## **ExomeChip-Wide Analysis of 95626 Individuals Identifies 10 Novel Loci Associated With QT and JT Intervals**

#### **See Editorial by Bos and Pereira**

**BACKGROUND:** QT interval, measured through a standard ECG, captures the time it takes for the cardiac ventricles to depolarize and repolarize. JT interval is the component of the QT interval that reflects ventricular repolarization alone. Prolonged QT interval has been linked to higher risk of sudden cardiac arrest.

**METHODS AND RESULTS:** We performed an ExomeChip-wide analysis for both QT and JT intervals, including 209 449 variants, both common and rare, in 17 341 genes from the Illumina Infinium HumanExome BeadChip. We identified 10 loci that modulate QT and JT interval duration that have not been previously reported in the literature using single-variant statistical models in a meta-analysis of 95 626 individuals from 23 cohorts (comprised 83 884 European ancestry individuals, 9610 blacks, 1382 Hispanics, and 750 Asians). This brings the total number of ventricular repolarization associated loci to 45. In addition, our approach of using coding variants has highlighted the role of 17 specific genes for involvement in ventricular repolarization, 7 of which are in novel loci.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Our analyses show a role for myocyte internal structure and interconnections in modulating QT interval duration, adding to previous known roles of potassium, sodium, and calcium ion regulation, as well as autonomic control. We anticipate that these discoveries will open new paths to the goal of making novel remedies for the prevention of lethal ventricular arrhythmias and sudden cardiac arrest.

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**Key Words:** arrhythmias, cardiac ■ death, sudden, cardiac

■ genetics ■ genome ■ humans

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### **Clinical Perspective**

Prolonged QT interval has been associated with increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest, a major cause of mortality, with between 180 000 and 450 000 cases of sudden cardiac arrest in the United States of America annually. Because the vast majority of sudden cardiac arrest occurs in the absence of clinical features that would bring a victim to medical attention, identifying additional risk factors and dissecting the pathogenesis of disease are of high importance. In this study, we conduct ExomeChip-wide analyses in 95 626 population-based multiethnic individuals to interrogate the role of a largely unstudied class of variation on ventricular repolarization in the population—coding single nucleotide variants. These variants fill in the gap between the extremely rare large-effect coding variants that result in the Mendelian long- and short-QT syndromes and the common small-effect largely noncoding variation identified through genomewide association studies. The focus on exons and coding variants has an added benefit of directly implicating genes. Our approach of focusing on coding variants and both QT and JT intervals measures has identified 10 novel loci associated with ventricular repolarization and has implicated 17 specific genes, 7 of which are in novel loci. Our analyses show a role for myocyte internal structure and interconnections in modulating QT interval duration, adding to previous known roles of potassium, sodium, and calcium ion regulation, as well as autonomic control. We anticipate that these discoveries will open new paths to the goal of making novel remedies for the prevention of lethal ventricular arrhythmias and sudden cardiac arrest.

**Prolonged QT interval has been associated with in-<br>creased risk of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), a ma-<br>jor cause of mortality, with between 180000 and<br>450,000 cases of SCA in the United States of America** creased risk of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), a major cause of mortality, with between 180000 and 450000 cases of SCA in the United States of America annually. 1 Because the vast majority of SCA occurs in the absence of clinical features that would bring a victim to medical attention,<sup>2</sup> identifying additional risk factors and dissecting the pathogenesis of disease are of high importance.

Heritability estimates of QT interval are between 30% and 40%, indicating that genetic variants play a large role in modulating QT interval in the general population.3 Mendelian syndromes of QT interval (longand short-QT syndrome), which lead to increased risk of cardiac arrhythmias and SCA, occur in ≈1 in 2000

individuals and are caused by variants in ion channels or their interacting proteins.4 Previous candidate gene and genome-wide association studies (GWAS), largely screening common noncoding variants, have identified 35 loci containing variants that modestly influence QT interval, the largest of these studies, the QT Interval International GWAS Consortium (QT-IGC),5 included a discovery population of 76 061 European ancestry individuals.

