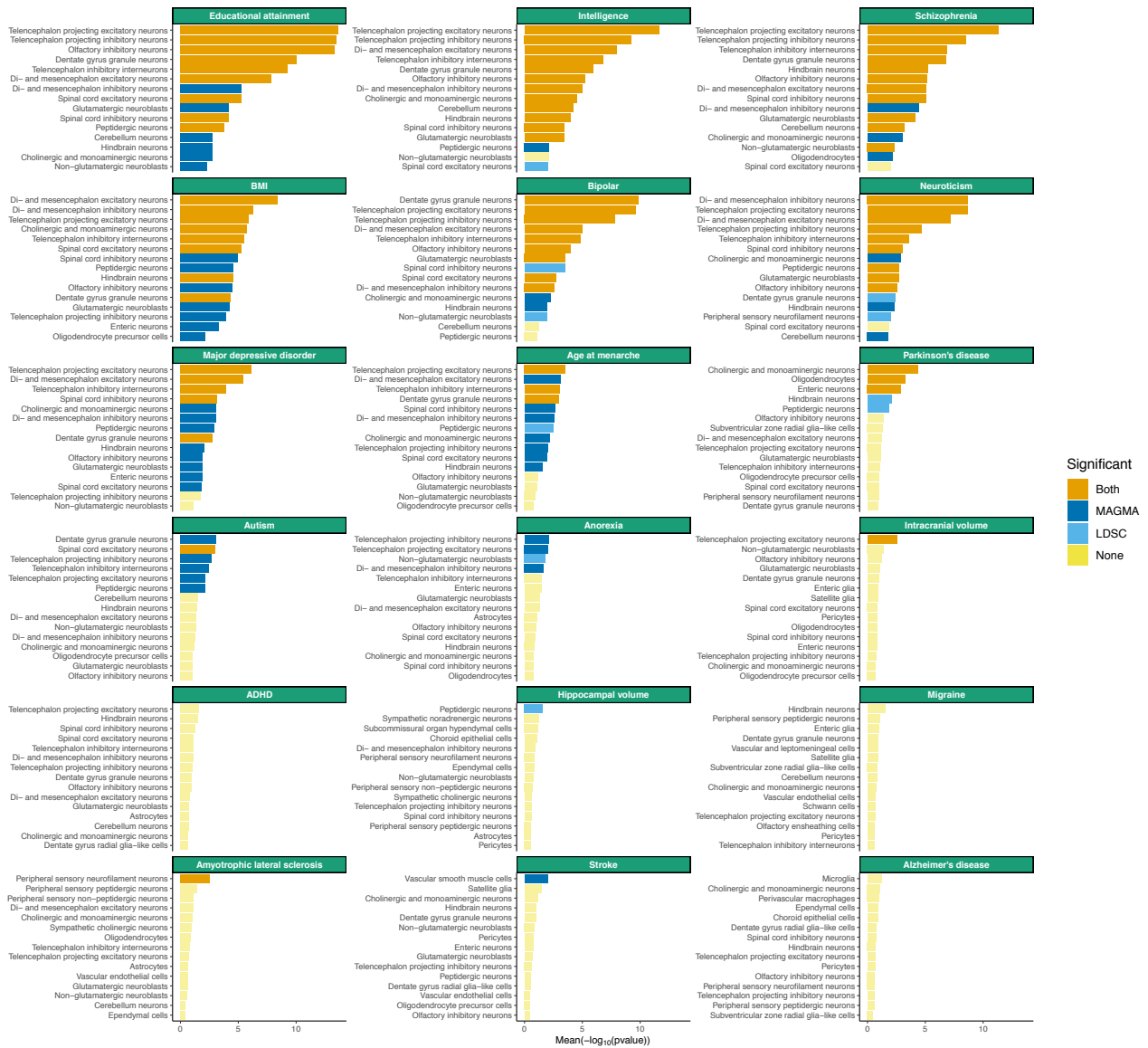
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**Figure S3:** Enrichment of immune genes in GTEx tissues. Enrichment pvalues of genes belonging to the GO term “Immune System Process” in the 10% most specific genes in each tissue. The one-sided pvalues were computed using linear regression, testing whether the average specificity metric of the gene set was higher than 0 (z-scaled specificity metrics per tissue). The GO term was selected because it is the most associated with inflammatory bowel disease using MAGMA.



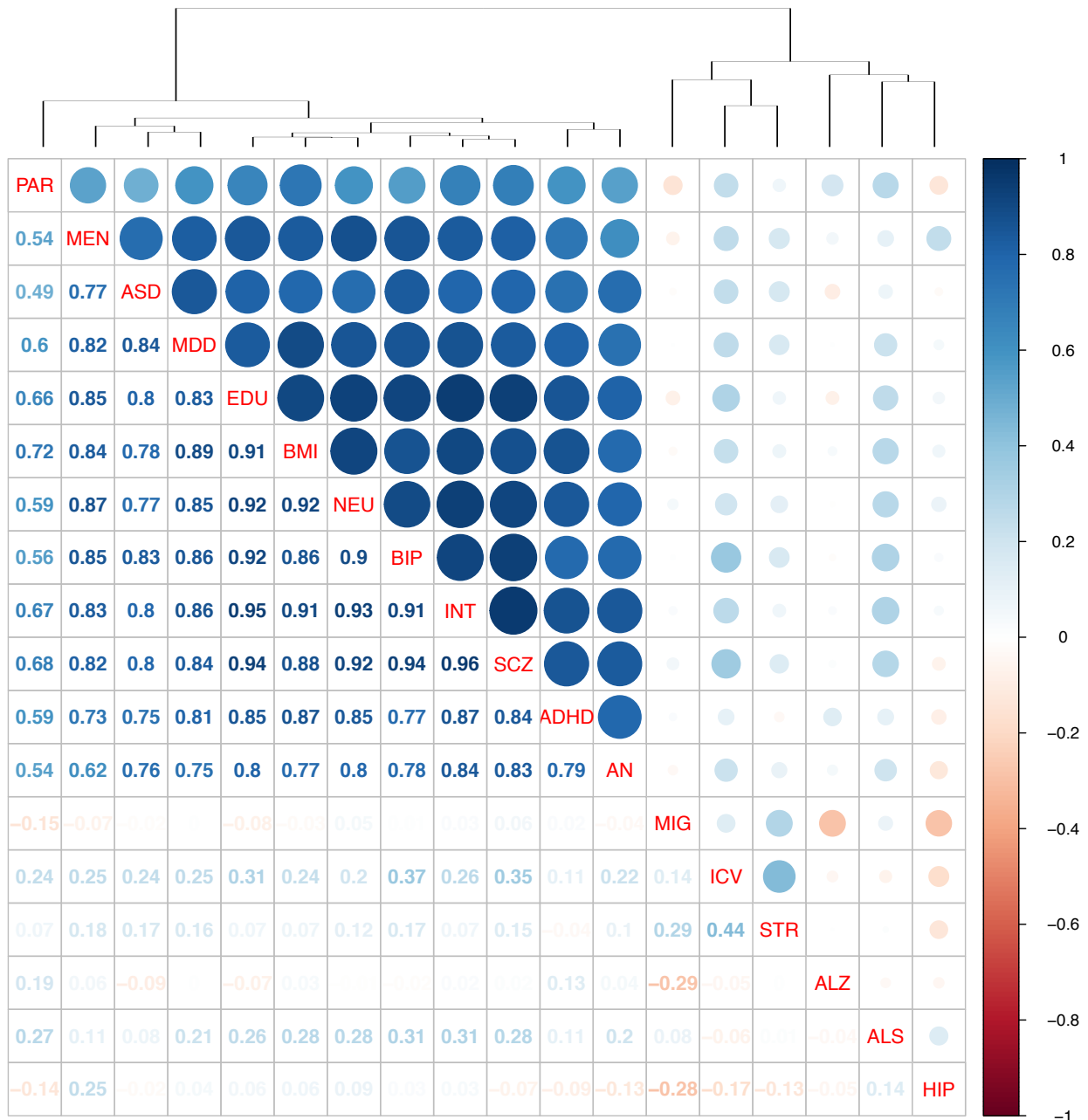
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**Figure S4:** Tissue – trait associations for all traits. The mean strength of association ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) of MAGMA and LDSC is shown and the bar color indicates whether the tissue is significantly associated with both methods, one method or none (significance threshold: 5% false discovery rate).



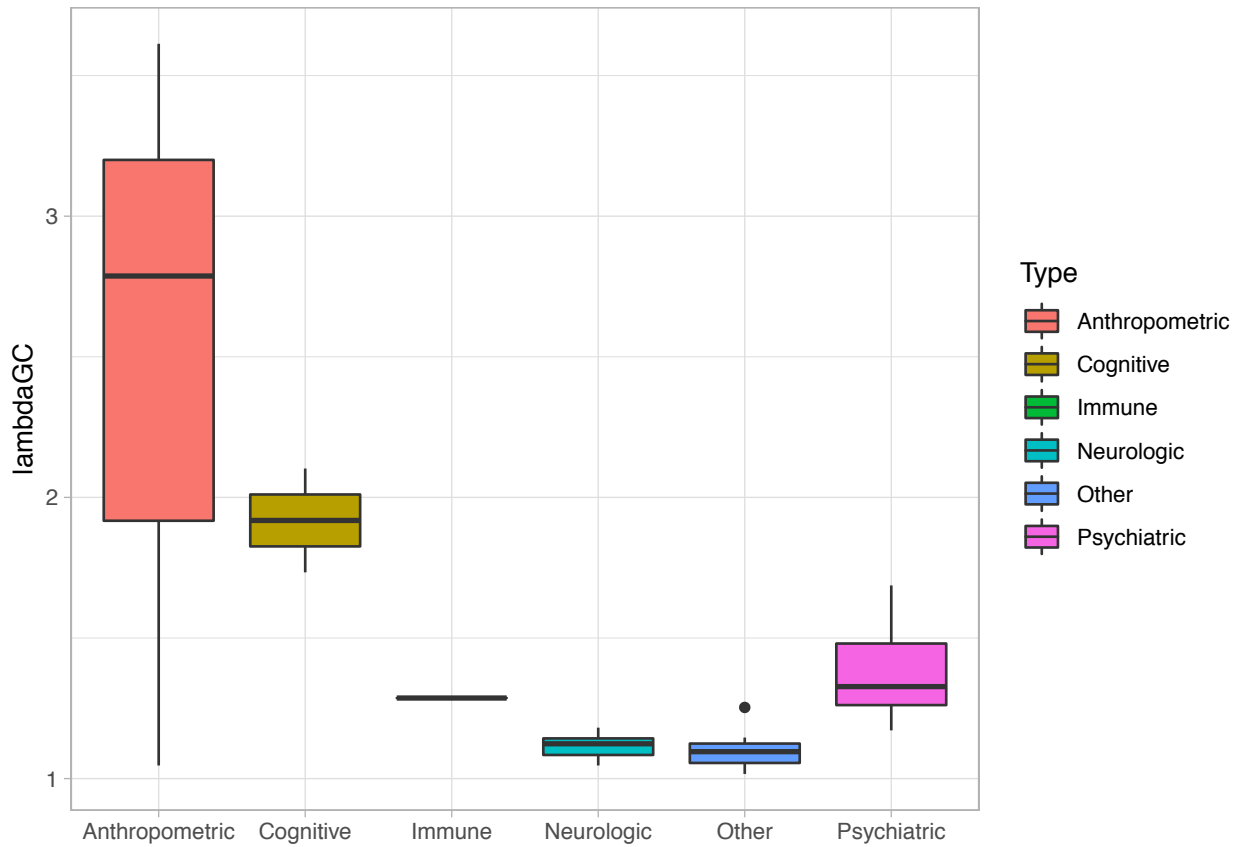
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**Figure S5:** Associations of brain related traits with cell types from the entire mouse nervous system. Associations of the top 15 most associated cell types are shown. The mean strength of association (-log<sub>10</sub>P) of MAGMA and LDSC is shown and the bar color indicates whether the cell type is significantly associated with both methods, one method or none (significance threshold: 5% false discovery rate).



