Enhancing discovery of genetic variants for posttraumatic stress disorder through integration of quantitative phenotypes and trauma exposure information

Maihofer, A.X.; Choi, K.W.; Coleman, J.R.I.; Daskalakis, N.P.; Denckla, C.A.; Ketema, E.; ... ; Nievergelt, C.M.

Enhancing Discovery of Genetic Variants for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Through Integration of Quantitative Phenotypes and Trauma Exposure Information

Adam X. Maihofer, Karmel W. Choi, Jonathan R.I. Coleman, Nikolaos P. Daskalakis, Christy A. Denckla, Elizabeth Ketema, Rajendra A. Morey, Renato Polimanti, Andrew Ratanatharathorn, Katy Torres, Aliza P. Wingo, Clement C. Zai, Allison E. Aiello, Lynn M. Almli, Ananda B. Amstadter, Soren B. Andersen, Ole A. Andreassen, Paul A. Arbisi, Allison E. Ashley-Koch, S. Bryn Austin, Esmina Avdibegović, Anders D. Borglum, Dragan Babić, Marie Bækvad-Hansen, Dewleen G. Baker, Jean C. Beckham, Laura J. Bierut, Jonathan I. Bisson, Marco P. Boks, Elizabeth A. Bolger, Bekh Bradley, Meghan Brashear, Gerome Breen, Richard A. Bryant, Angela C. Bustamante, Jonas Bybjerg-Grauholm, Joseph R. Calabrese, José M. Caldas-de-Almeida, Chia-Yen Chen, Anders M. Dale, Shareefa Dalvie, Jürgen Deckert, Douglas L. Delahanty, Michelle F. Dennis, Seth G. Disner, Katharina Domschke, Laramie E. Duncan, Alma Džubur Kulenović, Christopher R. Erbes, Alexandra Evans, Lindsay A. Farrer, Norah C. Feeny, Janine D. Flory, David Forbes, Carol E. Franz, Sandro Galea, Melanie E. Garrett, Aarti Gautam, Bizu Gelaye, Joel Gelernter, Elbert Geuze, Charles F. Gillespie, Aferdita Goçi, Scott D. Gordon, Guia Guffanti, Rasha Hammamieh, Michael A. Hauser, Andrew C. Heath, Sian M.J. Hemmings, David Michael Hougaard, Miro Jakovljević, Marti Jett, Eric Otto Johnson, Ian Jones, Tanja Jovanovic, Xue-Jun Qin, Karen-Inge Karstoft, Milissa L. Kaufman, Ronald C. Kessler, Alaptagin Khan, Nathan A. Kimbrel, Anthony P. King, Nastassja Koen, Henry R. Kranzler, William S. Kremen, Bruce R. Lawford, Lauren A.M. Lebois, Catrin Lewis, Israel Liberzon, Sarah D. Linnstaedt, Mark W. Logue, Adriana Lori, Božo Lugonja, Jurjen J. Luykx, Michael J. Lyons, Jessica L. Maples-Keller, Charles Marmar, Nicholas G. Martin, Douglas Maurer, Matig R. Mavissakalian, Alexander McFarlane, Regina E. McGlinchey, Katie A. McLaughlin, Samuel A. McLean, Divya Mehta, Rebecca Mellor, Vasiliki Michopoulos, William Milberg, Mark W. Miller, Charles Phillip Morris, Ole Mors, Preben B. Mortensen, Elliot C. Nelson, Merete Nordentoft, Sonya B. Norman, Meaghan O'Donnell, Holly K. Orcutt, Matthew S. Panizzon, Edward S. Peters, Alan L. Peterson, Matthew Peverill, Robert H. Pietrzak, Melissa A. Polusny, John P. Rice, Victoria B. Risbrough, Andrea L. Roberts, Alex O. Rothbaum, Barbara O. Rothbaum, Peter Roy-Byrne, Kenneth J. Ruggiero, Ariane Rung, Bart P.F. Rutten, Nancy L. Saccone, Sixto E. Sanchez, Dick Schijven, Soraya Seedat, Antonia V. Seligowski, Julia S. Seng, Christina M. Sheerin, Derrick Silove, Alicia K. Smith, Jordan W. Smoller, Scott R. Sponheim, Dan J. Stein, Jennifer S. Stevens, Martin H. Teicher, Wesley K. Thompson, Edward Trapido, Monica Uddin, Robert J. Ursano, Leigh Luella van den Heuvel, Miranda Van Hooff, Eric Vermetten, Christiaan H. Vinkers, Joanne Voisey, Yunpeng Wang, Zhewu Wang, Thomas Werge, Michelle A. Williams, Douglas E. Williamson, Sherry Winternitz, Christiane Wolf, Erika J. Wolf, Rachel Yehuda, Keith A. Young, Ross McD. Young, Hongyu Zhao, Lori A. Zoellner, Magali Haas, Heather Lasseter, Allison C. Provost, Rany M. Salem, Jonathan Sebat, Richard A. Shaffer, Tianying Wu, Stephan Ripke, Mark J. Daly, Kerry J. Ressler, Karestan C. Koenen, Murray B. Stein, and Caroline M. Nievergelt

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is heritable and a potential consequence of exposure to traumatic stress. Evidence suggests that a quantitative approach to PTSD phenotype measurement and incorporation of lifetime trauma exposure (LTE) information could enhance the discovery power of PTSD genome-wide association studies (GWASs).

METHODS: A GWAS on PTSD symptoms was performed in 51 cohorts followed by a fixed-effects meta-analysis (N = 182,199 European ancestry participants). A GWAS of LTE burden was performed in the UK Biobank cohort (N = 132,988). Genetic correlations were evaluated with linkage disequilibrium score regression. Multivariate analysis was performed using Multi-Trait Analysis of GWAS. Functional mapping and annotation of leading loci was performed with FUMA. Replication was evaluated using the Million Veteran Program GWAS of PTSD total symptoms.

RESULTS: GWASs of PTSD symptoms and LTE burden identified 5 and 6 independent genome-wide significant loci, respectively. There was a 72% genetic correlation between PTSD and LTE. PTSD and LTE showed largely similar patterns of genetic correlation with other traits, albeit with some distinctions. Adjusting PTSD for LTE reduced PTSD heritability by 31%. Multivariate analysis of PTSD and LTE increased the effective sample size of the PTSD GWAS by 20% and identified 4 additional loci. Four of these 9 PTSD loci were independently replicated in the Million Veteran Program.

CONCLUSIONS: Through using a quantitative trait measure of PTSD, we identified novel risk loci not previously identified using prior case-control analyses. PTSD and LTE have a high genetic overlap that can be leveraged to increase discovery power through multivariate methods.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biopsych.2021.09.020

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) may develop after exposure to traumatic life events. PTSD can severely impact the mental and physical health of affected individuals and impair their interpersonal relationships (1). While the estimated community prevalence of PTSD in the United States is 5% to 10% (2), the rate of PTSD differs based on the nature of trauma exposure (3) and other environmental (4) and genetic (5–7) factors. Identifying the biological mechanisms associated with the etiology of PTSD will facilitate the discovery of biomarkers for screening and diagnostic purposes (7) and the development of new treatments.

Genome-wide association studies (GWASs) facilitate biological understanding of PTSD (8,9), but are well known to be limited by statistical power to identify risk variation (10). Quantitative measures of PTSD enhance discovery power over binary trait definitions (9,11). Appropriately accounting for trauma exposure hypothetically enhances power, as individuals will not develop the disorder unless they are exposed to trauma, regardless of high genetic vulnerability for PTSD (12,13). Moreover, the notion that genetic variants can predispose to trauma exposure is only starting to be explored (14). As trauma exposure is a prerequisite for the development and manifestation of PTSD, investigating the genetics of trauma exposure will hypothetically lead to a clearer picture of PTSD genetics.

The Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (PGC)–PTSD is a global collaborative effort to study the genetic basis of PTSD through meta-analysis of diverse cohorts (13). Subsequent to a case-control GWAS (8), our collaborators have provided quantitative measures of PTSD and lifetime trauma exposure (LTE). To obtain genomic insights from the quantitative PTSD phenotyping, we performed a GWAS of PTSD symptoms in 182,199 participants from the PGC-PTSD Freeze 2 dataset. To determine if accounting for LTE would provide the

hypothesized increase in discovery power, we performed a GWAS of PTSD with covariate adjustment for LTE, showing that it lowers PTSD signal. We investigated the possibility that multicollinearity arising from high genetic correlation (r_g) of PTSD and LTE was responsible for this result. To perform this investigation, we performed a GWAS of LTE in the most powered and unbiased (15) subsample of the data, 132,988 participants from the UK Biobank (UKBB) (16), then evaluated the r_g of PTSD and LTE. To explore the r_g further, we contrasted the r_gs that PTSD and LTE have with other traits. We showed that the high r_g of PTSD and LTE can be leveraged to enhance the power of PTSD GWASs using multivariate methods. We replicated PTSD GWAS findings in the Million Veteran Program (MVP) GWAS of total PTSD symptoms (MVP$_{TOT}$). We contextualized genomic findings through functional annotation, tissue expression analyses, and phenome-wide association study (PheWAS).