In this study, we conduct ExomeChip-wide analyses in population-based samples to interrogate the role of a largely unstudied class of variation on ventricular repolarization in the population—coding single nucleotide variants (SNVs). These variants fill in the gap between the extremely rare large-effect coding variants that result in the Mendelian long- and short-QT syndromes and the common small-effect largely noncoding variation identified through GWAS. The focus on exons and coding variants has an added benefit of directly implicating genes. By contrast, noncoding variation typically implicates a region of the genome, often containing multiple genes, and therefore requiring extensive functional experiments to implicate a specific gene. Furthermore, in this study, we examine both QT and JT interval to more comprehensively examine ventricular repolarization. We have previously observed that variation in specific loci can influence ventricular depolarization and repolarization in a concordant fashion.<sup>5,6</sup>

We performed a meta-analysis of 23 cohorts including 95626 multiethnic individuals comprised 83884 European ancestry individuals, 9610 blacks, 1382 Hispanics, and 750 Asian individuals (Table I in the in the Data Supplement). Each individual was genotyped for 191740 coding SNVs in 17341 genes using the Illumina Infinium HumanExome BeadChip (ExomeChip), along with 17709 noncoding SNVs of known importance from previous GWAS and variants tiling across the genome. These variants were chosen by evaluating ≈12000 exome sequences for coding variants that appeared in at least 3 individuals.

#### **METHODS**

The data, analytic methods, and study materials will be made available to other researchers for purposes of reproducing the results, subject to Data Use/Sharing Agreements adopted by individual participating cohorts. GWAS summary results will be available through the CHARGE Consortium Summary Results webpage available at dbGaP (phs000930).

This study was approved by local institutional review boards, and all participating subjects gave informed consent (detailed ethics statements in the Data Supplement).

#### **SNV Association Tests and Meta-Analysis**

Detailed methods are provided in the Data Supplement. Briefly, all cohorts excluded individuals with QRS intervals ≥120 ms, heart rate <40 beats per minute or >120 beats per

minute , left or right bundle branch block, atrial fibrillation on baseline ECG, Wolff–Parkinson–White syndrome, pacemaker, use of class I or class III blocking medication, or pregnant. Clinical characteristics summary statistics for each cohort are provided in Table I in the Data Supplement.

SNV effect size estimates are calculated via standard inverse variance–weighted meta-analysis of results provided by each cohort from a linear association model with QT/JT as the dependent variable, including covariates age, sex, RR interval (inverse heart rate), height, body mass index, and cohort-specific adjustments (principal components, clinic, family structure). Significance is similarly calculated by inverse variance–weighted meta-analysis; however, instead of raw QT/JT as the dependent variable in the linear regression, an inverse rank normal transformation is performed (details in the Data Supplement). These 2 models are used in tandem to avoid *P* value inflation from the analysis of the rare variants on the ExomeChip while maintaining the easy interpretation of effect sizes in milliseconds. The main analysis included all ethnic groups meta-analyzed together. SNVs with minor allele count <10 were excluded from the meta-analysis. SNVs were considered statistically significant if they exceeded the Bonferroni correction threshold of *P*<2×10−7.

#### **Use of Functional Variants to Implicate Individual Genes Using Genome-Wide Significance**

Genome-wide significance (GwiS) uses a greedy forward selection algorithm to identify independent genetic effects within a given gene/locus.7 A locus was defined by the SNV with the most significant association±1 megabase. GWiS was run on European-only summary statistics from 22 cohorts (QT, n=83884; JT, n=80330), with linkage disequilibrium (LD) estimated from the merged ExomeChip and HapMap-imputed Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) European ancestry data set (n=9537; Data Supplement). An attempt to replace GWiS identified noncoding variants with equivalent coding variants (*r* 2 >0.8) did not yield any substitutions.

#### **RESULTS**

#### **QT Interval ExomeChip Analysis Identifies 6 Novel Loci**

Meta-analysis identified SNVs in 25 loci associated with QT interval at ExomeChip-wide significance (*P*<2×10−7; Figure I in the Data Supplement). Of these, 19 loci were previously associated with QT interval, and 6 loci were novel (Table 1). At 4 of these novel loci (*PM20D1*, *SLC4A3*, *CASR*, and *NRAP*), the top hit is a nonsynonymous variant. For the 2 novel loci where the index SNV is a noncoding variant, no genes in these loci harbored coding SNVs associated with QT interval. Analyses stratified by ethnicity found similar effect sizes between European ancestry individuals and blacks and same general direction of effects in the much smaller Hispanics (n=1382) and Chinese (n=750) cohorts (Table II and Figure II in the Data Supplement).