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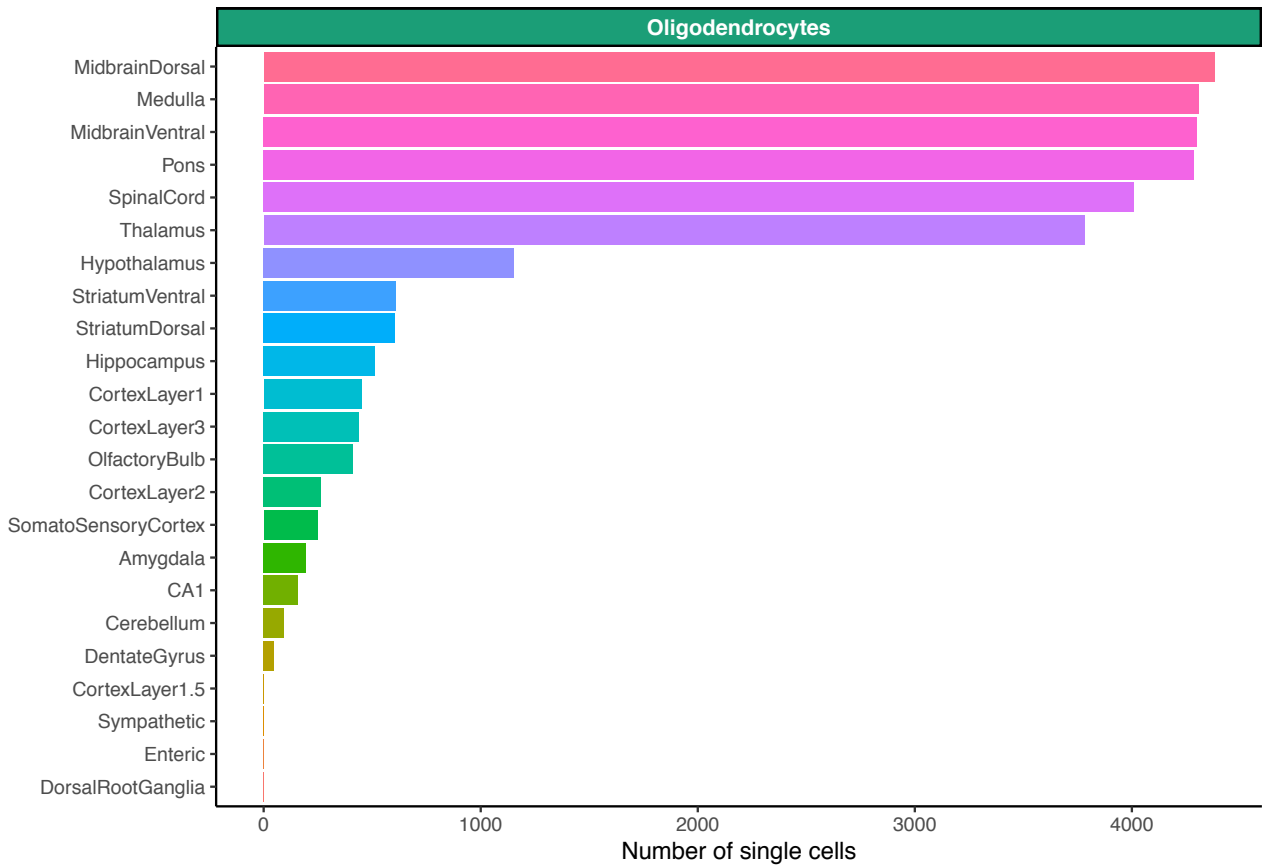
**Figure S6:** Correlation in cell type associations across traits. The Spearman rank correlations between the cell types associations across traits ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) are shown. SCZ (schizophrenia), EDU (educational attainment), INT (intelligence), BMI (body mass index), BIP (bipolar disorder), NEU (neuroticism), PAR (Parkinson's disease), MDD (Major depressive disorder), MEN (age at menarche), ICV (intracranial volume), ASD (autism spectrum disorder), STR (stroke), AN (anorexia nervosa), MIG (migraine), ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), ALZ (Alzheimer's disease), HIP (hippocampal volume).



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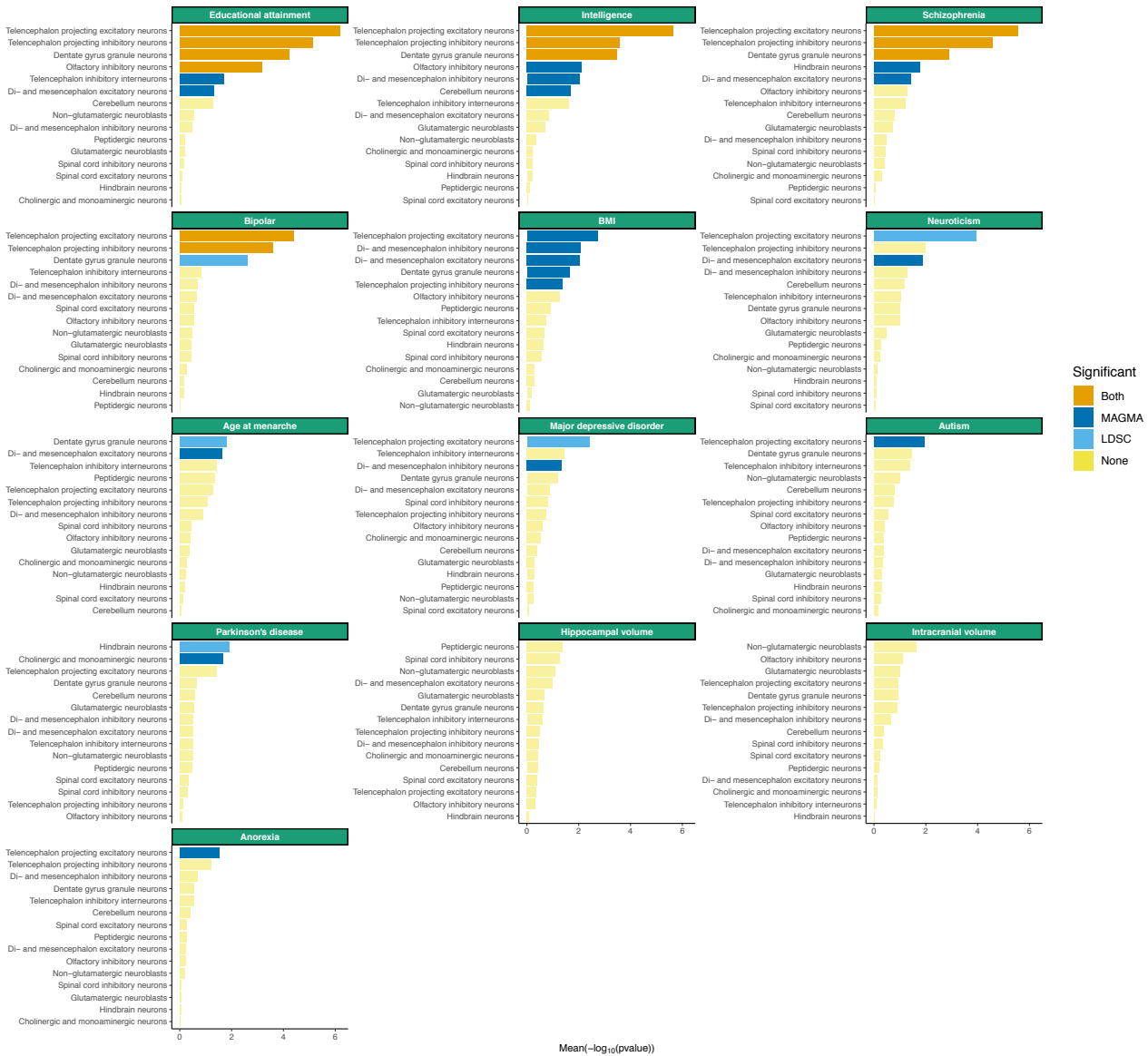
**Figure S7:** GWAS signal to noise ratio ( $\lambda_{GC}$ ) by category of GWAS trait. Boxplot of the  $\lambda_{GC}$  of the different GWAS by category of trait.  $\lambda_{GC}$  was estimated using LDSC for each GWAS.





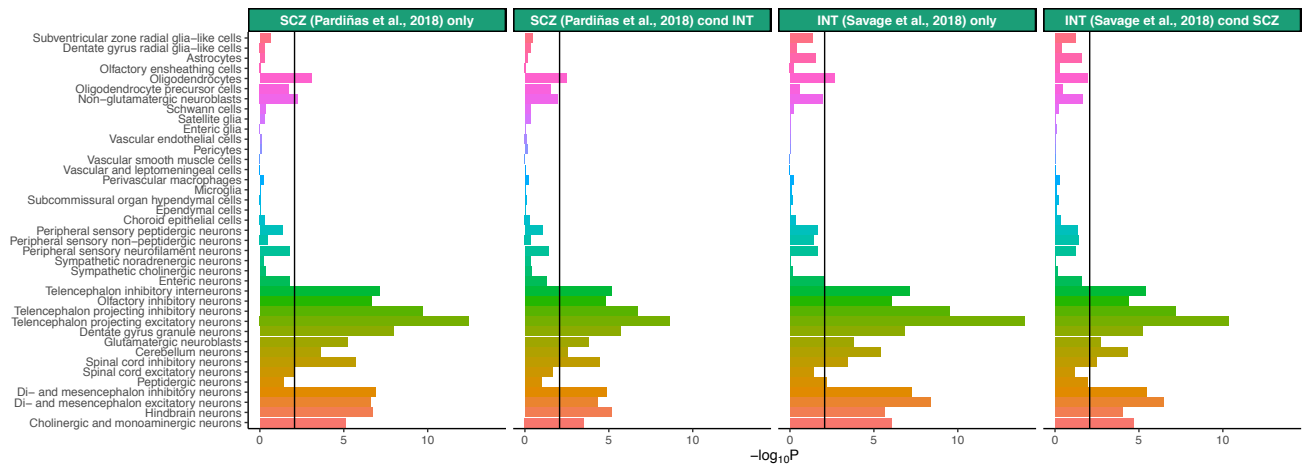
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**Figure S8:** Number of single cells forming the oligodendrocyte cluster. Number of single cells per region of the mouse nervous system used to estimate the average gene expression of oligodendrocytes.