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Study Population and Phenotyping

Participants were drawn from a collection of 51 cohorts within the PGC-PTSD Freeze 2 dataset, as previously described in Nievergelt et al. (8). All participants included in the present study were of genetically estimated European ancestry. PTSD symptoms and LTE were measured within each cohort using structured clinical interviews, self-reported inventories, or clinical evaluation. A summary of the assessment and scoring methods for the various studies is presented in Table S1 in Supplement 2, and a complete description is available in Nievergelt et al. (8). All participants provided written informed consent, and studies were approved by the relevant

institutional review boards and the University of California San Diego Human Research Protection Program.

GWAS Quality Control

Genotyping, quality control (QC), and imputation methods for the included studies have been described in detail (8). In brief, participating cohorts provided phenotype and genotype data or GWAS summary statistics to the PGC-PTSD for quality control and analysis. For studies in which the PGC-PTSD analyst had direct access to genotype data, RICOPILI (17) was used to perform QC and imputation. QC included standard filters for single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) call rates (exclusion of SNPs with call rate <98% or a missing difference >0.02 between cases and controls), call rate for participant genotypes (samples with <98% call rate excluded), Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium ($p < 1 \times 10^{-6}$ in controls), and heterozygosity (within ± 0.2). Datasets were phased using SHAPEIT (18) and imputed using IMPUTE2 (19) with the 1000 Genomes Phase 3 reference panel data (20). For the UKBB, QC and imputation were carried out centrally by UKBB investigators as previous described (16) and GWAS was carried out by the PGC-PTSD analyst. For cohorts with data-sharing restrictions, analyses were performed using similar protocols by the study team that had individual-level data access, and GWAS summary statistics were provided to the PGC-PTSD.

Genome-wide Association Study

Only unrelated ($\pi < 0.2$) participants were retained for analysis. Principal components (PCs) were calculated within each cohort using EIGENSOFT v6.3.4 (21). The PTSD GWAS was performed within cohorts using PLINK 2.0 alpha with the –glm option, with the exception of UKBB and VETSA (Vietnam Era Twin Study of Aging) data, which were analyzed using BOLT-LMM v2.3.4 (22). Where available, PTSD symptom scores were analyzed using linear regression (n = 36 cohorts); PTSD case-control status was used if symptom scores were not available, using logistic regression (n = 15 cohorts). In both cases, 5 PCs were included as covariates to account for population stratification and genotyping artifacts. The UKBB PTSD GWAS included an additional PC as well as batch and assessment center covariates. Studies providing summary data used similar analytic strategies, as previously described (8). For each GWAS, SNPs with minor allele frequency <1% or imputation information score <0.6 were excluded. To perform a GWAS of PTSD conditioned on LTE, the GWAS was performed with LTE included as an additional covariate as either a count of LTEs or a binary variable, depending on data availability. The GWAS of the LTE count phenotype in the UKBB sample was performed in BOLT-LMM using 6 PCs, batch, and assessment center as covariates.

PTSD Meta-analysis

Sample size–weighted fixed-effects meta-analysis was performed using METAL (23). To account for different analytic methods and measure scales, effect estimates were converted into z scores by dividing effect sizes by standard errors (24). Case-control and quantitative GWAS subsets were evaluated for r_g to determine if they could be meta-analyzed. To account for differences in ascertainment, heritability, and power

between case-control and quantitative subsets, modified sample size weights were derived as previously described (25), assuming 10% population prevalence of PTSD, the estimates of SNP-based heritability (h^2_{SNP}), r_g, and sample PTSD prevalence. Meta-analysis was conducted on the reweighted z scores. Only SNPs available in >90% of all samples ($N \geq 163,979$) were included in analyses. Regional annotation plots of genome-wide significant loci were produced using Locus-Zoom (26).

Heritability and Genetic Correlation Estimation With Linkage Disequilibrium Score Regression

Trait h^2_{SNP} and r_g were estimated from GWAS summary statistics using linkage disequilibrium score regression (27). The linkage disequilibrium score intercept was used to test for inflation of test statistics owing to residual population stratification or other artifacts, and the attenuation factor {[intercept − 1]/[mean (χ^2) − 1]} was used to determine the proportion of inflation of test statistics owing to residual population stratification (Table S2 in Supplement 2). Heritabilities were contrasted using a z test where standard errors were estimated using the block-jackknife approach. To estimate r_g with other disorders, the LD Hub web interface was used (28). To identify genetic differences between PTSD and LTE, the r_gs observed for PTSD and LTE were contrasted using z tests, where significance level was determined using Bonferroni correction for the 772 traits tested ($p < 6.47 \times 10^{-5}$).

FUMA

FUMA v1.3.6a (29) was used with the default settings (Supplement 1) to visualize and annotate GWAS results. The FUMA pipeline integrates the MAGMA (30) tool to perform gene-based, gene-pathway, and tissue-enrichment analyses, with significance based on Bonferroni correction. 1000 Genomes Europeans were used as reference genotypes. Tissue-enrichment analysis included Genotype-Tissue Expression (GTEx) v8 expression data (31).

Cis-Quantitative Trait Locus Mapping

The effects of GWAS loci on transcriptomic regulation of surrounding genes (locus within ± 1 Mb of the gene transcription starting site) were tested for 49 tissues in GTEx v8 with genome-wide false discovery rate correction applied. Using the same criteria, GTEx v8 data were also used to investigate the effects of GWAS loci on the regulation of alternative splicing isoforms. A detailed description regarding GTEx v8 quantitative trait locus (QTL) mapping data by the GTEx Consortium is available (32). Briefly, *cis*-expression QTL (eQTL) and *cis*-splicing QTL mapping was performed using FastQTL (33) including the top 5 genotyping PCs, probabilistic estimation of expression residuals factors (34), sequencing platform, sequencing protocol, and sex as covariates.

Replication Analysis

Summary data from MVP$_{TOT}$ (dbGaP study accession phs001672.v4.p1) was used to replicate GWAS results. MVP$_{TOT}$ included 186,689 European ancestry participants who completed the PTSD Checklist–Civilian Version and passed QC. Details of MVP$_{TOT}$ have been published (35). SNPs were

deemed replicated in MVP_{TOT} if they had matching effect direction and were nominally significant after Bonferroni correction for the 9 SNPs tested ($p < .006$).

Multi-Trait Analysis of GWAS

Multi-Trait Analysis of GWAS (MTAG) [36] performs multivariate analysis of genetically correlated traits to increase discovery power for each input trait, providing trait-specific effect estimates and p values. MTAG was used to perform multivariate analysis with PTSD and LTE GWASs. The maxFDR statistic was used to test for MTAG model assumptions (Supplement 1).

Phenome-wide Association Study

To understand further how functional changes of significant loci are associated with human traits and diseases, we conducted a PheWAS of leading SNPs from PTSD and LTE loci using data from the GWAS Atlas (available at https://atlas.ctglab.nl/) [37]. Bonferroni correction was applied to account for the 4756 phenotypes available that were tested ($p < 1.05 \times 10^{-5}$).

RESULTS

The PTSD GWAS meta-analysis included 182,199 participants of European ancestry from 51 cohorts (Table S1 in Supplement 2). The largest cohort was the UKBB ($N = 134,586$ participants). Across the cohorts, PTSD was assessed using a variety of different methods ($n = 19$ methods); the most common methods were versions of the Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale ($n = 18$ studies) and PTSD Checklist ($n = 14$ studies). The majority of participants (91%, $n = 165,825$, 36 studies) were analyzed based on PTSD symptom scores; the remaining participants (9%, $n = 16,374$, 15 studies) did not have symptom scores available and were analyzed based on PTSD case-control status.

PGC-PTSD GWAS Meta-analysis

The h^2_{SNP} of meta-analysis of cohorts analyzed by symptom scores was 0.0547 (SE = 0.0042, $p = 8.9 \times 10^{-39}$) (Table S2 in Supplement 2). The h^2_{SNP} was similar, albeit not significant, in the smaller meta-analysis of case-control cohorts (observed scale $h^2_{SNP} = 0.0580$, SE = 0.0259, $p = .17$). The r_g between the symptom score and case-control analyses was very high ($r_g = 0.9646$, SE = 0.36, $p = .0074$). Thus, symptom score and case-control GWASs were meta-analyzed. We identified 5 genome-wide significant loci (Table 1, Figure 1A). Leading variants in significant loci mapped to an intergenic locus on chromosome 1, the intronic region of the *GABBR1* gene on chromosome 6, the intronic regions of *MPP6* and *DFNA5* on chromosome 7, an intron of *FOXP2* on chromosome 7, and the intronic region of *FAM120A* on chromosome 9. Gene-based analysis identified 6 significant genes (*DCAF5, EXD2, FAM120A, FOXP2, GALNT16,* and *PHF2*) (Table S3 in Supplement 2).

