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Meta-analysis identifies multiple loci associated with kidney function–related traits in east Asian populations

Yukinori Okada,

Laboratory for Statistical Analysis, Center for Genomic Medicine (CGM), RIKEN, Yokohama, Japan

Department of Allergy and Rheumatology, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

Xueling Sim,

Centre for Molecular Epidemiology, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Center for Statistical Genetics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

Min Jin Go,

Center for Genome Science, National Institute of Health, Osong Health Technology Administration Complex, Chungcheongbuk-do, Republic of Korea

Jer-Yuarn Wu,

Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

School of Chinese Medicine, China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan

Correspondence to: Yukinori Okada.

These authors contributed equally to this work.

Yukinori Okada, Xueling Sim, Min Jin Go, Jer-Yuarn Wu, Dongfeng Gu & Fumihiko Takeuchi

These authors jointly directed this work.

Norihiro Kato, Jiang He, Yuan-Tsong Chen, Yoon Shin Cho, E-Shyong Tai & Toshihiro Tanaka

Consortia

1. The KidneyGen Consortium

A full list of contributing members and affiliations is provided in the Supplementary Note.

2. The CKDGen Consortium

A full list of contributing members and affiliations is provided in the Supplementary Note.

3. The GUGC consortium

A full list of contributing members and affiliations is provided in the Supplementary Note.

Contributions

Y.O. and T. Tanaka designed the overall study. Y.O., X.S., M.J.G., C.-H.C., D.G., F.T. and P.C. analyzed GWAS data. Y.O. performed meta-analysis and other statistical analysis. Y.O., A.T., S.M., T. Tsunoda, K.Y., M.K., Y.N., N. Kamatani and T. Tanaka managed GWAS data of BBJ. X.S., P.C., S.-C.L., T.-Y.W., J.L., T.L.Y., T.A., M.S., Y.-Y.T. and E.-S.T. managed the GWAS data from SP2, SiMES, SINDI and SCES. M.J.G., Y.J.K., J.-Y.L., B.-G.H., D.K. and Y.S.C. managed the GWAS data from KARE and HEXA. C.-H.C., F.-J.T., L.-C.C., S.-J.C.F., Y.-T.C. and J.-Y.W. managed the GWAS data from TWSC and TWT2D. D.G., H.M., D.C.R., J.E.H., S.C. and J.H. managed the GWAS data from GenSalt. F.T., T.K., M.I., T.O. and N. Kato managed the GWAS data from CAGE. J.C.C., W.Z. and J.S.K. managed the data from the KidneyGen Consortium. E.A. managed the data from the GUGC consortium. Y.O., T. Tanaka, E.-S.T., Y.S.C., J.-Y.W., J.H. and N. Kato directed the study and wrote the manuscript.

Competing financial interests

The authors declare no competing financial interests.

Dongfeng Gu,

State Key Laboratory of Cardiovascular Diseases, Fu Wai Hospital, National Center for Cardiovascular Diseases, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China

Fumihiko Takeuchi,

Department of Gene Diagnostics and Therapeutics, Research Institute, National Center for Global Health and Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

Atsushi Takahashi,

Laboratory for Statistical Analysis, Center for Genomic Medicine (CGM), RIKEN, Yokohama, Japan

Shiro Maeda,

Laboratory for Endocrinology and Metabolism, CGM, RIKEN, Yokohama, Japan

Tatsuhiko Tsunoda,

Laboratory for Medical Informatics, CGM, RIKEN, Yokohama, Japan

Peng Chen,

Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Su-Chi Lim,

Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Diabetes Centre, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, Singapore

Department of Medicine, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, Singapore

Tien-Yin Wong,

Singapore Eye Research Institute, Singapore National Eye Centre, Singapore

Department of Ophthalmology, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Centre for Eye Research Australia, University of Melbourne, East Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Jianjun Liu,

Genome Institute of Singapore, Agency for Science, Technology and Research, Singapore

Terri L Young,

Center for Human Genetics, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina, USA

Tin Aung,

Singapore Eye Research Institute, Singapore National Eye Centre, Singapore

Department of Ophthalmology, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Mark Seielstad,

Institute of Human Genetics, University of California, San Francisco, California, USA

Yik-Ying Teo,

Centre for Molecular Epidemiology, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore, Singapore
Genome Institute of Singapore, Agency for Science, Technology and Research, Singapore
Department of Statistics and Applied Probability, National University of Singapore, Singapore
National University of Singapore Graduate School for Integrative Science and Engineering,
National University of Singapore, Singapore

Young Jin Kim,

Center for Genome Science, National Institute of Health, Osong Health Technology
Administration Complex, Chungcheongbuk-do, Republic of Korea

Jong-Young Lee,

Center for Genome Science, National Institute of Health, Osong Health Technology
Administration Complex, Chungcheongbuk-do, Republic of Korea

Bok-Ghee Han,

Center for Genome Science, National Institute of Health, Osong Health Technology
Administration Complex, Chungcheongbuk-do, Republic of Korea

Chien-Hsiun Chen,

Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
School of Chinese Medicine, China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan

Daehee Kang,

Department of Preventive Medicine, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul,
Republic of Korea

Fuu-Jen Tsai,

School of Chinese Medicine, China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan

Li-Ching Chang,

Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

S-J Cathy Fann,

Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

Hao Mei,

Department of Epidemiology, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine,
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Dabeeru C Rao,

Division of Biostatistics, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

James E Hixson,

Human Genetics Center, University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, Texas, USA

Shufeng Chen,

State Key Laboratory of Cardiovascular Diseases, Fu Wai Hospital, National Center for
Cardiovascular Diseases, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical
College, Beijing, China

Tomohiro Katsuya,

Department of Clinical Gene Therapy, Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, Suita, Japan

Department of Geriatric Medicine and Nephrology, Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, Suita, Japan

Masato Isono,

Department of Gene Diagnostics and Therapeutics, Research Institute, National Center for Global Health and Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