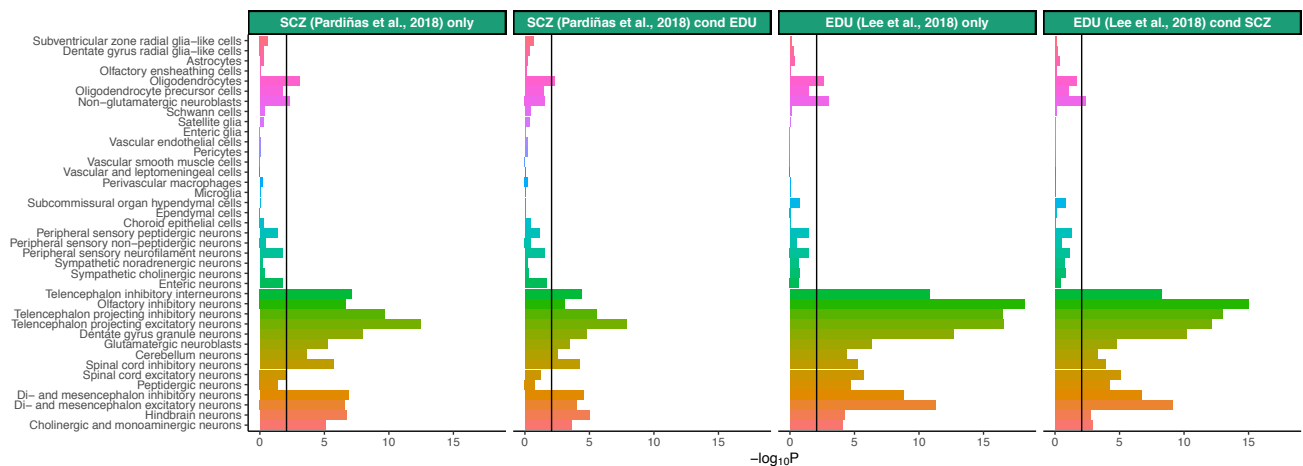
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**Figure S9:** Associations of brain related traits with neurons from the central nervous system. Associations of the 15 most associated neurons from the central nervous system (CNS) are shown. The specificity metrics were computed only using neurons from the CNS. The mean strength of association ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) of MAGMA and LDSC is shown and the bar color indicates whether the cell type is significantly associated with both methods, one method or none (significance threshold: 5% false discovery rate).



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**Figure S10:** Associations of cell types with schizophrenia/intelligence conditioning on gene-level genetic association of intelligence/schizophrenia. MAGMA association strength for each cell type before and after conditioning on gene-level genetic association for another trait. The black bar represents the significance threshold (5% false discovery rate). SCZ (schizophrenia), INT (intelligence).

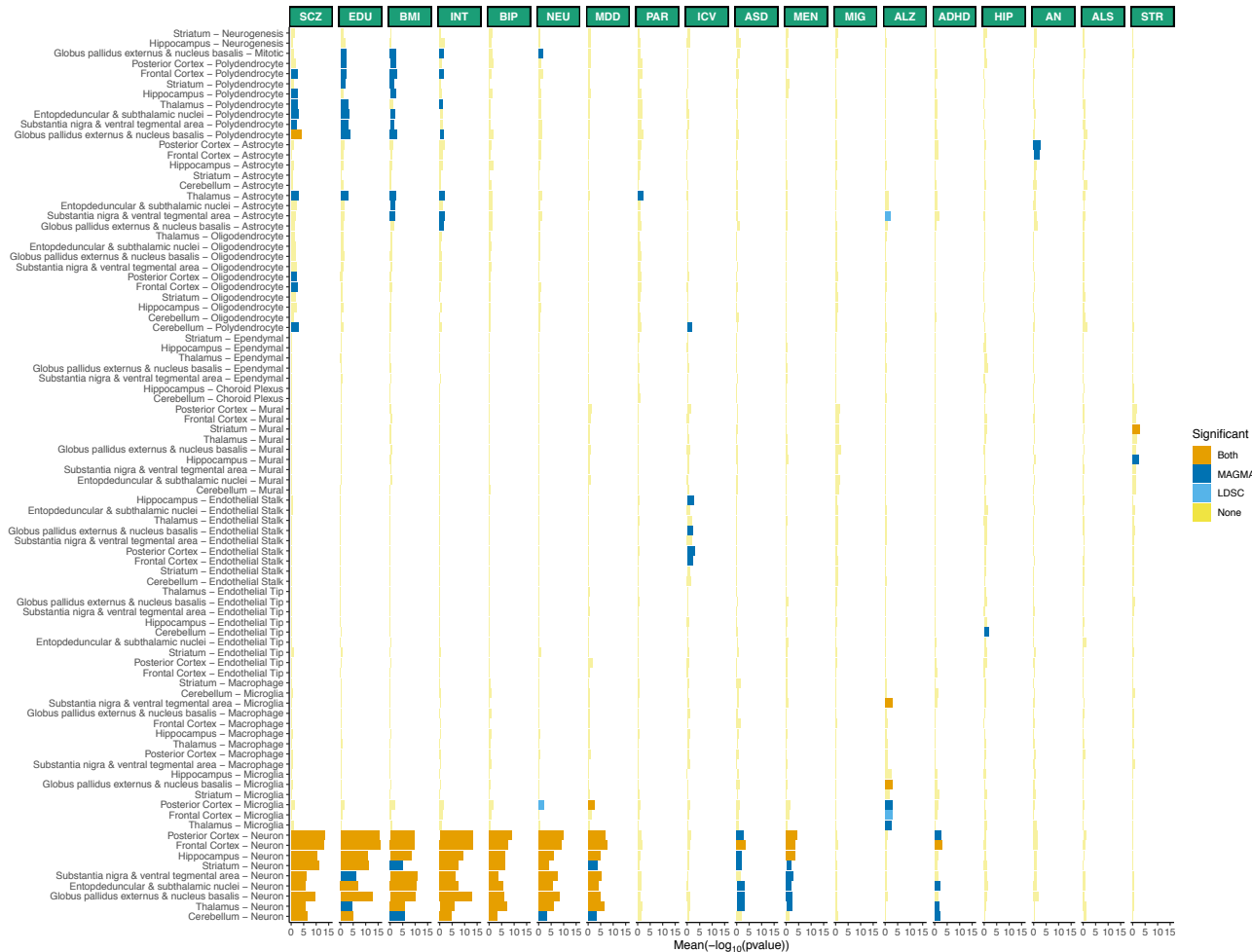


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**Figure S11:** Associations of cell types with schizophrenia/educational attainment conditioning on gene-level genetic association of educational attainment/schizophrenia. MAGMA association strength for each cell type before and after conditioning on gene-level genetic association for another trait. The black bar represents the significance threshold (5% false discovery rate). SCZ (schizophrenia), EDU (educational attainment).



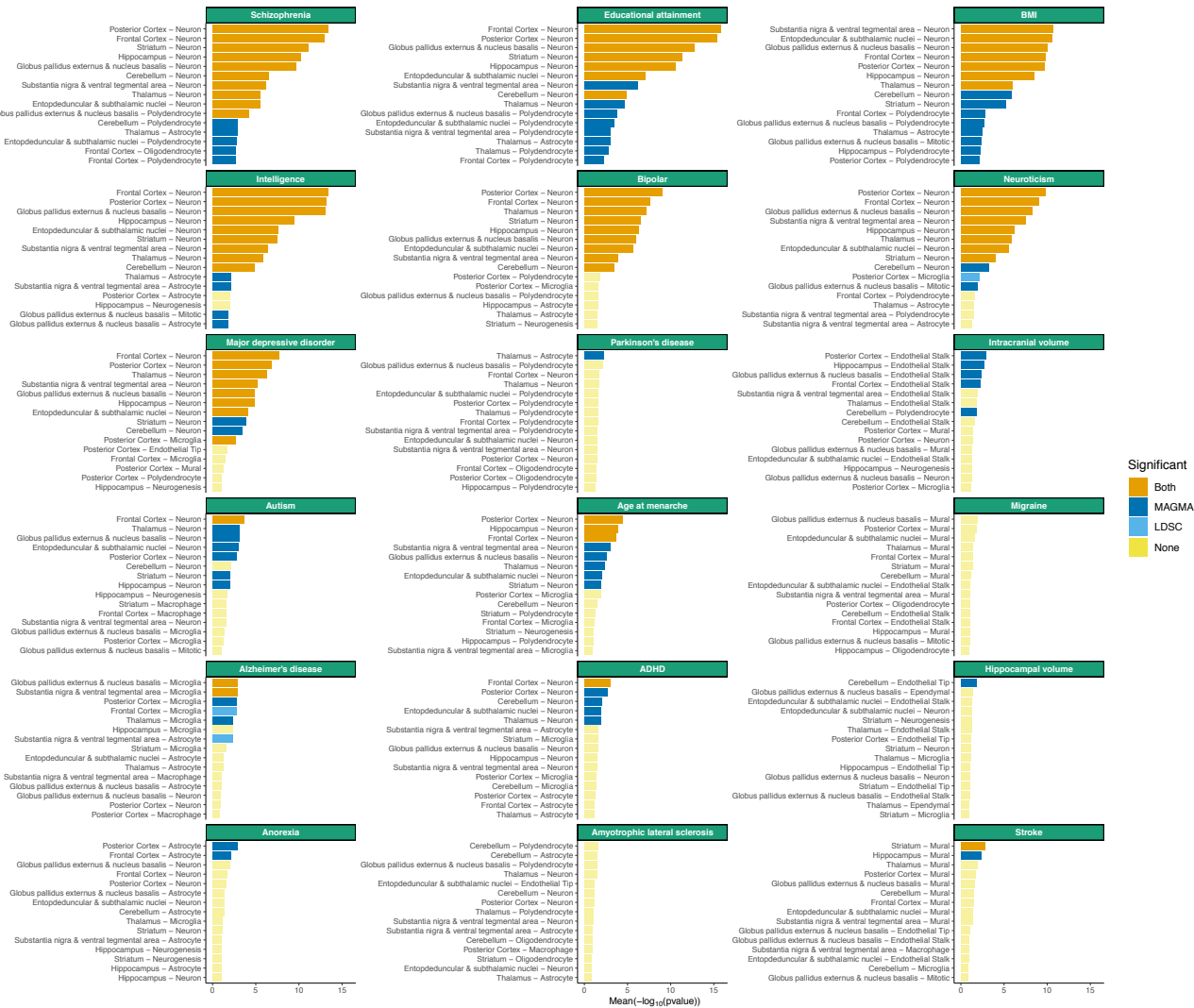
944  
 945 **Figure S12:** Conditional analysis results for brain related traits. Conditional analysis results using  
 946 MAGMA are shown for up to the 5 most associated cell types (if at least 5 cell types were significant  
 947 at a 5% false discovery rate in the original analysis). The color indicates if the cell type is significant at  
 948 a 5% false discovery rate and the label indicates the cell type the association analysis is being  
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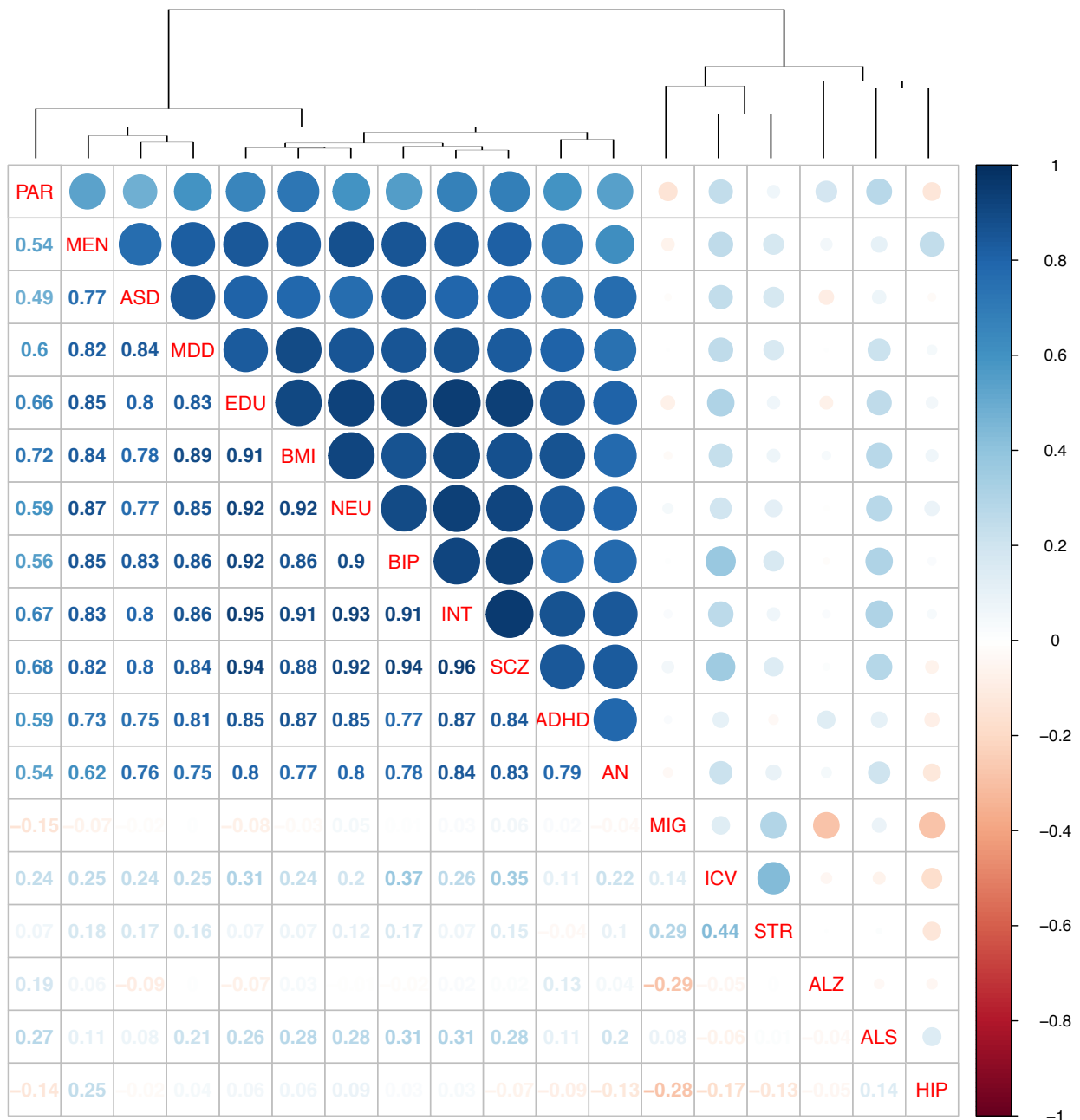
**Figure S13:** Replication of cell type – trait associations in 88 cell types from 9 different brain regions. The mean strength of association ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) of MAGMA and LDSC is shown and the bar color indicates whether the cell type is significantly associated with both methods, one method or none (significance threshold: 5% false discovery rate). SCZ (schizophrenia), EDU (educational attainment), INT (intelligence), BMI (body mass index), BIP (bipolar disorder), NEU (neuroticism), PAR (Parkinson’s disease), MDD (Major depressive disorder), MEN (age at menarche), ICV (intracranial volume), ASD (autism spectrum disorder), STR (stroke), AN (anorexia nervosa), MIG (migraine), ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), ALZ (Alzheimer’s disease), HIP (hippocampal volume).