PGC-PTSD GWAS Covariate Adjustment for LTE

We repeated the GWAS of PTSD with covariate adjustment for LTE. h^2_{SNP} was 0.0389 (SE = 0.00340, $p = 2.6 \times 10^{-30}$), 31% lower than the PTSD GWAS without LTE covariate adjustment ($p = 8.6 \times 10^{-20}$). There was a genome-wide significant locus in an uncharacterized region, *CTC-340A15.2*, on chromosome 5 that was not identified in the PTSD GWAS (Table S4 in Supplement 2). Effects changed slightly for the loci previously identified in the unadjusted PTSD GWAS (Table S4 in Supplement 2). Gene-based analysis identified no significant genes.

UKBB LTE GWAS

We performed GWAS of LTE count in the UKBB subset of the PGC-PTSD GWAS data (132,988 UKBB participants). Of participants, 30.9% reported 1 LTE, 14.8% reported 2 LTEs, 6.3% reported 3 LTEs, and 3.3% reported 4 or more LTEs (Table S5 in Supplement 2). The h^2_{SNP} of LTE count was 0.0734 (SE = 0.005, $p = 8.7 \times 10^{-49}$). Six loci showed genome-wide significance (Figure 1B, Table 2). Leading variants in significant loci mapped to an intron of *PRUNE* on chromosome 1, the intron of noncoding RNA AC068490.2 on chromosome 2, the intron of *SGCD* on chromosome 5, an intron of *FOXP2* on chromosome 7 (also identified in the PGC-PTSD GWAS), an intergenic region in chromosome 14 near *MDGA*, and

Table 1. Genome-wide Significant Loci From PTSD GWASs and MTAGs With Replication in MVP_{TOT} GWAS

Analysis	rsID	Chr	Position[a]	A1	A2	PGC-PTSD GWAS			PGC-PTSD MTAG		MVP_{TOT}		
						A1 Freq	z Score	p Value	z	p Value	A1 freq	z Score	p Value[b]
Identified in GWAS	rs72657988	1	35688541	T	G	0.08	6.44	1.2×10^{-10}	5.34	9.4×10^{-8}	0.07	2.18	.029
	rs146918648	6	28548674	A	G	0.04	6.04	1.5×10^{-9}	6.50	8.0×10^{-11}	0.04	2.00	.045
	rs2721816[c]	7	24699329	A	G	0.82	−5.27	1.4×10^{-7}	−5.80	6.5×10^{-9}	0.82	−1.45	.15
	rs10266297	7	114143407	T	C	0.59	5.38	7.4×10^{-8}	6.72	1.8×10^{-11}	0.59	4.97	6.7×10^{-7}
	rs10821140	9	96253169	A	C	0.35	−5.71	1.2×10^{-8}	−6.02	1.8×10^{-9}	0.34	−3.89	1.0×10^{-4}
Identified in MTAG	rs4557006	2	22443840	A	G	0.45	4.26	2.0×10^{-5}	5.83	5.7×10^{-9}	0.45	5.53	3.2×10^{-8}
	rs1504930	5	155852066	T	C	0.62	−4.26	2.0×10^{-5}	−5.58	2.5×10^{-8}	0.62	−4.20	2.7×10^{-5}
	rs8059002	16	25417390	T	G	0.86	−4.43	9.3×10^{-6}	−5.46	4.8×10^{-8}	0.85	−1.50	.13
	rs7264419	20	47701309	A	G	0.75	−5.06	4.1×10^{-7}	−5.85	5.0×10^{-9}	0.76	0.55	.58

A1, allele 1 (coded); Freq, frequency; A2, allele 2; Chr, chromosome; GWAS, genome-wide association study; MTAG, Multi-Trait Analysis of GWAS; MVP, Million Veteran Program; MVP_{TOT}, MVP total PTSD symptoms; PGC-PTSD, Psychiatric Genomics Consortium–posttraumatic stress disorder; rsID, reference SNP ID number.

[a]Base pair position on chromosome (hg19/GR37 Human Genome Build).

[b]Significant in MVP if $p < .006$ (Bonferroni-corrected for 9 loci).

[c]Linkage disequilibrium proxy for rs2721817, the leading single nucleotide polymorphism in this locus.
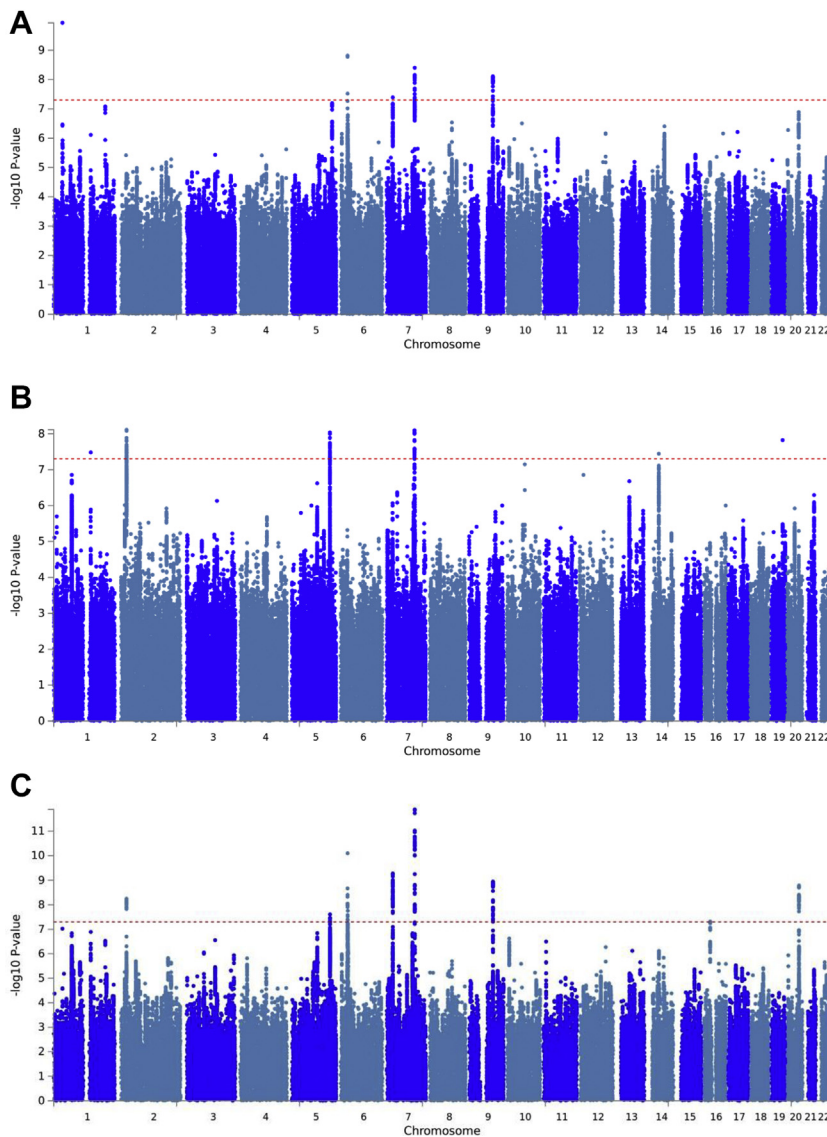
Figure 1. Manhattan plots of genome-wide association study (GWAS) associations. The x-axis is the position on the genome, ordered by chromosome and base-pair position. The y-axis is the $-\log_{10} p$ value of association. Each dot represents the association between a given single nucleotide polymorphism and the trait. Colors alternate between chromosomes, with odd chromosomes colored blue and even chromosomes colored teal. **(A)** Results of posttraumatic stress disorder GWASs. **(B)** Results of lifetime trauma exposure GWASs. **(C)** Posttraumatic stress disorder–specific results of MTAG (Multi-Trait Analysis of GWAS) analysis of posttraumatic stress disorder and lifetime trauma exposure.

upstream of *CCDC8* on chromosome 19. Gene-based analysis identified *SGCD* (chromosome 5: 155,297,354–156,194,799 base pairs, 2965 SNPs, 99 parameters, $z = 5.53$, $p = 1.5 \times 10^{-8}$) and *C20orf112* (chromosome 20:31,030,862–31,172,876 base pairs, 296 SNPs, 21 parameters, $z = 4.73$, $p = 1.13 \times 10^{-6}$). GWAS of LTE count weighted by trauma-specific PTSD