Toshio Ogihara,

Department of Geriatric Medicine and Nephrology, Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, Suita, Japan

Morinomiya University of Medical Sciences, Osaka, Japan

John C Chambers,

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Imperial College London, London, UK

Weihua Zhang,

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Imperial College London, London, UK

Jaspal S Kooner,

National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London, London, UK

The KidneyGen Consortium, The CKDGen Consortium, Eva Albrecht,

Institute of Genetic Epidemiology, Helmholtz Zentrum München–German Research Center for Environmental Health, Neuherberg, Germany

The GUGC consortium, Kazuhiko Yamamoto,

Department of Allergy and Rheumatology, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

Michiaki Kubo,

Laboratory for Genotyping Development, CGM, RIKEN, Yokohama, Japan

Yusuke Nakamura,

Laboratory of Molecular Medicine, Human Genome Center, Institute of Medical Science, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

Naoyuki Kamatani,

Laboratory for International Alliance, CGM, RIKEN, Yokohama, Japan

Norihiro Kato,

Department of Gene Diagnostics and Therapeutics, Research Institute, National Center for Global Health and Medicine, Tokyo, Japan

Jiang He,

Department of Epidemiology, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Yuan-Tsong Chen,

Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

Yoon Shin Cho,

Center for Genome Science, National Institute of Health, Osong Health Technology Administration Complex, Chungcheongbuk-do, Republic of Korea

Department of Biomedical Science, Hallym University, Gangwon-do, Republic of Korea

E-Shyong Tai, and

Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Department of Medicine, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Duke–National University of Singapore Graduate Medical School, Singapore

Toshihiro Tanaka

Laboratory for Cardiovascular Diseases, CGM, RIKEN, Yokohama, Japan

Abstract

Chronic kidney disease (CKD), impairment of kidney function, is a serious public health problem, and the assessment of genetic factors influencing kidney function has substantial clinical relevance. Here, we report a meta-analysis of genome-wide association studies for kidney function-related traits, including 71,149 east Asian individuals from 18 studies in 11 population-, hospital- or family-based cohorts, conducted as part of the Asian Genetic Epidemiology Network (AGEN). Our meta-analysis identified 17 loci newly associated with kidney function-related traits, including the concentrations of blood urea nitrogen, uric acid and serum creatinine and estimated glomerular filtration rate based on serum creatinine levels (eGFR_{crea}) ($P < 5.0 \times 10^{-8}$). We further examined these loci with *in silico* replication in individuals of European ancestry from the KidneyGen, CKDGen and GUGC consortia, including a combined total of ~110,347 individuals. We identify pleiotropic associations among these loci with kidney function-related traits and risk of CKD. These findings provide new insights into the genetics of kidney function.

Chronic kidney disease—the impairment of kidney function—constitutes a serious public health burden on society worldwide, with increased risks of mortality and morbidity^{1, 2}. Biochemical measures of kidney function that are commonly used in clinical practice include the concentrations of blood urea nitrogen, serum creatinine and uric acid and glomerular filtration rate (GFR). Heritability estimates have shown that genetic factors contribute significantly to interindividual variance in kidney function³, and recent developments in genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have identified a number of genetic loci associated with measurements of kidney function^{4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13}. However, most of these studies were conducted in populations of European ancestry^{4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13}, and the extension of GWAS approaches to non-European populations would provide an opportunity to discover additional loci. We report a large-scale meta-analysis of GWAS and a replication study of kidney function-related traits involving 71,149 east Asian subjects performed by AGEN^{9, 14, 15, 16} in which 11 cohorts participated (BBJ, SP2, SiMES, SINDI, SCES, KARE, HEXA, TWSC, TWT2D, GenSalt and CAGE; Online Methods and Supplementary Note).

In this study, we evaluated four kidney function–related traits (Supplementary Tables 1 and 2): the concentrations of blood urea nitrogen ($n = 57,178$), uric acid ($n = 33,074$) and serum creatinine ($n = 61,919$) and eGFR_{crea} ($n = 62,087$). Blood urea nitrogen concentration reflects the amount of nitrogen in the blood and is related to protein metabolism, including excretion by the kidneys¹⁷. Uric acid is the end product of purine metabolism, and impaired renal excretion of uric acid leads to hyperuricemia. Epidemiological studies suggest that uric acid is a risk factor for various diseases, including gout and myocardial infarction¹³. Serum creatinine levels and eGFR_{crea} are the most common kidney function measures used for the definition of CKD^{1, 2}, for which extensive genetic studies in European populations have been conducted^{4, 6, 7, 8}.

The GWAS meta-analysis included 51,327 east Asian individuals and evaluated approximately 2.4 million autosomal SNPs with a minor allele frequency (MAF) of 0.01. These SNPs were obtained by imputation of genotypes on the basis of HapMap Phase 2 panels (Supplementary Tables 3 and 4). The inflation factors of the test statistics were modest ($\lambda_{GC} = 1.060, 1.072, 1.079$ and 1.031 for blood urea nitrogen, serum creatinine, eGFR_{crea} and uric acid, respectively), which suggested that population structures did not have a substantial impact on the results of the meta-analysis. Quantile-quantile plots of the P values indicated notable discrepancies in their tails from those anticipated under the null hypothesis of no association, indicating the presence of significant associations in the meta-analysis (Supplementary Fig. 1). We identified 25 associations that satisfied the genome-wide significance threshold of $P < 5.0 \times 10^{-8}$. Of these, eight, seven, six and four genetic loci were found to be associated with blood urea nitrogen, serum creatinine, eGFR_{crea} and uric acid, respectively (Supplementary Table 5).