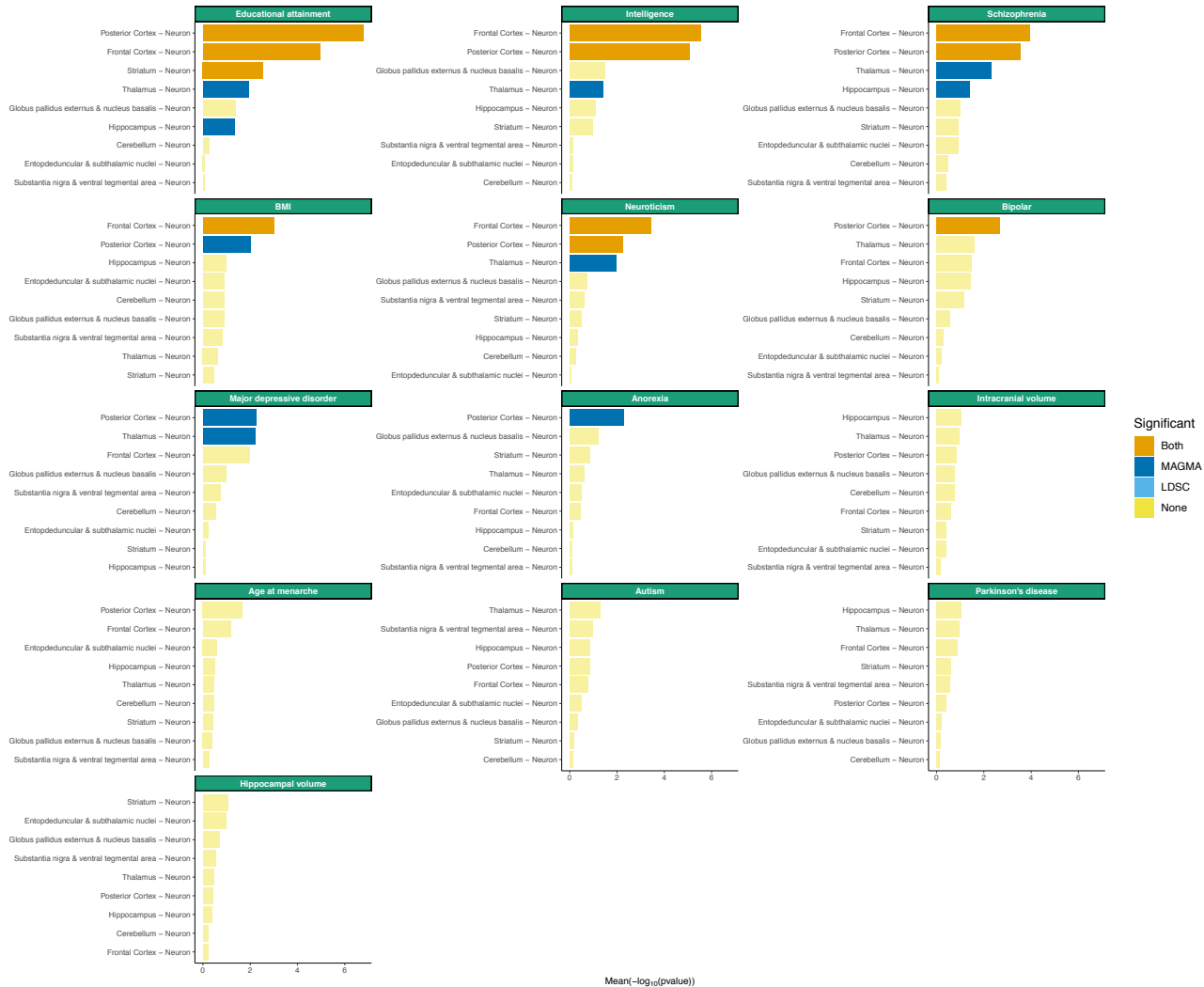
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**Figure S14:** Top associated cell types with brain related traits among 88 cell types from 9 different brain regions. The mean strength of association (-log<sub>10</sub>P) of MAGMA and LDSC is shown for the 15 top cell types for each trait. The bar color indicates whether the cell type is significantly associated with both methods, one method or none (significance threshold: 5% false discovery rate).



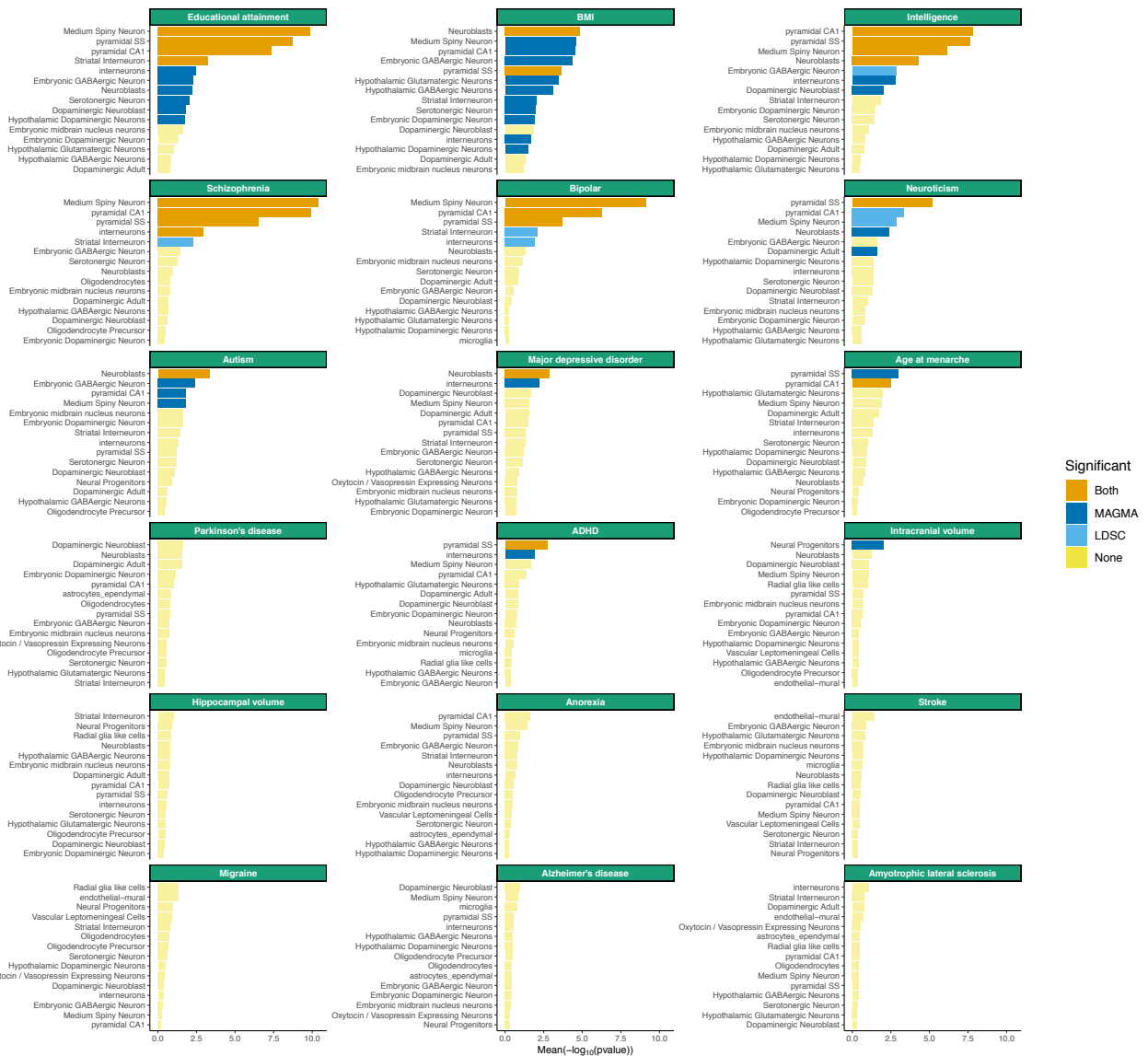
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**Figure S15:** Correlation in cell type associations across traits in a replication data set (88 cell types, 9 brain regions). Spearman rank correlations for cell types associations ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) across traits are shown. SCZ (schizophrenia), EDU (educational attainment), INT (intelligence), BMI (body mass index), BIP (bipolar disorder), NEU (neuroticism), PAR (Parkinson’s disease), MDD (Major depressive disorder), MEN (age at menarche), ICV (intracranial volume), ASD (autism spectrum disorder), STR (stroke), AN (anorexia nervosa), MIG (migraine), ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), ALZ (Alzheimer’s disease), HIP (hippocampal volume).