Table 2. Genome-wide Significant Loci From GWASs of LTE

rsID	Chr	Position[a]	A1	A2	A1 Frequency	z Score	p Value
rs6661135	1	150999414	C	T	0.93	−5.52	3.3×10^{-8}
rs4665501	2	22546151	G	T	0.44	−5.77	7.7×10^{-9}
rs4704792	5	155757946	A	T	0.26	5.75	9.2×10^{-9}
rs1476535	7	114071035	C	T	0.44	−5.77	8.0×10^{-9}
rs2933196	14	47285917	G	A	0.59	−5.51	3.6×10^{-8}
rs770444611	19	46917381	INS[b]	T	0.59	5.66	1.5×10^{-8}

A1, allele 1 (coded); A2, allele 2; Chr, chromosome; GWAS, genome-wide association study; LTE, lifetime trauma exposure; rsID, reference SNP ID number.
[a]Base pair position on chromosome (hg19/GR37 Human Genome Build).
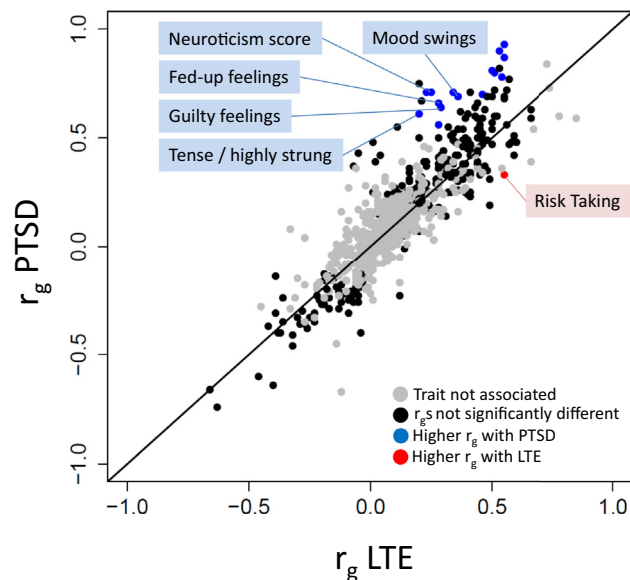[b]Insertion of TGAGGCCAGGAGTTC.

Figure 2. Comparison of the genetic correlations of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and lifetime trauma exposure (LTE) with other traits. The x-axis is the genetic correlation between LTE and a given trait from the LD Hub. The y-axis is the genetic correlation between PTSD and a given trait. Each dot depicts a given trait. Colored (black, red, or blue) dots indicate traits with significant genetic correlation to both PTSD and LTE after Bonferroni adjustment. Noncolored (gray) dots indicate traits where genetic correlation is not significant after Bonferroni adjustment. Blue dots indicate traits with significantly higher genetic correlation with PTSD than with LTE. Red dots indicate traits with significantly higher correlation with LTE than with PTSD. The top 5 traits with a significantly higher correlation to PTSD than LTE and top trait with significantly higher correlation to LTE than PTSD have been labeled.

prevalences yielded highly similar results, being highly genetically correlated to the unweighted count ($r_g = 1$, SE = 0.0016, $p < 1.13 \times 10^{-100}$).

Genetic Overlap Between LTE and PTSD

The r_g between PTSD and LTE was high ($r_g = 0.7239$, $p < 1 \times 10^{-100}$). To explore this genetic overlap, we contrasted patterns of r_g of PTSD and LTE to other traits. Testing 772 human traits and diseases, we observed 269 and 217 r_gs that survived Bonferroni multiple testing correction ($p < 6.47 \times 10^{-5}$) for PTSD and LTE, respectively (Table S6 in Supplement 2). There was complete directional concordance between PTSD and LTE among the 187 r_gs that were significant in both analyses. For several traits, while the effect direction was concordant, the magnitude of correlation with PTSD was significantly different from the correlation with LTE ($p < 6.47 \times 10^{-5}$) (Figure 2). Fifteen traits showed significantly higher genetic correlation with PTSD than with LTE (e.g., neuroticism score $p = 2.74 \times 10^{-24}$; fed-up feelings $p = 1.83 \times 10^{-15}$; mood swings $p = 9.92 \times 10^{-15}$; loneliness $p = 8.07 \times 10^{-8}$; depressive symptoms $p = 1.94 \times 10^{-7}$; irritability $p = 2.27 \times 10^{-7}$). Conversely, risk taking showed a significantly higher genetic correlation with LTE ($r_g = 0.55$, $p = 2.71 \times 10^{-55}$) than with PTSD ($r_g = 0.33$, $p = 3.9 \times 10^{-20}$; $p = 8.09 \times 10^{-6}$).

Multivariate Analysis of PTSD and Trauma Exposure

MTAG analysis that combined PTSD GWAS meta-analysis and UKBB LTE GWAS reported an effective sample size increase of PTSD GWAS from 182,199 to 217,491. There were 8 genome-wide significant loci for the MTAG PTSD analysis, including 4 loci not identified in the PTSD GWAS meta-analysis (Table 1, Figure 1C). Leading variants from additional loci mapped to an intergenic region in chromosome 2, the intron of *SGCD* on chromosome 5, an intergenic region on chromosome 16 near *ZKSCAN2* and *AQP8*, and the intron of *STAU1* on chromosome 20. In gene-based analysis, there were 8 significant genes, including 5 genes not identified from the original GWAS gene-based analysis (*CSE1L, DFNA5, FOXP1, SGCD, TRIM26*) (Table S3 in Supplement 2).

Cross-Replication in MVP_TOT

Of the 9 loci identified across the PTSD GWASs (5 from the PGC GWAS and 4 from the MTAG), 4 replicated significantly in MVP_TOT ($p < .006$) (Table 1, Figures S2–S10 in Supplement 1). Of the 11 genes identified in gene-based analyses (6 in the GWAS and 5 in the MTAG), 7 replicated at least at a nominally significant level in MVP_TOT (Table S3 in Supplement 2). Additionally, of 15 loci identified in MVP_TOT GWASs, 9 nominally replicated in PGC-PTSD (Table S7 in Supplement 2). Overall, r_g between PGC-PTSD and MVP_TOT was high ($r_g = 0.8359$, SE = 0.0376, $p = 2.5 \times 10^{-109}$).

Functional Consequences of Risk Loci

We examined the functional impact of the 9 GWAS variants associated with PTSD (5 from the GWAS and 4 from the MTAG) (Table 1). We observed that 7 loci were related to multiple tissue-specific eQTLs (Table S8 in Supplement 2), where 11% of false discovery rate–significant eQTLs were in brain regions. A similar trend was present for splicing QTLs (Table S9 in Supplement 2), where only 7% of gene-tissue combinations were related to brain regions. Further details of the eQTL analysis are provided in Supplement 1.

We found enrichment of genes involved in brain transcriptomic regulation in PTSD (Table S10 in Supplement 2). All brain regions tested were at least nominally significant, with several remaining significant after Bonferroni correction (MTAG: cortex $p = 2.9 \times 10^{-5}$, frontal cortex Brodmann area (BA) 9 $p = 3.53 \times 10^{-5}$, cerebellum $p = 1.09 \times 10^{-4}$, anterior cingulate cortex BA 24 $p = 1.29 \times 10^{-4}$, cerebellar hemisphere $p = 1.43 \times 10^{-3}$, nucleus accumbens/basal ganglia $p = 3.6 \times 10^{-4}$). There was no significant enrichment detected in any sets from the list of curated gene sets and Gene Ontology terms (Table S11 in Supplement 2).

Phenome-wide Association Study

We identified 200 phenome-wide significant associations (Table S12 in Supplement 2), with more than half of the significant associations related to two domains: psychiatry (34%) and metabolism (18%). The strongest PheWAS associations with PTSD and LTE loci included height and body mass phenotypes, educational attainment, social interaction, sexual activity, risk tolerance, and sleep phenotypes (Supplement 1). Several PTSD loci showed widespread pleiotropy across multiple psychiatric traits: rs10266297 (35 significant

associations, 40% psychiatric domain, top psychiatric result: risk taking $p = 1.27 \times 10^{-11}$), rs10821140 (37 significant associations, 38% psychiatric domain, top psychiatric result: loneliness $p = 1.11 \times 10^{-11}$), rs146918648 (44 significant associations, 48% psychiatric domain, top psychiatric result: tenseness/restlessness $p = 2.13 \times 10^{-9}$).