We then performed an *in silico* replication study using data from an additional 19,822 east Asians for the loci that associated at $P < 5.0 \times 10^{-6}$ in the GWAS meta-analysis. Through the combined study of the GWAS meta-analysis and replication, we identified 32 significant associations at $P < 5.0 \times 10^{-8}$ (13, 8, 7 and 4 loci for blood urea nitrogen, serum creatinine, eGFR_{crea} and uric acid, respectively; Fig. 1 and Supplementary Table 5). We found that seven of these newly associated loci were associated with both serum creatinine concentration and eGFR_{crea}, with the same landmark SNPs involved at each locus, which reflects the close relationship between these two phenotypes ($R^2 = 0.76$ for common log-transformed values; Supplementary Table 6)^{1, 2}. Among the loci identified in the combined analysis, associations at 15 loci were previously reported^{4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13}: *LRIG1-KBTBD8*, *BCL6-LPP*, *RSPO3* and *SLC14A2* for blood urea nitrogen concentration (smallest $P = 8.8 \times 10^{-30}$ at *BCL6-LPP*); *SHROOM3*, *WDR72*, *UMOD* and *BCAS3* for serum creatinine concentration (smallest $P = 1.2 \times 10^{-13}$ at *WDR72*); *SHROOM3*, *WDR72*, *UMOD* and *BCAS3* for eGFR_{crea} (smallest $P = 6.0 \times 10^{-13}$ at *WDR72*); and *SLC2A9*, *ABCG2* and *SLC22A12* for uric acid concentration (smallest $P = 1.6 \times 10^{-65}$ at *SLC2A9*). At the *UMOD* locus, the rs12917707 variant associated with eGFR_{crea} in Europeans^{4, 7} had a low MAF (<0.01) and was not evaluated in our GWAS meta-analysis. However, we identified another variant that showed a significant association with eGFR_{crea} ($P = 3.6 \times 10^{-10}$ at rs11864909; MAF = 0.19; $r^2 = 0.02$ with rs12917707).

In addition, we identified 17 loci newly associated with kidney function–related traits (Table 1 and Supplementary Fig. 2). Namely, we identified associations at nine loci for blood urea nitrogen concentration (*MTX1-GBA*, *PAX8*, *MECOM*, *UNCX*, *MPPED2-DCDC5*, *C12orf51*, *WDR72*, *BCAS3* and *GNAS* at 1q22, 2q13, 3q26, 7p22, 11p14, 12q24.13, 15q21, 17q23 and 20q13, respectively; smallest $P = 4.5 \times 10^{-16}$ at rs10767873 in *MPPED2-DCDC5*), four loci for serum creatinine concentration (the major histocompatibility (MHC) region, *UNCX*, *MPPED2-DCDC5* and *ALDH2* at 6p21, 7p22, 11p14 and 12q24.2, respectively; smallest $P = 4.6 \times 10^{-11}$ at rs10277115 in *UNCX*), three loci for eGFR_{crea} (the MHC region, *UNCX* and *MPPED2-DCDC5* at 6p21, 7p22 and 11p14, respectively; smallest $P = 1.0 \times 10^{-10}$ at rs10277115 in *UNCX*) and one locus for uric acid concentration (*MAF* at 16q23, $P = 1.1 \times 10^{-9}$ at rs889472). Combinations of these identified loci explained 1.3%, 0.54%, 0.55% and 2.3% of interindividual variance in blood urea nitrogen, serum creatinine, eGFR_{crea} and uric acid, respectively.

To determine whether the associations that we observed were relevant to populations of European ancestry, we evaluated the newly associated loci (at $P < 5.0 \times 10^{-8}$ in our combined meta-analysis) in Europeans by using the results of studies by the KidneyGen ($n = 23,812$ for serum creatinine concentration)⁶, CKDGen ($n = 67,093$ for eGFR_{crea})⁷ and GUGC ($n = 110,347$ for uric acid concentration; A. Köttgen *et al.*, personal communication) consortia. Nine of the 15 loci that reached $P < 5.0 \times 10^{-8}$ for serum creatinine, eGFR_{crea} and uric acid measures in our study also showed significant associations in the European study ($P < 0.05/15 = 0.0033$, Bonferroni correction for the number of loci with available results), including the *MPPED2-DCDC5* locus for eGFR_{crea} ($P = 5.3 \times 10^{-8}$ at rs963837; Supplementary Table 5).

We also evaluated the loci previously reported to be associated with kidney function measures, after excluding the 14 loci that had already been identified in our study (Supplementary Table 7)^{4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13}. Of the 31 loci evaluated, we replicated associations at 8 loci in our study ($P < 0.05/31 = 0.0016$, Bonferroni correction for the number of loci), including in *CPS1*, *RGS14*, *STC1*, *RNASEH2C-OVOL1* and *SLC6A13* for eGFR_{crea} and *GCKR*, *LRP2* and *LRRC16A-SLC17A1* for uric acid concentration.

As the evaluated phenotypes reflect both common and unique biological aspects of kidney status, it is of interest to understand whether the loci associated with kidney function traits show pleiotropic patterns of associations¹⁸. We evaluated the associations of the identified loci within the evaluated kidney function–related traits and risk of stage 3+ CKD (defined as eGFR_{crea} of <60 ml/min/1.73 m²; Fig. 2, Table 2 and Supplementary Table 8)^{1, 2}. Of 21 unique loci, 9 yielded significant associations with three or more phenotypes ($P < 0.05/21 = 0.0024$, Bonferroni correction for the number of loci). In particular, the *ALDH2*, *C12orf51* and *BCAS3* loci had significant associations with all of the evaluated kidney function–related traits. We also observed significant risk for CKD at several loci, including in *MECOM*, the MHC region, *UNCX*, *WDR72*, *UMOD*, *MAF* and *GNAS*. Because of the definition of CKD^{1, 2}, previous studies assessed CKD risk primarily at the loci associated with serum creatinine concentration and eGFR_{crea}^{4, 6, 7, 8}. However, our results suggest that genetic risk for CKD would also be contributed to by other kidney function–related loci, such as *MAF* and *GNAS*. Recent studies suggested the superiority of eGFR based on serum

cystatin C concentration (eGFR_{cys}) relative to eGFR_{crea}, especially for predicting GFR in subjects with normal or mildly reduced GFR, and assessment of the genetic factors underlying eGFR_{cys} in east Asians would thus be warranted.