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**Figure S16:** Associations of brain related traits with neurons from 9 different brain regions. Trait – neuron association are shown for neurons of the 9 different brain regions. The specificity metrics were computed only using neurons. The mean strength of association ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) of MAGMA and LDSC is shown and the bar color indicates whether the cell type is significantly associated with both methods, one method or none (significance threshold: 5% false discovery rate).



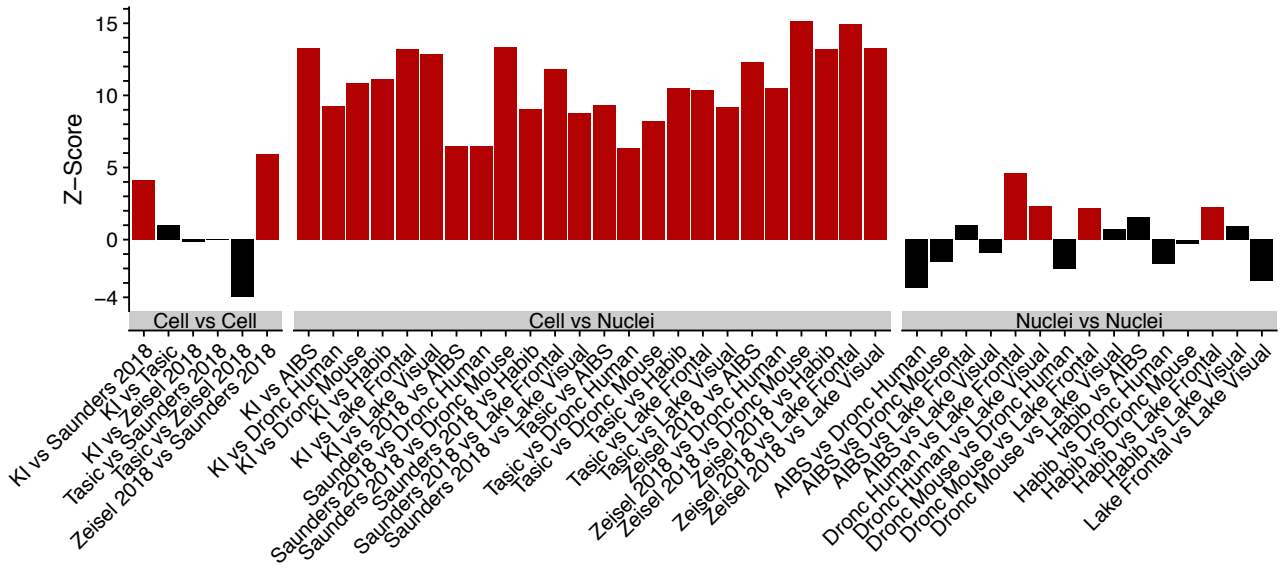
984  
 985 **Figure S17:** Top associated cell types with brain related traits among 24 cell types from 5 different  
 986 brain regions. The mean strength of association ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) of MAGMA and LDSC is shown for the 15  
 987 top cell types for each trait. The bar color indicates whether the cell type is significantly associated  
 988 with both methods, one method or none (significance threshold: 5% false discovery rate).  
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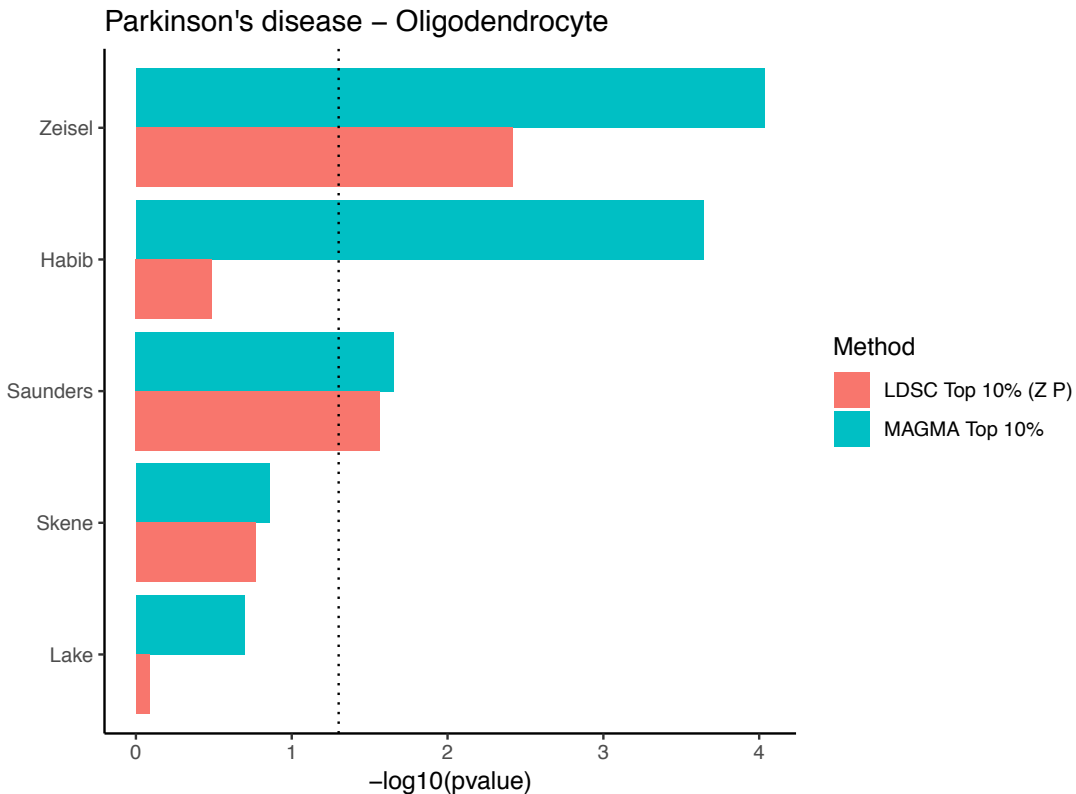
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**Figure S18:** Top associated neurons with brain related traits among 16 neurons from 5 different brain regions. The specificity metrics were computed only using neurons. The mean strength of association (-log<sub>10</sub>P) of MAGMA and LDSC is shown for the top 15 cell types for each trait. The bar color indicates whether the cell type is significantly associated with both methods, one method or none (significance threshold= 5% false discovery rate).



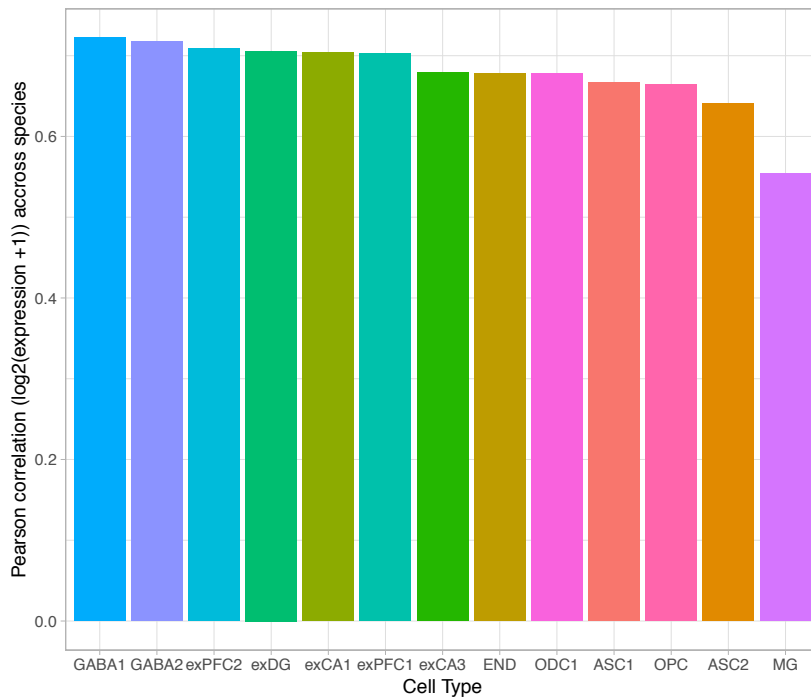


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 998 **Figure S19:** Single nuclei datasets are systematically depleted of dendritically enriched transcripts  
 999 relative to single-cell datasets. Each bar represents a comparison between two datasets (X versus  
 000 Y), with the bootstrapped z-scores representing the extent to which dendritically enriched transcripts  
 001 <sup>96</sup> have lower specificity for pyramidal neurons in dataset Y relative to that in dataset X. Larger z-  
 002 scores indicate greater depletion of dendritically enriched transcripts, and red bars indicate a  
 003 statistically significant depletion (P < 0.05, by bootstrapping).  
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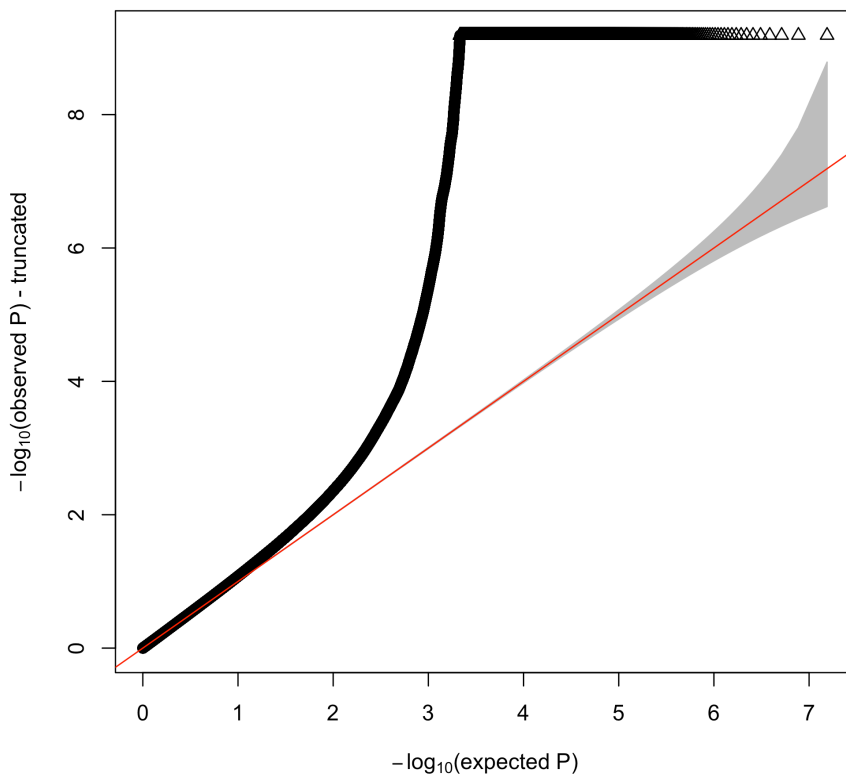
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 006 **Figure S20:** Association of Parkinson's disease with oligodendrocytes in the different datasets. The  
 007 dotted line indicated the nominal significance threshold (P=0.05)  
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Pearson correlation across species (DroNc-seq from Habib et al. 2017)