DISCUSSION

Our GWASs aimed to advance understanding of PTSD genetics by integrating quantitative PTSD phenotypes and LTE exposure information in 182,199 participants of European ancestry from 51 cohorts. Overall, quantitative PTSD phenotyping captured similar genetic signal to our prior case-control analysis (r_g = 0.92–1.14) (8), but with substantially higher power. However, by using LTE as a covariate, which hypothetically accounts for unexpressed genetic vulnerability among unexposed participants (12), we found a significant reduction in heritability and gene discovery. As high r_g between PTSD and LTE would be one hypothetical explanation for this result (i.e., multicollinearity), we performed a GWAS of LTE and contrasted it to GWAS results for PTSD. We found that LTE has h^2_{SNP} comparable to PTSD and high r_g compared with PTSD. We leveraged the r_g to significantly enhance PTSD discovery power using a multivariate approach (36).

One explanation for h^2_{SNP} of PTSD adjusted for LTE being lower than the unadjusted estimate is that it may have removed genetic effects on PTSD mediated by trauma exposure (12,13). Given that trauma is a prerequisite for PTSD, genetic effects on trauma exposure can have mediated (i.e., indirect) effects on PTSD. Indeed, this seems plausible, as our LTE GWAS suggested a substantial amount of h^2_{SNP} related to trauma exposure. Therefore, the estimated h^2_{SNP} of PTSD conditional on LTE would theoretically reflect only nonmediated (i.e., direct) effects and thus would be smaller.

We used r_g to quantify the genetic overlap between LTE and PTSD, finding similar magnitude to findings from twin studies (5,6). At the same time, incomplete r_g between these two phenotypes also suggested meaningful genetic differences. To investigate this, we contrasted the magnitudes of r_g that PTSD and LTE shared with other traits. For most traits, r_g with PTSD was quite similar in magnitude to r_g with LTE. However, we also found that negative affect traits, such as neuroticism and irritability, were more strongly correlated with PTSD than LTE, whereas risk-taking behavior showed higher correlation with LTE than PTSD. This suggests that some variants influence PTSD and LTE through somewhat distinct psychological and behavioral mechanisms (5).

The high r_g between PTSD and LTE facilitates the application of multivariate approaches to PTSD GWASs. Whereas the r_g between PTSD and LTE induces loss of power in the PTSD analysis when conditioned on LTE, a multivariate approach can benefit from it. Our multivariate (36) analysis resulted in a 19% increase in the effective sample size by adding LTE count data from the UKBB and identified replicable loci and patterns of tissue expression not identified in a standard PTSD GWAS.

The biological mechanisms associated with several of the protein products of identified genes have been linked to PTSD pathophysiology in animal and cell models: amygdala-mediated fear extinction [FAM120A (38)], neuronal

transcriptional regulation [FOXP2 (39)], brain excitatory/inhibitory balance [ARFGEF2, GABBR1, STAUI1 (40)], intracellular vesicular trafficking and other synaptic activities [ARFGEF2 (41), MPP6 (42), SEMA6C (43), SGCD (44)], and inflammation [HIATL1, TRIM26 (45), TRIM27 (46), ZMYM4, ZNF165 (47)]. Blood and brain transcription-wide association and differential gene expression studies of PTSD have also implicated some of these genes, including a blood-based prediction of downregulation of ARFGEF2 in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (48) and a postmortem study of human PTSD cortex indicating downregulation of CTSS expression in the dorsal anterior cingulate cortex and downregulation of OSBPL3 expression in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (49).

Interestingly, PTSD loci show widespread pleiotropic associations in PheWAS (50–52). Some loci point to factors associated with existing clinical presentations of PTSD (e.g., sleep), while others point to potential risk/protective factors for PTSD, such as educational attainment and cognitive functioning. Loci may affect PTSD through their direct influence on these risk/protective factors. Alternatively, the high degree of pleiotropy shown by these loci suggests that they could influence PTSD risk through a more general alteration of biological function (37), such as general predisposition to psychiatric illness (53). In particular, metabolic phenotypes such as height and body mass also appeared to be enriched in our PheWAS. This could be the influence of these loci on previously implicated inflammatory mechanisms for PTSD (8) or simply an artifact of their overrepresentation in the GWAS Atlas. Nevertheless, the broad variety of behavioral and clinical domains associated with these loci suggest complex etiologic heterogeneity of PTSD that could relate to subtypes (54).

Further characterization of significant loci via eQTL analyses identified expression across a variety of tissue types. Given the high degree of shared eQTL architecture between tissues, the presence of some of these tissues might not be directly related to PTSD pathogenesis. Indeed, on the genome-wide level, our tissue enrichment analysis suggests that only brain tissues are relevant. The brain regions implicated are consistent with functional magnetic resonance imaging and structural magnetic resonance imaging findings of PTSD. BA 24 (as part of the ventral anterior cingulate cortex) is implicated in PTSD response to trauma-, fear-, and threat-related stimuli (55,56). BA 9 (as part of the dorsomedial prefrontal cortex) reflects response to self-referential thought, theory of mind, empathy, and moral judgments and shows greater engagement in people with PTSD and trauma-exposed individuals (55,57,58). Nucleus accumbens expression is consistent with the neuroimaging evidence of its role in the reward system, which is prominently affected with emotional numbing symptoms of PTSD (59–62).

Limitations

Stress-related disorders are phenotypically complex and heterogeneous (63), which limits discovery power and complicates translation to clinical application. The strategies proposed for understanding and addressing heterogeneity in major depressive disorder, such as harmonization of measures, additional phenotypic measures, and investigations of subtypes, could be applied to PTSD as additional avenues to enhance discovery power (64). Sex differences may also contribute a significant

source of heterogeneity (8,65–68). Our analyses were restricted to participants of European ancestry given power limitations for other ancestry groups. However, urgent scientific and ethical reasons call for extending analyses to individuals of non-European ancestry (69). The PGC-PTSD group has actively been gathering data to increase representation from diverse ancestry and developing methods to optimize analyses in admixed populations (70). As sample sizes increase, future investigations will be powered to investigate ancestry and sex-specific genetic influences on PTSD and trauma exposure. In performing a GWAS of cumulative LTE, we identified several significant loci, including loci previously identified in GWASs of childhood trauma exposure (14). A full investigation of the genetic basis of LTE is clearly warranted. Future work could also examine the relationship between PTSD and specific types or numbers of trauma exposure, as they plausibly have different relationships with PTSD (6) and may therefore be more informative than our cumulative measure for LTE. Finally, trauma was assessed via participant self-report, which may vary with mood and PTSD symptoms at the time of reporting (71) and could inflate genetic associations with PTSD.

Conclusions

Novel replicable risk loci for PTSD identified by incorporating quantitative symptom data and trauma exposure information into GWASs offer us new insights into the genetic architecture of PTSD. Beyond the nature of LTE as an environmental exposure, there is a heritable component to LTE that overlaps highly with PTSD to impart an enhanced understanding of PTSD genetics. In future investigations, the genetic architectures of PTSD and LTE could be further delineated using causal mediation analysis (72), which can provide estimates of LTE-related mediation and gene-by-environment interaction. Our results reinforce the notion that in addition to larger samples, more detailed phenotyping and sophisticated modeling are needed to account for the role of environmental exposure in developing PTSD, as these influence GWAS discovery power. Widespread pleiotropy of significant loci suggests that cross-disorder analysis with PTSD (73,74) will enhance our understanding of how these loci modify risk for PTSD and related disorders.