In this study, we identified new associations at *MTX1-GBA*, *PAX8*, *MECOM*, the MHC region, *UNCX*, *MPPED2-DCDC5*, *ALDH2*, *C12orf51*, *WDR72*, *MAF*, *BCAS3* and *GNAS* with kidney function–related traits. *MTX1* has an essential role in embryonic development, and *GBA* encodes glucocerebrosidase, an enzyme mediating glycolipid metabolism¹⁹. Both are known as causal genes in Gaucher disease¹⁹, a lysosomal storage disease, although kidney function decline has not been implicated in pathogenesis. *PAX8* is a member of the PAX gene family and is widely expressed in renal tissues²⁰. *MECOM* (also known as *EVII*) encodes a transcriptional regulator involved in hematopoiesis²¹. The MHC region contains a large number of genes related to the immune system, including human leukocyte antigen (HLA) genes. The SNP that was found to be associated with serum creatinine concentration and eGFR_{crea} (rs3828890) was located in the MHC class I region²² and was in moderate linkage disequilibrium with the *HLA-DRB1*1302* and *HLA-DQB1*0604* alleles ($D' > 0.65$ and $r^2 > 0.40$ for both alleles)²³. *UNCX* encodes a paired-type homeobox transcription factor that has essential roles in skeleton formation and kidney development²⁴. The function of *MPPED2* is as yet unknown, and *DCDC5* encodes a protein with two doublecortin domains, which serve as protein-interaction platforms²⁵. It is noteworthy that the *MTX1-GBA*, *MECOM* and *MPPED2-DCDC5* loci have been reported to influence serum magnesium levels²⁶, which are maintained by renal regulation of magnesium reabsorption. The loci in *ALDH2*, *WDR72* and *BCAS3* have been reported to be associated with some kidney function measures^{5, 7}, although the biological roles of these genes in renal homeostasis have not been substantially explored. Although the function of the protein encoded by *C12orf51* has not been examined, this locus was reported to be associated with serum lipid and liver enzyme concentrations in east Asians⁹. *MAF* encodes a leucine zipper transcription factor and has been implicated in the pathogenesis of minimal-change nephrotic syndrome (MCNS)²⁷. Defects in *MAF* cause juvenile-onset pulverulent cataract as well as congenital cerulean cataract (CCA4)²⁸. *GNAS* encodes the heterotrimeric G protein G_sα, and the associated locus in this gene is also associated with multiple metabolic traits, including blood pressure, in Europeans²⁹. Nevertheless, other genes near each of the loci could also be candidates, and further functional assessment is desirable.

In conclusion, in this large-scale meta-analysis in east Asian populations, we identified multiple loci newly associated with kidney function–related traits and pleiotropic associations. Our study should make an important contribution to the enhanced understanding of the genetic architecture of kidney function.

URLs

International HapMap Project, <http://hapmap.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>; MACH and mach2qtl software, <http://www.sph.umich.edu/csg/abecasis/MACH/index.html>; IMPUTE and SNPTEST software, <http://www.stats.ox.ac.uk/~marchini/software/gwas/gwas.html>; BEAGLE software, <http://faculty.washington.edu/browning/beagle/beagle.html>; PLINK

software, <http://pngu.mgh.harvard.edu/~purcell/plink/>; R statistical software, <http://cran.r-project.org/>; SNAP software, <http://www.broadinstitute.org/mpg/snap/index.php>.

Subjects

The 71,149 subjects included in the GWAS meta-analysis for kidney function–related traits ($n = 57,178, 61,919, 62,087$ and $33,074$ for blood urea nitrogen, eGFR_{crea} and uric acid, respectively) were obtained from 18 studies conducted in the following 11 population-, hospital- or family-based cohorts of east Asian populations through the collaborations of AGEN^{9, 14, 15, 16}; the BioBank Japan Project (BBJ), the Singapore Prospective Study Program (SP2), the Singapore Malay Eye Study (SiMES), the Singapore Indian Study (SINDI), the Singapore Chinese Eye Study (SCES), the Korea Association Resource project (KARE), the Health Examinee shared control study (HEXA), the Taiwan Super Control Study (TWSC), the Taiwan Type 2 Diabetes Consortium (TWT2D), the Genetic Epidemiology Network of Salt Sensitivity (GenSalt) and Cardio-metabolic Genome Epidemiology (CAGE). Of these, 51,327 subjects were enrolled in the GWAS meta-analysis, and 19,822 subjects were enrolled in the *in silico* replication study. Some of the subjects were included in previous studies of east Asian populations^{9, 14, 15, 16}. All participants in each cohort provided written informed consent for participation in the study, as approved by the ethical committees of each of the institutional review boards. Each study established a consensus on subject participation and phenotype definition and analytical protocol for the project. Detailed descriptions of the participating cohorts and the characteristics of the subjects are provided in Supplementary Tables 1 and 2 and in the Supplementary Note. Details of the European studies enrolled by the KidneyGen ($n = 23,812$ for serum creatinine concentration), CKDGen ($n = 67,093$ for eGFR_{crea}) and GUGC ($n = 110,347$ for uric acid concentration) consortia, including subject details and the study designs, have been described at length elsewhere (refs 6, 7 and A. Köttgen *et al.*, personal communication).

Genotyping and quality control

Genotyping platforms and quality control criteria, including exclusion of closely related subjects and outliers in terms of ancestry and cutoff values for sample call rate, SNP call rate, MAF and Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium P value are provided for each study (Supplementary Table 3 and Supplementary Note). Genotype imputation was performed on the basis of the HapMap Phase 2 panels (Japanese in Tokyo, Japan (JPT) and Han Chinese in Beijing, China (CHB) populations, except for SiMES and SINDI, for which JPT, CHB, Yoruba in Ibadan, Nigeria (YRI) and Utah residents of Northern and Western European ancestry (CEU) populations were adopted) by using MACH, IMPUTE or BEAGLE software (see [URLs](#)). After imputation, we excluded SNPs with MAF of <0.01 or imputation quality score of R^2 of <0.5 from each study.