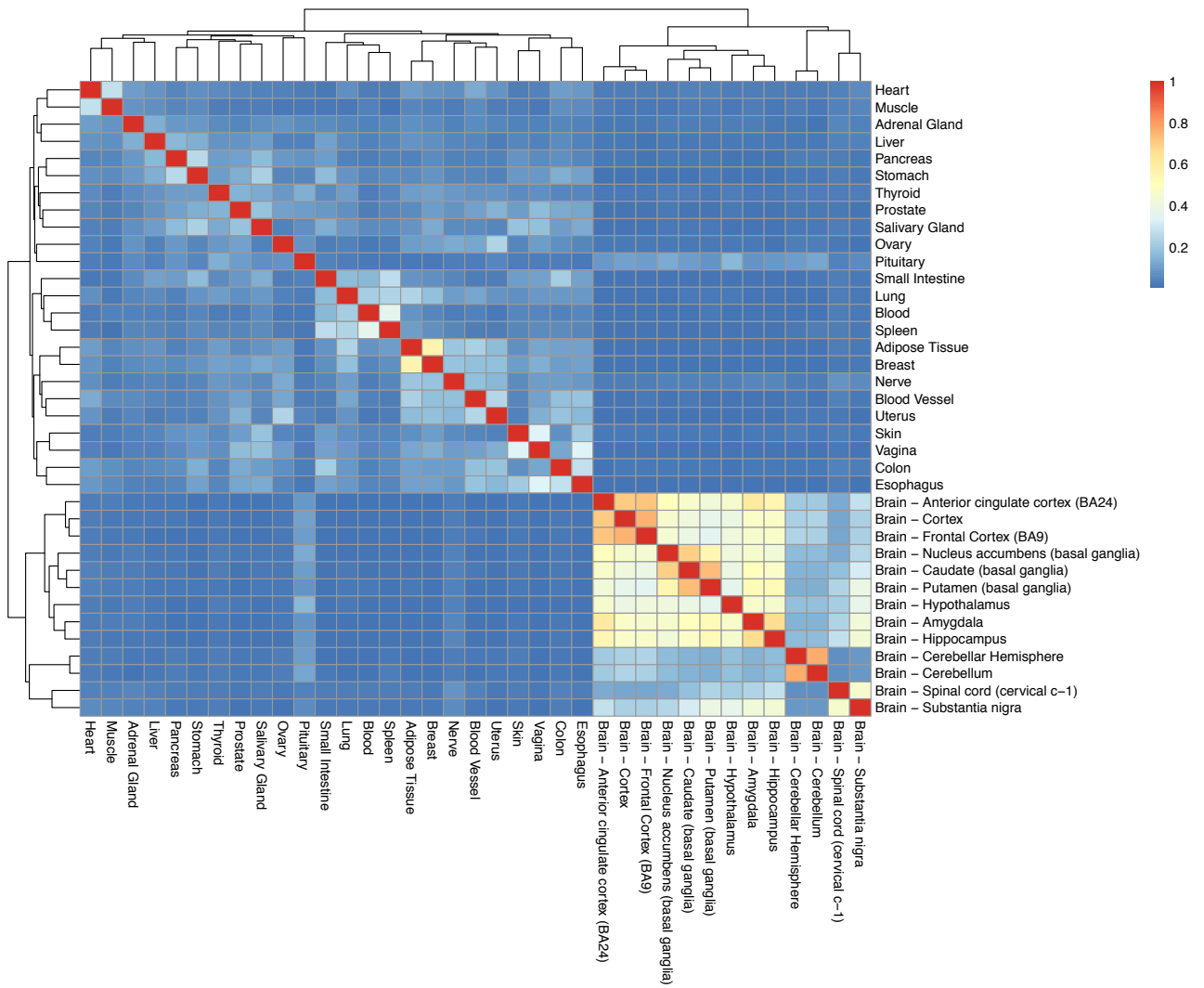
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**Figure S21:** Gene expression correlation within cell type across species. Pearson correlation of gene expression ( $\log_2(\text{expression}) + 1$ ) between mouse and human cell types with matching names (from Habib et al. 2017<sup>42</sup>).



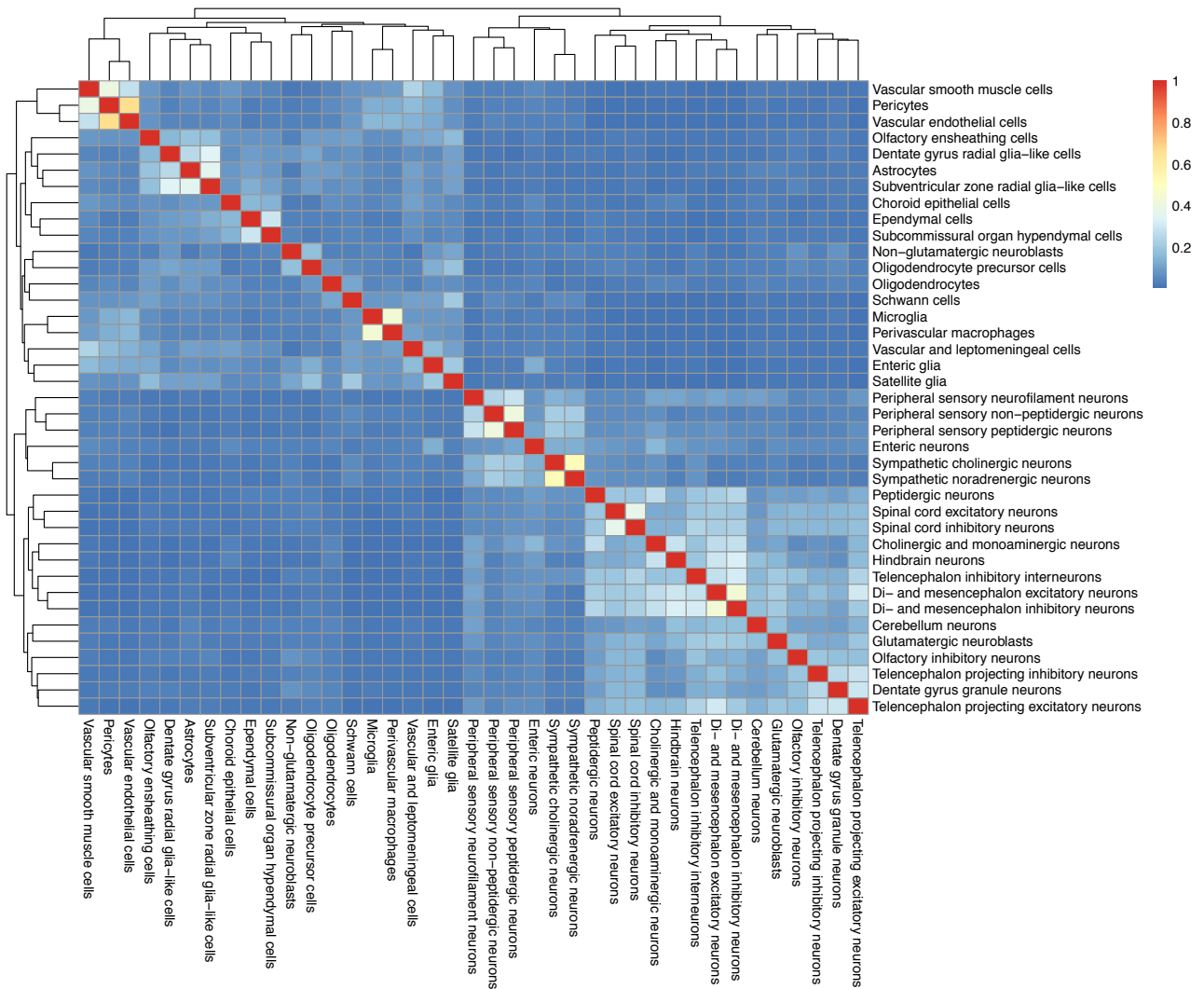
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**Figure S22:** Quantile-quantile plot of Parkinson's disease meta-analysis. Quantile-quantile plot of the meta-analyzed p-values for Parkinson's disease. The y-axis is truncated for clarity. The grey zone around the red line represents the 95% confidence interval for the null distribution.



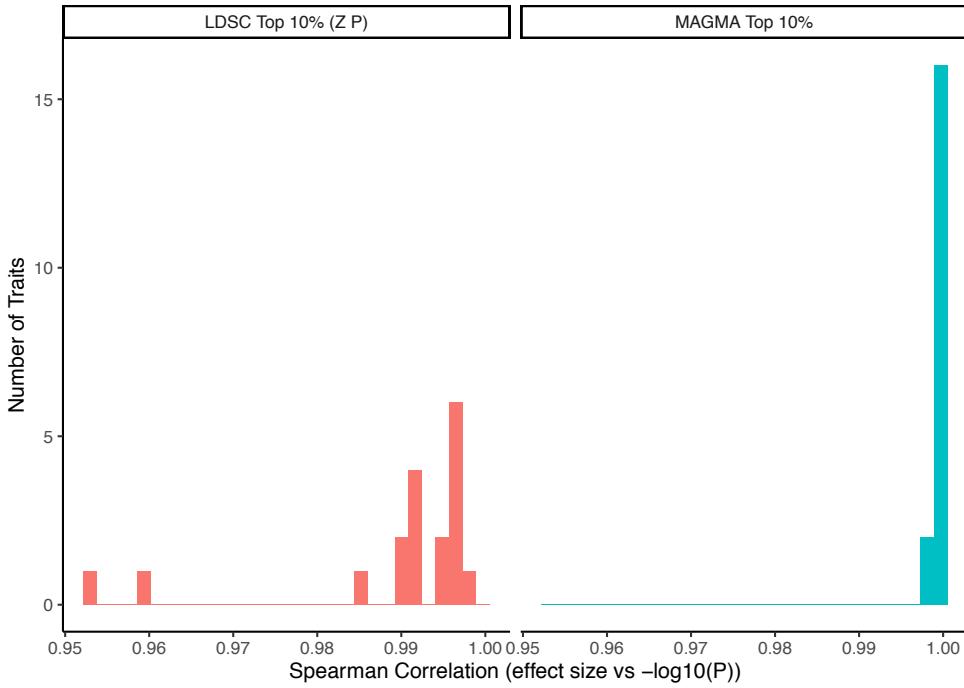
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**Figure S23:** Jaccard index for the top 10% most specific genes in each tissue in the GTEx dataset. Jaccard index were calculated between the top 10% most specific genes in each tissue from the GTEx dataset.