ARTICLE INFORMATION

From the Departments of Psychiatry (AXM, EK, KT, DGB, CEF, WSK, SBN, MSP, VBR, JS, MBS, CMN), Family Medicine and Public Health (AXM, RMS), Radiology (AMD), Neurosciences (AMD), and Cellular and Molecular Medicine (JS), University of California San Diego; Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science (WKT, MBS), University of California San Diego; Moores Cancer Center (TWu), University of California San Diego, La Jolla; Center of Excellence for Stress and Mental Health (AXM, EK, KT, DGB, WSK, VBR, MBS, CMN, SBN), Research Service (EK, KT, VBR, CMN), and Psychiatry Service (DGB), Veterans Affairs Healthcare System; Department of Epidemiology and Health Sciences (RAS), Naval Health Research Center and Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (TWu), San Diego State University School of Public Health, San Diego; Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (LED), Stanford University, Stanford, California; Departments of Epidemiology (KWC, CAD, ARa, CCZ, BG, MAW, KCK), Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBAu), and Environmental Health (ALR), Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Psychiatric and Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit (SR, MJD, KCK), Department of Psychiatry (KWC, JWS), and Analytic and Translational Genetics Unit (JWS), Massachusetts General Hospital; Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine (SBAu), Boston Children's Hospital; Channing Division of Network Medicine (SBAu), Brigham and Women's Hospital; Departments of Pediatrics (SBAu), Psychiatry (NPD, EAB, GG, MLK, AK, LAML, AVS, MHT, SW, KJRe), and Health Care Policy (RCK), Harvard Medical School; Biomedical Genetics Section (LAF, MWL, MWM, EJW) and Departments of Neurology (LAF), Ophthalmology (LAF), and Epidemiology (LAF), Boston University School of Medicine; Department of Biostatistics (LAF, MWL), Boston University School of Public Health; Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences (SG) and Dean of Students' Office (MJL), Boston University; National Center for PTSD (MWL, MWM, EJW), Translational Research Center for TBI and Stress Disorders (REM, WM), and Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (REM, WM), Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System, Boston; Department of Psychology (KAM), Harvard University; Translational Biology (C-YC), Biogen; Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research (NPD, CAD, CCZ, JWS, SR, KCK), Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard; Cohen Veterans Bioscience (MH, HL, ACP), Cambridge; Center of Excellence in Depression and Anxiety Disorders (NPD) and Developmental Biopsychiatry Research Program (MHT), McLean Hospital (EAB, GG, MLK, AK, LAML, AVS, SW, KJRe), Belmont, Massachusetts; Duke Molecular Physiology Institute (RAM, AEA-K, MEG, X-JQ) and Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (JCB, MFD, MAH, DEW,

NAK), Duke University School of Medicine; Research Service (JCB, MFD, DEW) and Mental Health Service (NAK), Durham Veterans Affairs Medical Center; Genetics Research Laboratory (JCB, MFD, NAK), Veterans Affairs Mid-Atlantic Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center, Durham; Department of Epidemiology (AEA, TJ), Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Institute for Trauma Recovery (SDL, SAM), Department of Anesthesiology, and Department of Emergency Medicine (SAM), University of North Carolina School of Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill; GenOmics, Bioinformatics, and Translational Research Center (EOJ) and Fellows Program (EOJ), RTI International, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina; Department of Psychiatry (RP, JG) and National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (RHP), Veterans Affairs Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven; Departments of Psychiatry (RP, RHP) and Genetics and Neuroscience (JG), Yale University School of Medicine; Department of Biostatistics (HZ), Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut; Department of Epidemiology (ARa), Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health; Department of Psychiatry (JDF, RY), Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Department of Psychiatry (CM, EV), New York University School of Medicine, New York; Department of Mental Health (RY), James J. Peters Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Bronx; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (JS), Cold Spring Harbor, New York; Mental Health Services (BB), Division of Mental Health (APW), Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Decatur; Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (APW, LMA, BB, CFG, JLM-K, VM, BOR, AKS, JSSt, KJRe) and Gynecology and Obstetrics (AL, AKS), Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia; Department of Psychiatry (ABA, CMS), Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics, Richmond, Virginia; Mental Health Service Line (PAA, CRE, MAP, SRS) and Research Service Line (SGD), Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Health Care System; Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (PAA, CRE, MAP, SRS), Medical School, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Departments of Psychiatry (LJB, ECN, JPR, NLS) and Genetics (ACH), Washington University in Saint Louis School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri; Department of Epidemiology (MB, ESP, ARu, ET), School of Public Health, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana; Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (ACB), Department of Internal Medicine, Department of Psychiatry (APK), and Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (JSSe), University of Michigan Medical School; School of Nursing (JSSe), University of Michigan; Department of Women's and Gender Studies (JSSe) and Institute for Research on Women and Gender (JSSe), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Department of Psychiatry (JRC, MRM), University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center; Department of Psychological Sciences (NCF, AOR), Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland; Department of Psychological Sciences (DLD) and Research and Sponsored Programs (DLD), Kent State University, Kent, Ohio; Center for Military Psychiatry and Neuroscience (AGa, RH), Department of Integrative Systems Biology (MJe), Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring; Department of Psychiatry (RJU), Uniformed Services University, Bethesda, Maryland; Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (HRK), Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center; Department of Psychiatry (HRK), University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (IL, KAY), Texas A&M University College of Medicine, Bryan; Research and Development Service (ALP), South Texas Veterans Health Care System; Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (ALP), University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, San Antonio; Department of Psychiatry (KAY), Baylor Scott & White Health Central Texas Division, Temple; Center of Excellence for Research on Returning War Veterans (KAY), Central Texas Veterans Health Care System, Waco, Texas; Command (DMa), United States Army, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Executive Division (SBN), National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, White River Junction, Vermont; Department of Psychology (HKO), Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois; Departments of Psychology (MP) and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (PR-B, LAZ), University of Washington, Seattle, Washington; Departments of Nursing (KJRu) and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (KJRu, ZW), Medical University of South Carolina; Department of Mental Health (ZW), Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Charleston, South Carolina; Genomics Program (MU), University of South

Florida College of Public Health, Tampa, Florida; Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre (JRIC, GB), Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, and National Institute of Health Research Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre (JRIC, GB), King's College London, London; Medical Research Council Centre for Psychiatric Genetics and Genomics (JIB, AE, IJ, CL, BL), National Centre for Mental Health, Cardiff University, Cardiff, United Kingdom; Tanenbaum Centre for Pharmacogenetics (CCZ), Campbell Family Mental Health Research Institute, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Molecular Brain Science; Institute of Medical Science (CCZ) and Departments of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology (CCZ) and Psychiatry (CCZ), University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Research and Knowledge Centre (SBAn, K-IK), The Danish Veteran Centre, Ringsted; Centre for Integrative Sequencing (ADB, PBM), Department of Biomedicine–Human Genetics (ADB), Centre for Integrated Register-Based Research (PBM), and National Centre for Register-Based Research (PBM), Aarhus University; Psychosis Research Unit (OM), Department of Psychiatry, Aarhus University Hospital; The Lundbeck Foundation Initiative for Integrative Psychiatric Research, iPSYCH (ADB, MB-H, JB-G, DMH, OM, PBM, MN, YW, TWe), Aarhus; Department for Congenital Disorders (MB-H, JB-G, DMH), Statens Serum Institut; Departments of Psychology (K-IK) and Clinical Medicine (TWe), University of Copenhagen; Mental Health Center Copenhagen (MN), Mental Health Services in the Capital Region of Denmark, University of Copenhagen; Institute of Biological Psychiatry, Mental Health Services (YW, TWe), Copenhagen University Hospital, Copenhagen; Institute of Biological Psychiatry (WKT), Mental Health Centre Sct. Hans, Roskilde, Denmark; Division of Mental Health and Addiction (OAA), Oslo University Hospital; Norwegian Centre for Mental Disorders Research Centre (OAA), Institute of Clinical Medicine, and Lifespan Changes in Brain and Cognition (YW), Department of Psychology, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway; Department of Psychiatry (EA), University Clinical Center of Tuzla, Tuzla; Department of Psychiatry (DB), University Clinical Center of Mostar, Mostar; Department of Psychiatry (ADK), University Clinical Center of Sarajevo, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Departments of Psychiatry (MPB, EG, JJL, DSc) and Translational Neuroscience (JJL, DSc), UMC Utrecht Brain Center, UMC Utrecht; Brain Research and Innovation Centre (EG, EV), Netherlands Ministry of Defence, Utrecht; Department of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology (BPFR), School for Mental Health and Neuroscience, Maastricht University Medical Center, Maastricht; Arq Psychotrauma Research Expert Group (EV), Diemen; Department of Psychiatry (EV), Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden; Departments of Psychiatry (CHV) and Anatomy and Neurosciences (CHV), VU University Medical Center Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Departments of Psychology (RAB) and Psychiatry (DSi), University of New South Wales, Sydney, New South Wales; Department of Psychiatry (DF, MO) and Phoenix Australia Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health (MO), University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria; Department of Genetics and Computational Biology (SDG, NGM), QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane; School of Biomedical Sciences (BRL, DMe, CPM, JV), Centre for Genomics and Personalised Health (DMe, JV), and School of Psychology and Counseling (RMY), Queensland University of Technology; Jamieson Trauma Institute (CPM, RMY), Metro North Hospital and Health Service, Kelvin Grove; Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation (RM), Greenslopes Private Hospital, Greenslopes, Queensland; Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies (AM, MVH), University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia; Lisbon Institute of Global Mental Health (JMC-d-A) and Chronic Diseases Research Centre (JMC-d-A), NOVA Medical School, NOVA University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal; South African Medical Research Council Unit on Risk and Resilience in Mental Disorders (SD, DJS, NK), Department of Psychiatry and Neuroscience Institute, and South African Medical Research Council Unit on Child and Adolescent Health (SD), Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, University of Cape Town, Cape Town; South African Medical Research Council/Stellenbosch University Extramural Unit on the Genomics of Brain Disorders (SMJH, SS, LLvdH), Department of Psychiatry (SMJH, SS, LLvdH), Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa; Center of Mental Health, Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy (JD, CW), University Hospital of Würzburg, Würzburg; Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (KD), Faculty of Medicine, University Medical Center Freiburg; Centre for Basics in Neuromodulation (KD), Faculty of Medicine,

University of Freiburg, Freiburg; Department of Psychiatry and Psycho-therapy (SR), Charité – Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany; Department of Psychiatry (AGo), University Clinical Center of Kosovo, Pristina, Kosovo; Department of Psychiatry (MJa), University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia; and Department of Medicine (SES), Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud, Lima, Peru.