Phenotype modeling

Clinical information on the subjects, including age, gender and mean \pm s.d. values for the kidney function–related traits, are provided (Supplementary Table 2). Collection methods

for the clinical information in each of the cohorts are described (Supplementary Note). In this study, eGFR_{crea} was estimated on the basis of serum creatinine levels, using the Japanese coefficient-modified CKD Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-EPI) equation². We excluded subjects who were <18 or >85 years old, those who had eGFR_{crea} of <15 ml/min/1.73 m² and those who had undergone renal replacement therapy. Subjects with gastrointestinal bleeding, systemic infection or hepatic failure and subjects who had undergone uric acid-lowering therapy (allopurinol, benzbromarone or probenecid) were also excluded from the analyses for blood urea nitrogen and uric acid concentration, respectively.

Genome-wide association study

Associations of SNPs with common log-transformed values of blood urea nitrogen (mg/dl), serum creatinine (mg/dl), eGFR_{crea} (ml/min/1.73 m²) or non-transformed values of uric acid concentration (mg/dl) were assessed by linear regression models assuming additive effects of the allele dosages of the SNPs using mach2qtl, SNPTEST, PLINK or R statistical software (see [URLs](#)). For the subjects in the family-based cohort, generalized linear mixed models accounting for the family structure were applied. In the regression model, gender, age, drinking status (current drinker or not), smoking status (previous or current smoker or not), body mass index and other cohort-specific variables were incorporated as covariates (Supplementary Note).

GWAS meta-analysis

In the GWAS meta-analysis, we included autosomal SNPs that satisfied quality control criteria in three or more GWAS for each of the traits, which yielded between 2.2 and 2.4 million SNPs (Supplementary Table 4). Information about the SNPs, including the coded alleles, was oriented to the forward strand of the NCBI Build 36 reference sequence. GWAS meta-analysis was performed using an inverse variance-weighted method, assuming a fixed-effects model for study-specific effect estimates (β) and standard errors (SE) of the coded alleles of the SNPs, using a Java source code implemented by the authors^{30, 31}. Genomic control corrections were carried out on test statistics from each of the GWAS using study-specific inflation factors (λ_{GC}) and were applied again to the results of the GWAS meta-analysis (Supplementary Fig. 1)³².

In silico replication study

The *in silico* replication study was conducted using additional independent east Asian subjects (Supplementary Tables 1 and 2) for the loci that satisfied $P < 5.0 \times 10^{-6}$ in the GWAS meta-analysis for each of the traits (17, 14, 14 and 6 loci for blood urea nitrogen, serum creatinine, eGFR_{crea} and uric acid, respectively; Supplementary Table 5). For each of the loci, the SNP that showed the most significant association was selected. The associations of the SNPs were assessed in the same manner as in the GWAS. The combined study of the GWAS meta-analysis and replication was conducted using an inverse variance method, assuming a fixed-effects model^{30, 31}. The SNPs that satisfied $P < 5.0 \times 10^{-8}$ in the combined study were considered to be significantly associated with the relevant kidney function-related trait, and the associations of these SNPs were further evaluated using data in

European populations from the KidneyGen, CKDGen and GUGC consortia (refs 6, 7 and A. Köttgen *et al.*, personal communication).

Estimation of explained variance

The interindividual variance in kidney function–related traits explained by the combination of the identified loci ($P < 5.0 \times 10^{-8}$ for each phenotype) was estimated using a genetic risk score model. We calculated the scores of the subjects enrolled in the *in silico* replication study by the BioBank Japan Project³³ (BBJ_5 and BBJ_6; Supplementary Table 2) by summing the dosages of the effect alleles carried by the subjects, which were weighted by the effect sizes of the SNPs obtained from the GWAS meta-analysis. The explained variance was estimated from linear regression models on the covariate-adjusted phenotypes by the scores.

Pleiotropic association analysis for kidney function–related phenotypes

For the genetic loci that showed associations at $P < 5.0 \times 10^{-8}$ in the combined study, pleiotropic associations with the kidney function–related traits and with risk for stage 3+ CKD (defined as eGFR_{crea} of <60 ml/min/1.73m²)^{1, 2} were assessed. Associations with CKD risk were assessed using logistic regression models, incorporating the covariates using the subjects obtained from the BioBank Japan Project³³ (BBJ_1– BBJ_6; Supplementary Table 2).