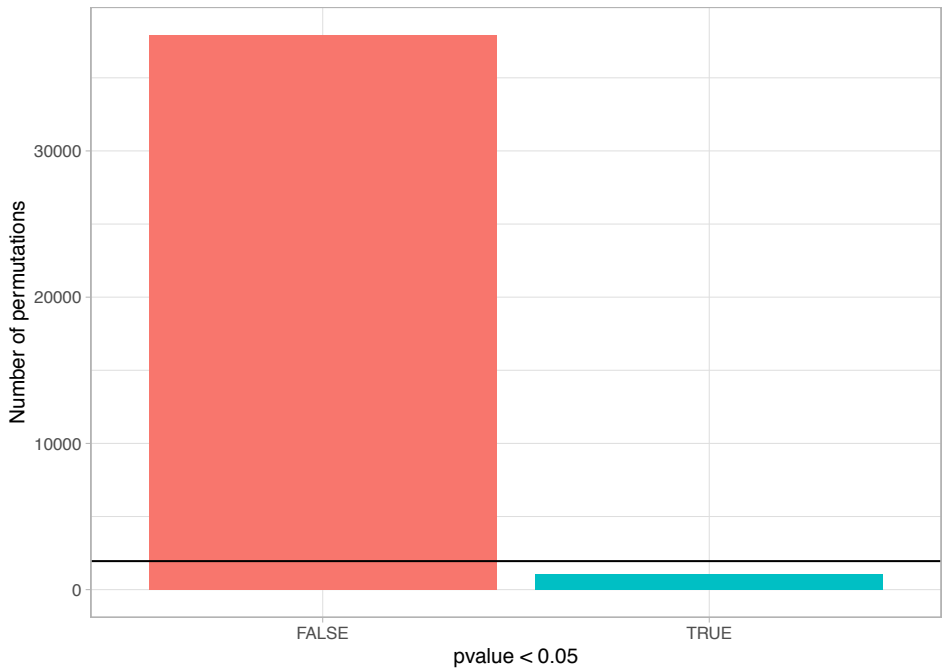
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**Figure S24:** Jaccard index for the top 10% most specific genes in each cell type in the mouse nervous system (Zeisel et al. 2018). Jaccard index were calculated between the top 10% most specific genes in each cell type from the mouse nervous system (Zeisel et al. 2018).



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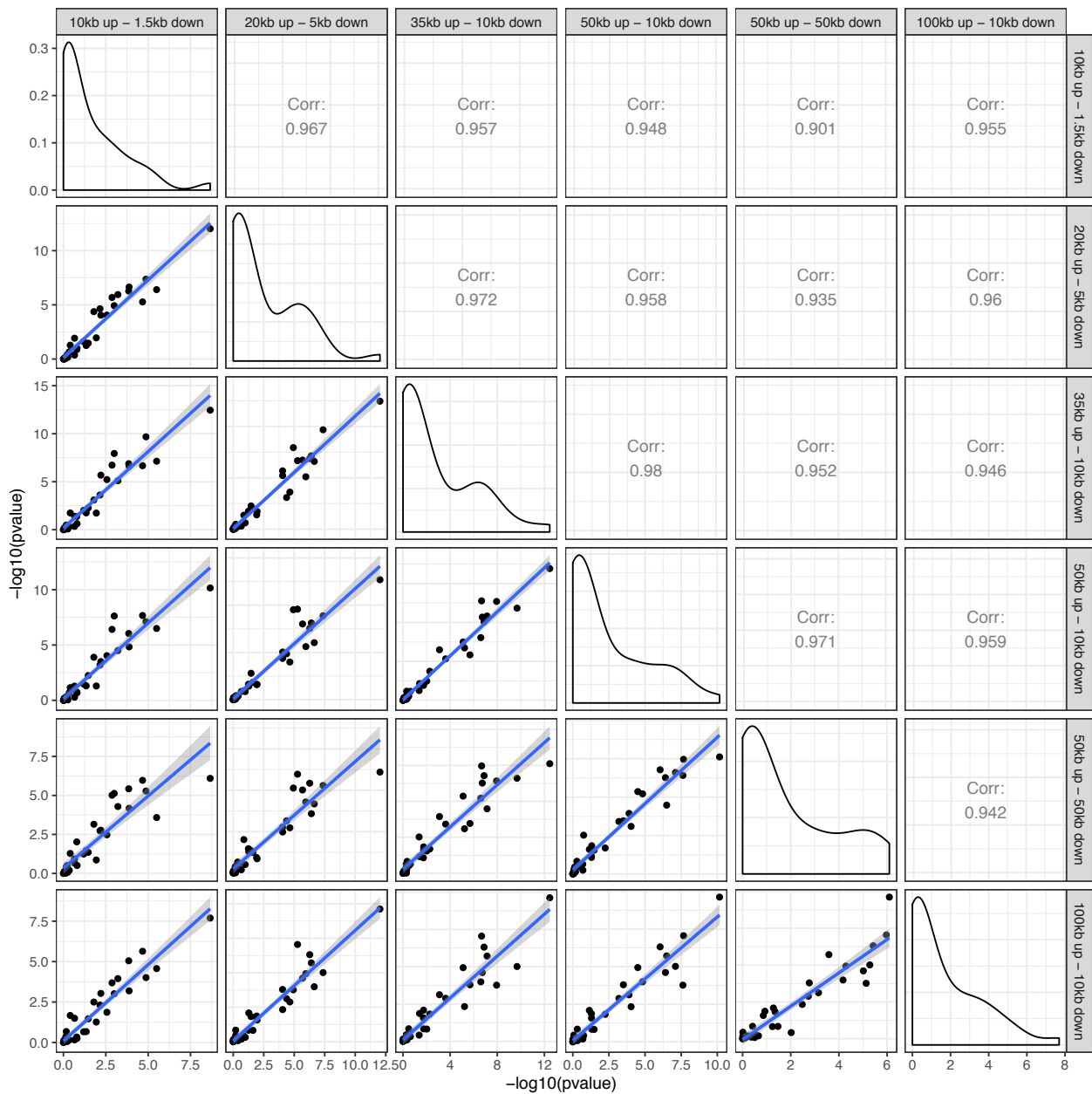
**Figure S25:** Correlation between beta coefficient and significance level. Histograms of the spearman rank correlations between effect size (beta coefficient) and significance ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) computed for each trait in the Zeisel dataset. The effect sizes are strongly correlated with the significance level of the cell type with values ranging from 0.999 to 1 using MAGMA and 0.953 to 1 with LDSC.



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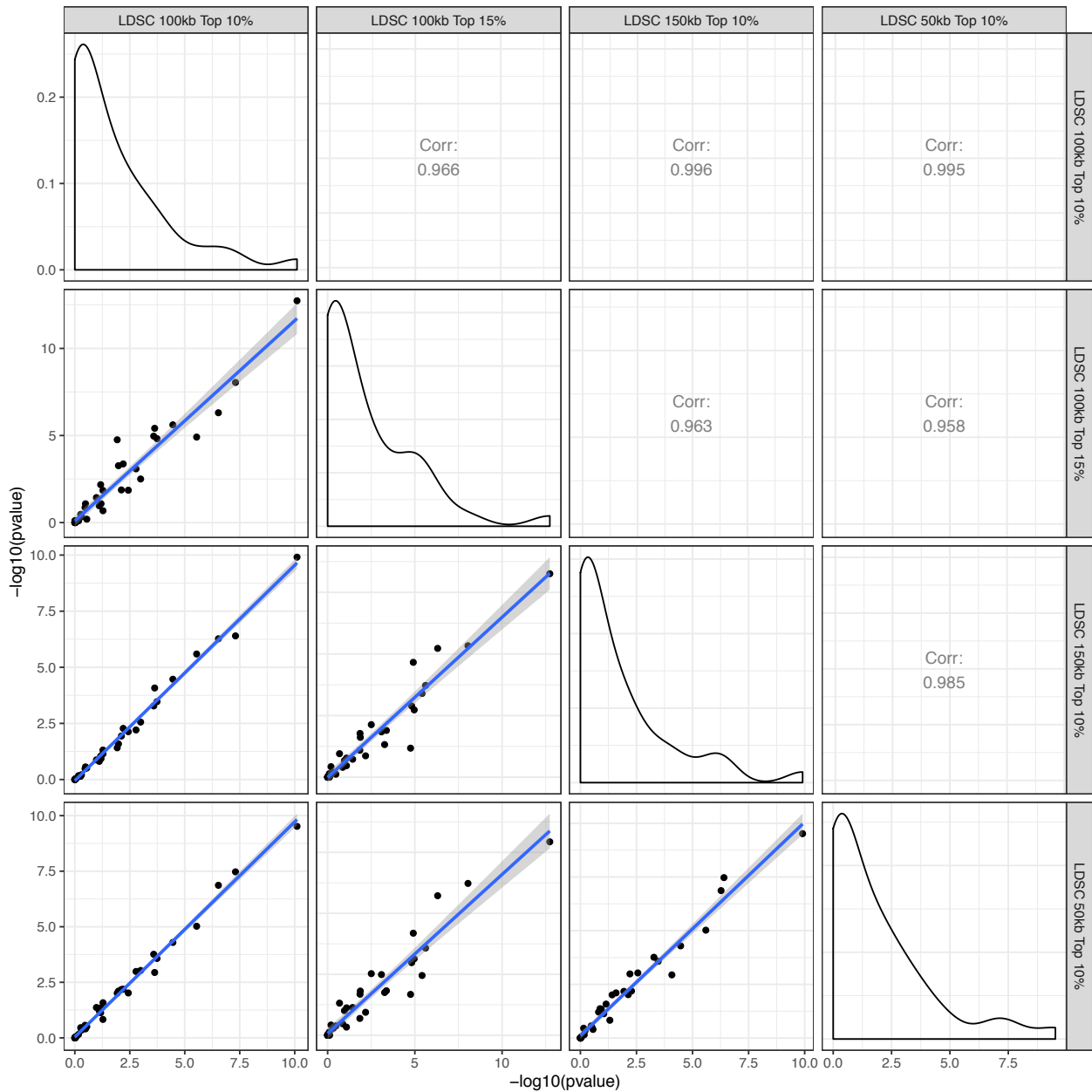
**Figure S26:** Number of MAGMA associations with  $P < 0.05$  using permuted gene-level genetic associations. Gene labels were randomly permuted a thousand times for the schizophrenia MAGMA gene-level genetic associations (39 cell types \* 1000 permuted labels=39,000 associations with permuted gene labels). The number of permutations with  $P < 0.05$  is shown in blue. The black horizontal bar shows expected number of random associations with  $P < 0.05$  ( $39,000 * 0.05 = 1950$ ).