Address correspondence to Adam X. Maihofer, M.S., at amaihofer@health.ucsd.edu.

REFERENCES

1. Sareen J (2014): Posttraumatic stress disorder in adults: Impact, co-morbidity, risk factors, and treatment. Can J Psychiatry 59:460–467.
2. Yehuda R, Hoge CW, McFarlane AC, Vermetten E, Lanius RA, Nievergelt CM, et al. (2015): Post-traumatic stress disorder. Nat Rev Dis Primers 1:15057.
3. Kessler RC, Aguilar-Gaxiola S, Alonso J, Benjet C, Bromet EJ, Cardoso G, et al. (2017): Trauma and PTSD in the WHO World Mental Health Surveys. Eur J Psychotraumatol 8:1353383.
4. Brewin CR, Andrews B, Valentine JD (2000): Meta-analysis of risk factors for posttraumatic stress disorder in trauma-exposed adults. J Consult Clin Psychol 68:748–766.
5. Stein MB, Jang KL, Taylor S, Vernon PA, Livesley WJ (2002): Genetic and environmental influences on trauma exposure and posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms: a twin study. Am J Psychiatry 159:1675–1681.
6. Sartor CE, Grant JD, Lynskey MT, McCutcheon VV, Waldron M, Statham DJ, et al. (2012): Common heritable contributions to low-risk trauma, high-risk trauma, posttraumatic stress disorder, and major depression. Arch Gen Psychiatry 69:293–299.
7. Pitman RK, Rasmusson AM, Koenen KC, Shin LM, Orr SP, Gilbertson MW, et al. (2012): Biological studies of post-traumatic stress disorder. Nat Rev Neurosci 13:769–787.
8. Nievergelt CM, Maihofer AX, Klengel T, Atkinson EG, Chen CY, Choi KW, et al. (2019): International meta-analysis of PTSD genome-wide association studies identifies sex- and ancestry-specific genetic risk loci. Nat Commun 10:4558.
9. Stein MB, Levey DF, Cheng Z, Wendt FR, Harrington K, Pathak GA, et al. (2021): Genome-wide association analyses of post-traumatic stress disorder and its symptom subdomains in the Million Veteran Program. Nat Genet 53:174–184.
10. Sullivan PF, Agrawal A, Bulik CM, Andreassen OA, Børglum AD, Breen G, et al. (2018): Psychiatric genomics: An update and an agenda. Am J Psychiatry 175:15–27.
11. Lee SH, Wray NR (2013): Novel genetic analysis for case-control genome-wide association studies: Quantification of power and genomic prediction accuracy. PLoS One 8:e71494.
12. Cornelis MC, Nugent NR, Amstadter AB, Koenen KC (2010): Genetics of post-traumatic stress disorder: Review and recommendations for genome-wide association studies. Curr Psychiatry Rep 12:313–326.
13. Logue MW, Amstadter AB, Baker DG, Duncan L, Koenen KC, Liberzon I, et al. (2015): The Psychiatric Genomics Consortium Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Workgroup: Posttraumatic stress disorder enters the age of large-scale genomic collaboration. Neuropsychopharmacology 40:2287–2297.
14. Dalvie S, Maihofer AX, Coleman JRI, Bradley B, Breen G, Brick LA, et al. (2020): Genomic influences on self-reported childhood maltreatment. Transl Psychiatry 10:38.
15. Schifano ED (2019): A review of analysis methods for secondary outcomes in case-control studies. Commun Stat Appl Methods 26:103–129.
16. Bycroft C, Freeman C, Petkova D, Band G, Elliott LT, Sharp K, et al. (2018): The UK Biobank resource with deep phenotyping and genomic data. Nature 562:203–209.
17. Lam M, Awasthi S, Watson HJ, Goldstein J, Panagiotaropoulou G, Trubetskoy V, et al. (2020): RICOPILI: Rapid Imputation for COnsortias PIpeLIne. Bioinformatics 36:930–933.
18. Delaneau O, Coulonges C, Zagury JF (2008): Shape-IT: New rapid and accurate algorithm for haplotype inference. BMC Bioinformatics 9:540.
19. Howie B, Marchini J, Stephens M (2011): Genotype imputation with thousands of genomes. G3 (Bethesda) 1:457–470.
20. Clarke L, Zheng-Bradley X, Smith R, Kulesha E, Xiao C, Toneva I, et al. (2012): The 1000 Genomes Project: Data management and community access. Nat Methods 9:459–462.
21. Price AL, Patterson NJ, Plenge RM, Weinblatt ME, Shadick NA, Reich D (2006): Principal components analysis corrects for stratification in genome-wide association studies. Nat Genet 38:904–909.
22. Loh PR, Kichaev G, Gazal S, Schoech AP, Price AL (2018): Mixed-model association for biobank-scale datasets. Nat Genet 50:906–908.
23. Willer CJ, Li Y, Abecasis GR (2010): METAL: Fast and efficient meta-analysis of genomewide association scans. Bioinformatics 26:2190–2191.
24. Lee CH, Cook S, Lee JS, Han B (2016): Comparison of two meta-analysis methods: Inverse-variance-weighted average and weighted sum of z-scores. Genomics Inform 14:173–180.
25. Demontis D, Walters RK, Martin J, Mattheisen M, Als TD, Agerbo E, et al. (2019): Discovery of the first genome-wide significant risk loci for attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder. Nat Genet 51:63–75.
26. Pruim RJ, Welch RP, Sanna S, Teslovich TM, Chines PS, Gliedt TP, et al. (2010): LocusZoom: Regional visualization of genome-wide association scan results. Bioinformatics 26:2336–2337.
27. Bulik-Sullivan BK, Loh PR, Finucane HK, Ripke S, Yang J, Patterson N, et al. (2015): LD Score regression distinguishes confounding from polygenicity in genome-wide association studies. Nat Genet 47:291–295.
28. Zheng J, Erzurumluoglu AM, Elsworth BL, Kemp JP, Howe L, Haycock PC, et al. (2017): LD Hub: A centralized database and web interface to perform LD score regression that maximizes the potential of summary level GWAS data for SNP heritability and genetic correlation analysis. Bioinformatics 33:272–279.
29. Watanabe K, Umićević Mirkov M, de Leeuw CA, van den Heuvel MP, Posthuma D (2019): Genetic mapping of cell type specificity for complex traits. Nat Commun 10:3222.
30. de Leeuw CA, Mooij JM, Heskes T, Posthuma D (2015): MAGMA: Generalized gene-set analysis of GWAS data. PLoS Comput Biol 11:e1004219.
31. Carithers LJ, Ardlie K, Barcus M, Branton PA, Britton A, Buia SA, et al. (2015): A novel approach to high-quality postmortem tissue procurement: The GTEx project. Biopreserv Biobank 13:311–319.
32. GTEx Consortium (2020): The GTEx Consortium atlas of genetic regulatory effects across human tissues. Science 369:1318–1330.
33. Ongen H, Buil A, Brown AA, Dermitzakis ET, Delaneau O (2016): Fast and efficient QTL mapper for thousands of molecular phenotypes. Bioinformatics 32:1479–1485.
34. Stegle O, Parts L, Piipari M, Winn J, Durbin R (2012): Using probabilistic estimation of expression residuals (PEER) to obtain increased power and interpretability of gene expression analyses. Nat Protoc 7:500–507.
35. Gelernter J, Sun N, Polimanti R, Pietrzak R, Levey DF, Bryois J, et al. (2019): Genome-wide association study of post-traumatic stress disorder reexperiencing symptoms in >165,000 US veterans. Nat Neurosci 22:1394–1401.
36. Turley P, Walters RK, Maghzian O, Okbay A, Lee JJ, Fontana MA, et al. (2018): Multi-trait analysis of genome-wide association summary statistics using MTAG. Nat Genet 50:229–237.
37. Watanabe K, Stringer S, Frei O, et al. (2019): A global overview of pleiotropy and genetic architecture in complex traits. Nat Genet 51:1339–1348.
38. McCullough KM, Chatzinakos C, Hartmann J, et al. (2020): Genome-wide translational profiling of amygdala Crh-expressing neurons reveals role for CREB in fear extinction learning. Nat Commun 11:5180.
39. Konopka G, Bomar JM, Winden K, et al. (2009): Human-specific transcriptional regulation of CNS development genes by FOXP2. Nature 462:213–217.