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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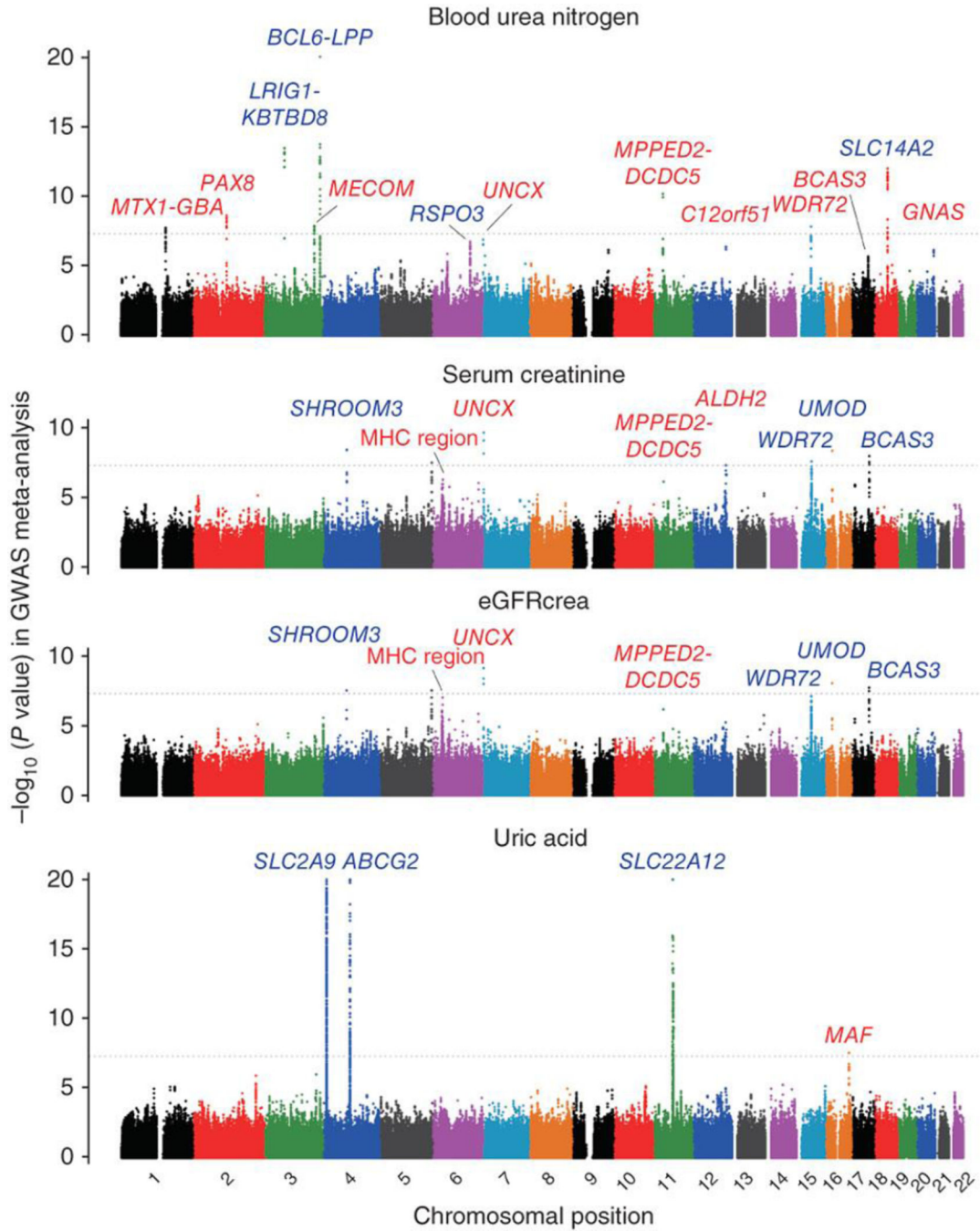


Figure 1. Manhattan plots of the GWAS meta-analysis for kidney function–related traits
 Shown are the $-\log_{10}(P \text{ values})$ of the SNPs for the concentrations of blood urea nitrogen, serum creatinine and uric acid, and for eGFRcrea. The genetic loci that satisfied the genome-wide significance threshold of $P < 5.0 \times 10^{-8}$ (gray horizontal dotted line) in the combined study of the GWAS meta-analysis and replication are labeled for each of the traits. The newly identified loci are colored red, and the previously known loci are colored blue. The SNPs for which the P value was smaller than 1.0×10^{-20} are indicated at the upper limit of each plot.

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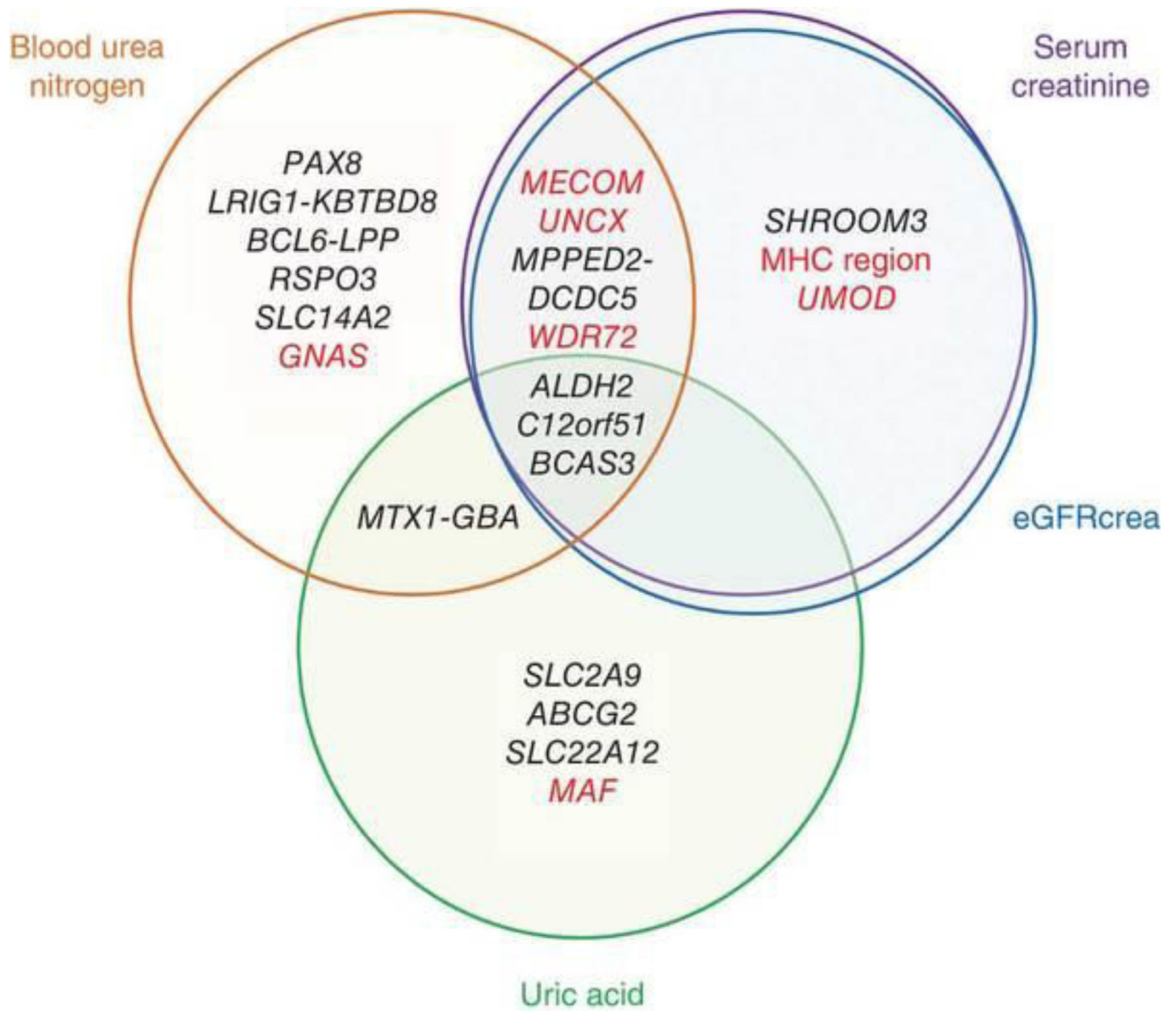