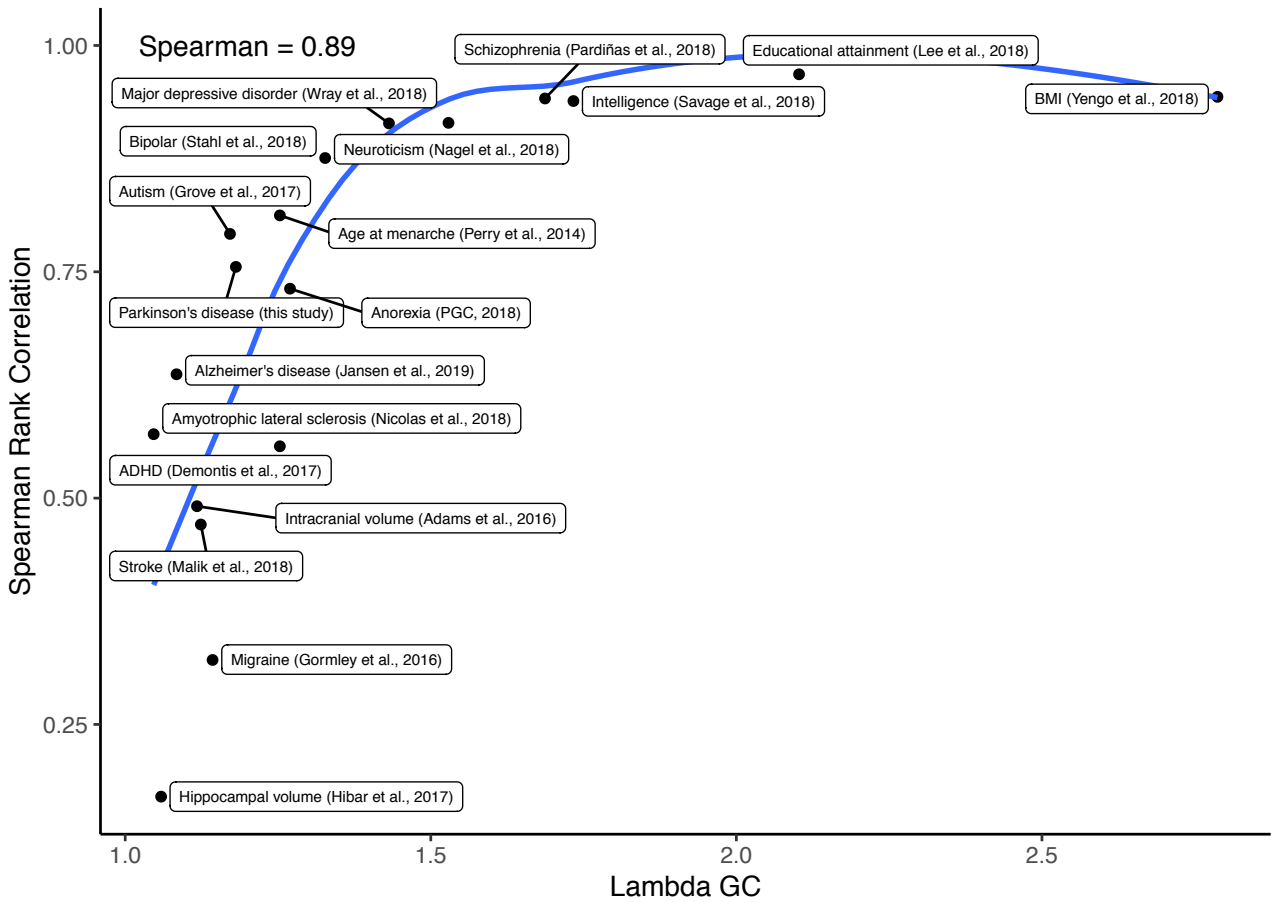
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**Figure S27:** Correlation in schizophrenia cell type association strengths with different window sizes using MAGMA. Pearson correlations of the cell type association strength ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) across different window sizes using MAGMA. The diagonal shows the distribution of the ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) for each window size.



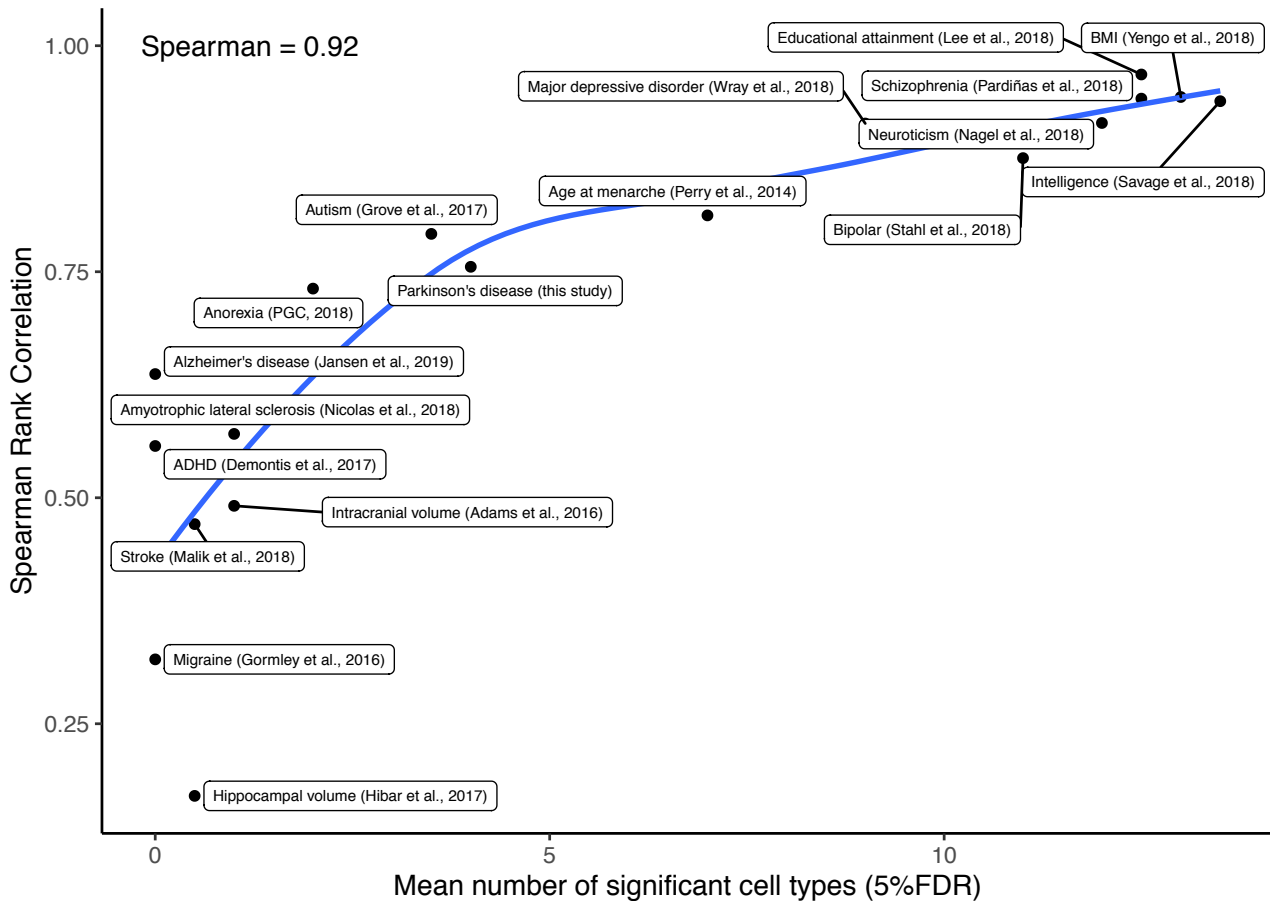
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**Figure S28:** Correlation in schizophrenia cell type association strengths with different window sizes and percentages of most specific genes using LDSC. Pearson correlations of the cell type association strength ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) across different window sizes and percentages of most specific genes using LDSC. The diagonal shows the distribution of the ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) for the cell type associations using different parameters.



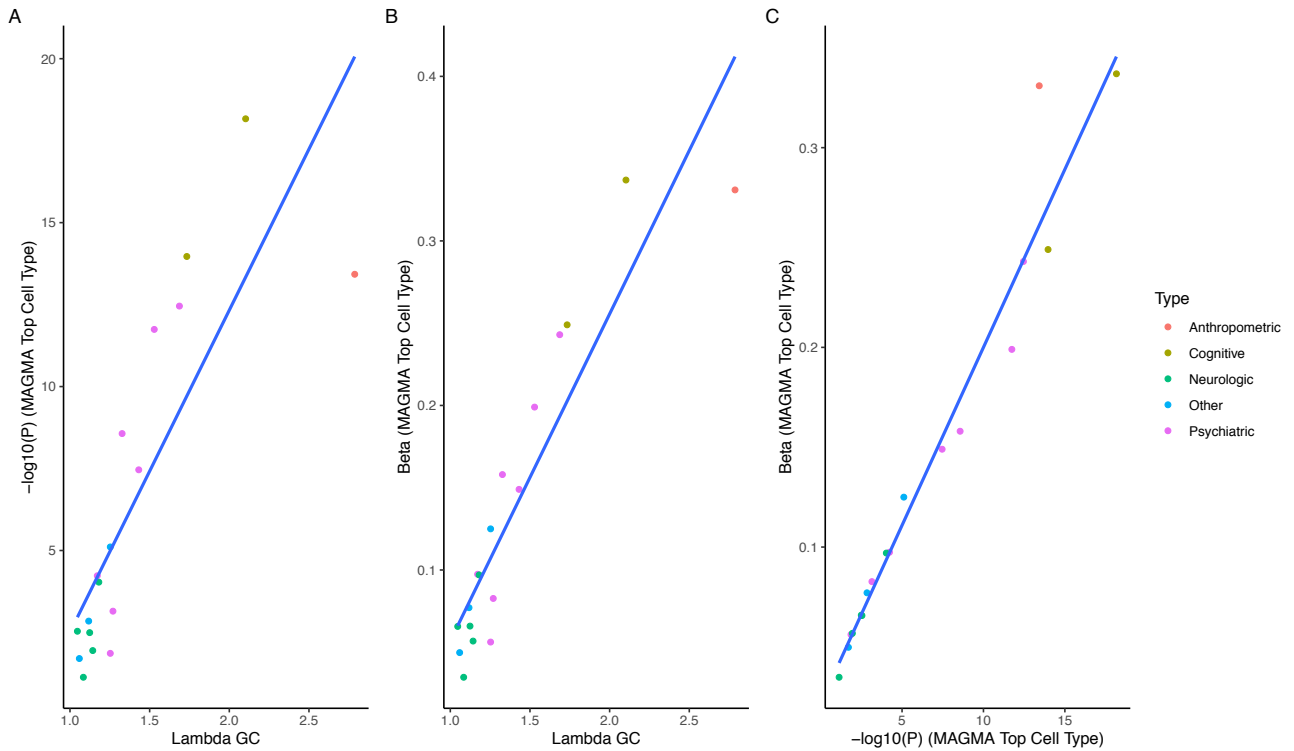
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**Figure S29:** Correlation between  $\lambda_{GC}$  and similarity in cell type ordering between MAGMA and LDSC. LDSC<sup>101</sup> was used to obtain  $\lambda_{GC}$  (a measure of the deviation of the GWAS statistics from the expected) for each GWAS. Spearman rank correlation was used to test for similarity in association strength ( $-\log_{10}P$ ) between MAGMA and LDSC for each GWAS among 39 cell types from the nervous system.



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**Figure S30:** Correlation between mean number of significant cell types and similarity in cell type ordering between MAGMA and LDSC. The mean number of cell types was obtained by taking the average of the number of cell types that were significantly associated with each trait (FDR<5%) using MAGMA and LDSC. Spearman rank correlation was used to test for similarity in association strength (-log<sub>10</sub>P) between MAGMA and LDSC among 39 cell types from the nervous system.



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**Figure S31:** The GWAS  $\lambda_{GC}$  is correlated with the strength of association of the top cell type in the Zeisel dataset. Scatter plot of the  $\lambda_{GC}$  (median of chi-squared test statistics divided by expected median of the chi-squared distribution) of each GWAS vs the strength of association of the top Zeisel cell type associated with the trait ( $-\log_{10}(P_{MAGMA})$ ). Spearman correlation=0.88 (**A**). Scatter plot of the  $\lambda_{GC}$  of each GWAS vs the effect size of the top Zeisel cell type associated with the trait ( $-\log_{10}(P_{MAGMA})$ ). Spearman correlation=0.9 (**B**). Scatter plot of the strength of association of the top Zeisel cell type ( $-\log_{10}(P_{MAGMA})$ ) of each GWAS vs the effect size of the top Zeisel cell type. Spearman correlation=0.996 (**C**).

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