Nineteen of the 25 loci associated with QT interval at ExomeChip-wide significance in our study had been associated with QT interval in prior European ancestry GWAS studies (Table 2, \**P* value). Table 2 detail the 35 known QT loci identified from prior GWAS of European ancestry individuals. Of the 14 previously identified loci for which the most significant SNV in our current study is a coding variant (Table 2, A), 3 loci reached ExomeChip-wide significance in our study (\**P* value). Of the 21 previously identified loci for which the most significant SNV in our study is a noncoding variant not in LD (*r*<sup>2</sup> >0.8) with a nearby coding variant, 16 loci exceeded the significance threshold in our study (Table 2, B, \**P* value). For 5 of these 16 loci where the top signal was a noncoding SNV, they nonetheless harbored coding variants in ≥1 nearby genes that also reached ExomeChip-wide significance (Table II in the Data Supplement).





Significance was determined from analysis of inverse rank normal transformed residuals to avoid *P* value inflation from the analysis of rare variants. Effect size estimates in milliseconds (ms) are reported from untransformed analyses. n=95 626 number of samples. DEPICT<sup>9</sup> genes pass FDR <5% cutoff. Expression quantitative trait loci (eQTL) genes are pulled from the Genotype-Tissue Expression portal<sup>10,11</sup> using the representative SNV and GWiS independent SNVs. CAF indicates coded allele frequency; DEPICT, Data-driven Expression-Prioritized Integration for Complex Traits; FDR, false discovery rate; GwiS, genome-wide significance; SNV, single-nucleotide variants; and UTR3, three prime untranslated region.

\*Gene if the eQTL is in the left ventricle.





(*Continued*)





A section lists the 14 (of 35) previously identified loci (QT-IGC study of European ancestry individuals<sup>5</sup>) for which the most significant SNV in our current study is a coding variant. Because of the design of the Exome Chip with a focus on coding variants, only select intronic or intergenic SNVs were interrogated, and therefore not all QT-IGC SNVs were examined. B section lists the 21 previously identified loci for which the most significant SNV in our study is a noncoding variant not in LD (*r*<sup>2</sup>>0.8) with a nearby coding variant. Significance was determined from analysis of inverse rank normal transformed residuals to avoid *P* value inflation from the analysis of rare variants. Effect size estimates in milliseconds (ms) are reported from untransformed analyses. n=95626 number of samples. Within the QT-IGC Implicated Gene(s) column, evidence for the gene is c, coding variant; t, eQTL transcript; p, in silico protein-protein interactor; i, immunoprecipitation interactor. DEPICT<sup>9</sup> genes pass FDR<5% cutoff. Expression quantitative trait loci (eQTL) genes are pulled from the Genotype-Tissue Expression portal<sup>10,11</sup> using the representative SNV and GWIS independent SNVs. CAF indicates coded allele frequency; DEPICT, Data-driven Expression-Prioritized Integration for Complex Traits; FDR, false discovery rate; GwiS, genome-wide significance; QT-IGC, QT Interval International GWAS Consortium, and SNV, single nucleotide variants.

*\*P* value if significantly associated after Bonferroni correction, *P*<2×10−7.

‡Gene if the eQTL is in the left ventricle.

§GWiS independent SNV rs9851724 used to identify eQTL.

†Conditional analyses in ARIC contradict this result, see text for details.