40. Schieweck R, Kiebler MA (2019): Posttranscriptional gene regulation of the GABA receptor to control neuronal inhibition. Front Mol Neurosci 12:152.

41. Sheen VL, Ganesh VS, Topcu M, Sebire G, Bodell A, Hill RS, et al. (2004): Mutations in ARFGEF2 implicate vesicle trafficking in neural progenitor proliferation and migration in the human cerebral cortex. Nat Genet 36:69–76.

42. Saitoh Y, Kamijo A, Yamauchi J, Sakamoto T, Terada N (2019): The membrane palmitoylated protein, MPP6, is involved in myelin formation in the mouse peripheral nervous system. Histochem Cell Biol 151:385–394.

43. Li Y, Ohira M, Zhou Y, Xiong T, Luo W, Yang C, et al. (2017): Genomic analysis–integrated whole-exome sequencing of neuroblastomas identifies genetic mutations in axon guidance pathway. Oncotarget 8:56684–56697.

44. Perez-Ortiz AC, Peralta-Ildefonso MJ, Lira-Romero E, Moya-Albor E, Brieva J, Ramirez-Sanchez I, et al. (2019): Lack of delta-sarcoglycan (Sgcd) results in retinal degeneration. Int J Mol Sci 20:5480.

45. Wang P, Zhao W, Zhao K, Zhang L, Gao C (2015): TRIM26 negatively regulates interferon-β production and antiviral response through polyubiquitination and degradation of nuclear IRF3. PLoS Pathog 11:e1004726.

46. Miao X, Xiang Y, Mao W, Chen Y, Li Q, Fan B (2019): TRIM27 promotes IL-6-induced proliferation and inflammation factor production by activating STAT3 signaling in HaCaT cells. Am J Physiol Cell Physiol 318:C272–C281.

47. Ishigaki K, Kochi Y, Suzuki A, Tsuchida Y, Tsuchiya H, Sumitomo S, et al. (2017): Polygenic burdens on cell-specific pathways underlie the risk of rheumatoid arthritis. Nat Genet 49:1120–1125.

48. Huckins LM, Chatzinakos C, Breen MS, Hartmann J, Klengel T, da Silva Almeida AC, et al. (2020): Analysis of genetically regulated gene expression identifies a prefrontal PTSD gene, SNRNP35, specific to military cohorts. Cell Rep 31:107716.

49. Girgenti MJ, Wang J, Ji D, Cruz DA, Alvarez VE, Benedek D, et al. (2021): Transcriptomic organization of the human brain in post-traumatic stress disorder. Nat Neurosci 24:24–33.

50. Sniekers S, Stringer S, Watanabe K, Jansen PR, Coleman JRI, Krapohl E, et al. (2017): Genome-wide association meta-analysis of 78,308 individuals identifies new loci and genes influencing human intelligence. Nat Genet 49:1107–1112.

51. Nagel M, Jansen PR, Stringer S, Watanabe K, de Leeuw CA, Bryois J, et al. (2018): Meta-analysis of genome-wide association studies for neuroticism in 449,484 individuals identifies novel genetic loci and pathways. Nat Genet 50:920–927.

52. Abdellaoui A, Sanchez-Roige S, Sealock J, Treur JL, Dennis J, Fontanillas P, et al. (2019): Phenome-wide investigation of health outcomes associated with genetic predisposition to loneliness. Hum Mol Genet 28:3853–3865.

53. Selzam S, Coleman JRI, Caspi A, Moffitt TE, Plomin R (2018): A polygenic p factor for major psychiatric disorders. Transl Psychiatry 8:205.

54. Dahl A, Cai N, Ko A, Laakso M, Pajukanta P, Flint J, et al. (2019): Reverse GWAS: Using genetics to identify and model phenotypic subtypes. PLoS Genet 15:e1008009.

55. Hayes JP, Hayes SM, Mikedis AM (2012): Quantitative meta-analysis of neural activity in posttraumatic stress disorder. Biol Mood Anxiety Disord 2:9.

56. Stevens JS, Kim YJ, Galatzer-Levy IR, Reddy R, Ely TD, Nemeroff CB, et al. (2017): Amygdala reactivity and anterior cingulate habituation predict posttraumatic stress disorder symptom maintenance after acute civilian trauma. Biol Psychiatry 81:1023–1029.

57. Miller DR, Hayes SM, Hayes JP, Spielberg JM, Lafleche G, Verfaellie M (2017): Default mode network subsystems are differentially disrupted in posttraumatic stress disorder. Biol Psychiatry Cogn Neurosci Neuroimaging 2:363–371.

58. Morey RA, Dolcos F, Petty CM, Cooper DA, Hayes JP, LaBar KS, et al. (2009): The role of trauma-related distractors on neural systems for working memory and emotion processing in posttraumatic stress disorder. J Psychiatr Res 43:809–817.

59. Nicholson AA, Rabellino D, Densmore M, Frewen PA, Paret C, Kluetsch R, et al. (2017): The neurobiology of emotion regulation in posttraumatic stress disorder: Amygdala downregulation via real-time fMRI neurofeedback. Hum Brain Mapp 38:541–560.

60. Felmingham KL, Falconer EM, Williams L, Kemp AH, Allen A, Peduto A, et al. (2014): Reduced amygdala and ventral striatal activity to happy faces in PTSD is associated with emotional numbing. PLoS One 9:e103653.

61. Morey RA, Davis SL, Garrett ME, Haswell CC, Marx CE, Beckham JC, et al. (2017): Genome-wide association study of subcortical brain volume in PTSD cases and trauma-exposed controls. Transl Psychiatry 7:1265.

62. Olson EA, Kaiser RH, Pizzagalli DA, Rauch SL, Rosso IM (2018): Anhedonia in trauma-exposed individuals: Functional connectivity and decision-making correlates. Biol Psychiatry Cogn Neurosci Neuroimaging 3:959–967.

63. Galatzer-Levy IR, Bryant RA (2013): 636,120 ways to have posttraumatic stress disorder. Perspect Psychol Sci 8:651–662.

64. Cai N, Choi KW, Fried EI (2020): Reviewing the genetics of heterogeneity in depression: Operationalizations, manifestations and etiologies. Hum Mol Genet 29:R10–R18.

65. Olff M, Langeland W, Draijer N, Gersons BP (2007): Gender differences in posttraumatic stress disorder. Psychol Bull 133:183–204.

66. Koenen KC, Ratanatharathorn A, Ng L, McLaughlin KA, Bromet EJ, Stein DJ, et al. (2017): Posttraumatic stress disorder in the World Mental Health Surveys. Psychol Med 47:2260–2274.

67. Duncan LE, Ratanatharathorn A, Aiello AE, Almli LM, Amstadter AB, Ashley-Koch AE, et al. (2018): Largest GWAS of PTSD (N=20070)yields genetic overlap with schizophrenia and sex differences in heritability. Mol Psychiatry 23:666–673.

68. Benjet C, Bromet E, Karam EG, Kessler RC, McLaughlin KA, Ruscio AM, et al. (2016): The epidemiology of traumatic event exposure worldwide: Results from the World Mental Health Survey Consortium. Psychol Med 46:327–343.

69. Martin AR, Kanai M, Kamatani Y, Okada Y, Neale BM, Daly MJ (2019): Clinical use of current polygenic risk scores may exacerbate health disparities. Nat Genet 51:584–591.

70. Atkinson EG, Maihofer AX, Kanai M, Martin AR, Karczewski KJ, Santoro ML, et al. (2021): Tractor uses local ancestry to enable the inclusion of admixed individuals in GWAS and to boost power. Nat Genet 53:195–204.

71. Koenen KC, Stellman SD, Dohrenwend BP, Sommer JF Jr, Stellman JM (2007): The consistency of combat exposure reporting and course of PTSD in Vietnam War veterans. J Traum Stress 20:3–13.

72. VanderWeele TJ (2014): A unification of mediation and interaction: A 4-way decomposition. Epidemiology 25:749–761.

73. Cross-Disorder Group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (2019): Genomic relationships, novel loci, and pleiotropic mechanisms across eight psychiatric disorders. Cell 179:1469–1482.e11.

74. Grotzinger AD, Mallard TT, Akingbuwa WA, Ip HF, Adams MJ, Lewis CM, et al. (2020): Genetic architecture of 11 major psychiatric disorders at biobehavioral, functional genomic, and molecular genetic levels of analysis. medRxiv. https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.09.22.20196089.