Figure 2. Venn diagram of pleiotropic associations of the identified loci

Genetic loci identified in the study are classified on the basis of the results of the pleiotropic association study of kidney function-related traits (Table 2 and Supplementary Table 8).

Genes that showed significant associations with risk for stage 3+ CKD are colored red.

Table 1

Loci newly associated with kidney function-related traits

rsID ^a	Chr.	Position (bp)	Band	Gene	AI/A2 ^b	Freq. ^c	GWAS meta-analysis		Replication study		Combined study	
							β (SE) ^d	P	β (SE) ^d	P	β (SE) ^d	P
Blood urea nitrogen ($n = 39,717$ for GWAS meta-analysis, $n = 17,461$ for replication)												
rs2049805	1	153461604	1q22	<i>MTX1-GBA</i>	T/C	0.17	0.0072 (0.0013)	1.9×10^{-8}	0.0072 (0.0017)	2.3×10^{-5}	0.0072 (0.0010)	1.8×10^{-12}
rs11123170	2	113695411	2q13	<i>PAX8</i>	G/G	0.35	0.0059 (0.0010)	2.4×10^{-9}	0.0035 (0.0014)	0.014	0.0051 (0.0008)	3.3×10^{-10}
rs16853722	3	170633326	3q26	<i>MECOM</i>	C/T	0.29	0.0059 (0.0010)	1.3×10^{-8}	0.0072 (0.0014)	2.7×10^{-7}	0.0064 (0.0008)	2.7×10^{-14}
rs10275044	7	1240371	7p22	<i>UNCX</i>	T/A	0.34	0.0079 (0.0015)	1.3×10^{-7}	0.0053 (0.0019)	0.0056	0.0069 (0.0012)	4.3×10^{-9}
rs10767873	11	30725254	11p14	<i>MPPE2- DCDC5</i>	C/T	0.69	0.0068 (0.0010)	7.0×10^{-11}	0.0068 (0.0014)	1.4×10^{-6}	0.0068 (0.0008)	4.5×10^{-16}
rs2074356	12	111129784	12q24.13	<i>C12orf51</i>	A/G	0.23	0.0064 (0.0013)	4.4×10^{-7}	0.0063 (0.0020)	0.0012	0.0064 (0.0011)	1.8×10^{-9}
rs17730281	15	51695240	15q21	<i>WDR72</i>	G/A	0.58	0.0054 (0.0010)	1.5×10^{-8}	0.0046 (0.0013)	4.5×10^{-4}	0.0051 (0.0008)	3.0×10^{-11}
rs11868441	17	56594003	17q23	<i>BCAS3</i>	G/A	0.75	0.0062 (0.0013)	2.1×10^{-6}	0.0055 (0.0015)	2.2×10^{-4}	0.0059 (0.0010)	2.1×10^{-9}
rs6026584	20	56902468	20q13	<i>GNAS</i>	T/C	0.32	0.0055 (0.0011)	7.1×10^{-7}	0.0046 (0.0016)	0.0033	0.0052 (0.0009)	8.8×10^{-9}
Serum creatinine ($n = 42,257$ for GWAS meta-analysis, $n = 19,662$ for replication)												
rs3828890	6	31548648	6p21	MHC region	G/C	0.11	0.0074 (0.0015)	5.3×10^{-7}	0.0060 (0.0018)	0.0011	0.0069 (0.0012)	2.6×10^{-9}
rs10277115	7	1251721	7p22	<i>UNCX</i>	T/A	0.35	0.0060 (0.0009)	2.2×10^{-10}	0.0034 (0.0015)	0.022	0.0052 (0.0008)	4.6×10^{-11}
rs963837	11	30705666	11p14	<i>MPPE2- DCDC5</i>	T/C	0.64	0.0036 (0.0007)	7.5×10^{-7}	0.0040 (0.0012)	0.0013	0.0037 (0.0006)	3.4×10^{-9}
rs671	12	110726149	12q24.2	<i>ALDH2</i>	A/G	0.27	0.0047 (0.0009)	5.0×10^{-8}	0.0040 (0.0013)	0.0015	0.0045 (0.0007)	2.8×10^{-10}
eGFR _{area} ($n = 42,451$ for GWAS meta-analysis, $n = 19,636$ for replication)												
rs3828890	6	31548648	6p21	MHC region	G/C	0.11	-0.0091 (0.0017)	9.8×10^{-8}	-0.0062 (0.0020)	0.0018	-0.0079 (0.0013)	1.2×10^{-9}
rs10277115	7	1251721	7p22	<i>UNCX</i>	T/A	0.35	-0.0066 (0.0011)	7.3×10^{-10}	-0.0039 (0.0016)	0.014	-0.0058 (0.0009)	1.0×10^{-10}

rsID ^a	Chr.	Position (bp)	Band	Gene	AI/A2 ^b	Freq. ^c	GWAS meta-analysis		Replication study		Combined study	
							β (SE) ^d	P	β (SE) ^d	P	β (SE) ^d	P
rs963837	11	30705666	11p14	MPPE2- DCDC5	T/C	0.64	-0.0041 (0.0008)	6.3×10^{-7}	-0.0048 (0.0013)	3.8×10^{-4}	-0.0043 (0.0007)	1.1×10^{-9}
rs889472	16	78203490	16q23	MAF	C/A	0.57	0.0758 (0.0136)	2.8×10^{-8}	0.0584 (0.0227)	0.010	0.0711 (0.0117)	1.1×10^{-9}

Uric acid ($n = 21,417$ for GWAS meta-analysis, $n = 11,657$ for replication)

Chr., chromosome; SE, standard error, Freq., frequency.

^a SNPs in the newly identified loci associated with kidney function-related traits.

^b The allele that increased blood urea nitrogen, serum creatinine or uric acid concentration or that decreased eGFR_{crea} was defined as allele 1 (A1) and is indicated on the basis of the forward strand of NCBI Build 36.

^c Frequency of allele 1 in the GWAS meta-analysis.

^d Effect size of allele 1 on common log-transformed values of blood urea nitrogen or serum creatinine concentration, eGFR_{crea} or non-transformed values of uric acid concentration.

Pleiotropic associations of the identified loci with kidney function-related traits and CKD risk

Table 2

				Blood urea nitrogen (<i>n</i> = 57,178)		Serum creatinine (<i>n</i> = 61,919)		eGFR _{crea} (<i>n</i> = 62,087)		Uric acid (<i>n</i> = 33,074)		CKD (8,805 cases and 35,259 controls)	
				<i>p</i> ^b	<i>p</i> ^b	<i>p</i> ^b	<i>p</i> ^b	<i>p</i> ^b	<i>p</i> ^b	<i>p</i> ^b	<i>p</i> ^b		
rs2049805	1	153461604	1q22	<i>MTX1-GBA</i>	1.8×10^{-12}	0.027	0.046	0.0022	0.75				
rs11123170	2	113695411	2q13	<i>PAX8</i>	3.3×10^{-10}	0.0059	0.0082	0.079	0.0058				
rs13069000	3	66881640	3p14	<i>LRI1-KBTBD8</i>	1.4×10^{-19}	0.24	0.42	0.0093	0.94				
rs16853722	3	170633326	3q26	<i>MECOM</i>	2.7×10^{-14}	9.4×10^{-4}	8.3×10^{-4}	0.76	9.9×10^{-4}				
rs10937329	3	189196412	3q27	<i>BCL6-LPP</i>	8.8×10^{-30}	0.90	0.93	0.36	0.40				
rs3775948	4	9604280	4p16	<i>SLC2A9</i>	0.061	0.40	0.36	1.6×10^{-65}	0.13				
rs13146355	4	77631164	4q21	<i>SHROOM3</i>	0.043	9.4×10^{-12}	6.6×10^{-11}	0.16	0.090				
rs2725220	4	89178946	4q22	<i>ABCG2</i>	0.20	0.18	0.23	4.2×10^{-30}	0.44				
rs3828890	6	31548648	6p21	MHC region	0.14	2.6×10^{-9}	1.2×10^{-9}	0.051	0.0016				
rs1936800	6	127477757	6q22	<i>RSPO3</i>	1.2×10^{-11}	0.64	0.57	0.78	0.72				
rs10277115	7	1251721	7p22	<i>UNCX</i>	1.9×10^{-9}	4.6×10^{-11}	1.0×10^{-10}	0.014	1.7×10^{-6}				
rs10767873	11	30725254	11p14	<i>MPPED2-DCDC5</i>	4.5×10^{-16}	4.3×10^{-7}	1.8×10^{-7}	0.012	0.0055				
rs504915	11	64220661	11q13	<i>SLC22A12</i>	0.68	0.32	0.39	3.3×10^{-63}	0.74				
rs671	12	110726149	12q24.2	<i>ALDH2</i>	1.3×10^{-5}	2.8×10^{-10}	7.8×10^{-8}	1.6×10^{-6}	0.16				
rs2074356	12	111129784	12q24.13	<i>C12orf51</i>	1.8×10^{-9}	1.9×10^{-9}	6.5×10^{-8}	1.6×10^{-5}	0.14				
rs17730281	15	51695240	15q21	<i>WDR72</i>	3.0×10^{-11}	3.6×10^{-14}	1.3×10^{-13}	0.29	1.3×10^{-8}				
rs11864909	16	20308340	16p12	<i>UMOD</i>	0.0058	1.1×10^{-10}	3.6×10^{-10}	0.87	7.0×10^{-4}				
rs889472	16	78203490	16q23	<i>MAF</i>	0.30	0.29	0.30	1.1×10^{-9}	0.0012				
rs11868441	17	56594003	17q23	<i>BCAS3</i>	2.1×10^{-9}	0.010	0.0098	0.0089	0.062				
rs9895661	17	56811371	17q23	<i>BCAS3</i>	0.65	7.4×10^{-11}	4.8×10^{-11}	9.3×10^{-4}	0.0060				
rs727483	18	41441128	18q12	<i>SLC14A2</i>	6.7×10^{-18}	0.32	0.32	0.033	0.11				
rs6026584	20	56902468	20q13	<i>GNAS</i>	8.8×10^{-9}	0.19	0.10	0.0041	0.0022				

Detailed results of the analysis are provided in Supplementary Table 8.

^aIndicated on the basis of the forward strand of NCBI Build 36.

b *P* values that satisfied the Bonferroni correction based on the number of loci ($\alpha = 0.05$, $n = 21$; $P < 0.0024$) are shown in bold.

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