#### **JT Interval Association Identifies 4 Novel Loci**

Although ventricular depolarization and repolarization are often coregulated, this is not universally true. Therefore, to more specifically examine ventricular repolarization, we also investigated genetic associations with JT interval, defined mathematically by subtracting the QRS interval (ventricular depolarization and conduction) from the QT interval, which primarily reflects ventricular repolarization.8 Among the 15590 ARIC participants, the correlations (*r*<sup>2</sup> ) among the intervals were 0.84 for QT and JT; 0.02 for QRS and JT; and 0.08 for QT and QRS. We analyzed JT interval as described above for QT interval while adding QRS interval as an additional covariate to further remove the effect of ventricular depolarization on the analysis. Thirty coding variants in 14 loci were associated with JT interval (Table III and Figure III in the Data Supplement). Four of these 14 loci were not identified as QT interval loci (Table 3). Three of these 4 novel repolarization loci had index SNVs that were coding variants: *SENP2*, *SLC12A7*, and *NACA*. The SNV rs9470361 (near *CDKN1A*) has previously been associated with QRS interval with an effect size estimate in the opposite direction (Table 3). Indeed, for 3 of these loci (*SENP2*, *CDKN1A*, and *NACA*), where an association was found with JT but not with QT interval, the index SNVs were significantly associated with QRS duration but with effect estimates in the opposite direction (Table 3). Hence, at these loci, variants that prolong the QRS interval (depolarization) shorten the JT interval (repolarization). Analyses run stratified by ethnicity found similar effect sizes between European ancestry individuals and blacks (Table III in the Data Supplement).

#### **Use of Coding Variants to Implicate Specific Genes**

Leveraging information from nominally significant coding SNVs, we sought to implicate causative genes in each locus by demonstrating that putatively functional coding variants are associated with ventricular repolarization independently of noncoding SNVs. We have previously<sup>5</sup> shown that several QT loci contain multiple independent genetic effects, including some loci harboring multiple significant coding variants (Tables II and III in the Data Supplement). Thus, even if not the top hit at a locus, putative functional SNVs can still implicate a specific gene at a locus. We used the GWiS7 algorithm to determine the number of independent effects in all 45 ventricular repolarization associated loci from Tables 1 through 3 and to identify the SNV that best represents each independent effect in European ancestry individuals (n=83884; Table IV in the Data Supplement). The *SCN5A-SCN10A* locus is a particularly illustrative example of the use of this approach. Although coding variants in *DLEC1*, *SCN5A*, and *SCN10A* are each ExomeChip-wide significant, after using GWiS, the





Significance was determined from analysis of inverse rank normal transformed residuals to avoid *P* value inflation from the analysis of rare variants. Effect size estimates in milliseconds (ms) are reported from untransformed analyses. QRS interval association summary data for these 4 variants were contributed by our coauthors Drs Prins, Jamshidi, and Arking from ExomeChip analyses they are running as a part of the Cohorts for Heart and Aging Research in Genomic Epidemiology (CHARGE) Consortium Electrocardiogram (EKG) working group. n=95626 samples for JT interval association and n=85593 samples for QRS interval association. DEPICT<sup>9</sup> genes pass FDR<5% cutoff. Expression quantitative trait loci (eQTL) genes are pulled from the Genotype-Tissue Expression portal<sup>10,11</sup> using the representative SNV and GWiS independent SNVs. CAF indicates coded allele frequency; DEPICT, Data-driven Expression-Prioritized Integration for Complex Traits; FDR, false discovery rate; GwiS, genome-wide significance; and SNV, single nucleotide variants.

*\*P* value if significantly associated after Bonferroni correction, *P*<2×10−7.

†Gene if the eQTL is in the left ventricle.

signal coming from the coding variants in *DLEC1* and *SCN5A* is explained by noncoding variants, and only the *SCN10A* coding variant signal remains (Table V in the Data Supplement). In the Gene(s) with independent coding variation column in Tables 1 through 3, we list the 17 genes in 16 loci that have an independent effect represented by a coding variant.

For the loci listed in Table 2 B, such as the *SCN5A-SCN10A* locus, where intronic and intergenic variants were included in the analyses, the independent associations in coding SNVs identified by GWiS are independent of the noncoding variants in the region. This analysis implicates 2 genes for involvement in cardiac repolarization among those of European descent: *SCN10A* and *KCNQ1.* For the novel loci in Table 1 where a coding SNV is the most significant association in our study, it is unlikely that noncoding variants of importance are present in those loci because the loci were not found during the QT-IGC efforts, a study of similar sample size.

In contrast, for the 14 previously identified QT loci where the top SNV in our study was a coding variant (Table 2, A), the GWiS findings are less conclusive because intronic and intergenic SNVs were largely not examined in these regions. Therefore, to determine whether the associated coding variants are independently associated with QT interval and hence implicate a causal gene, or alternatively, are associated simply because of LD with a more strongly associated noncoding variant not genotyped with the ExomeChip, we performed additional analyses in a subset of the data set, ARIC, that includes both the QT-IGC top SNV, as well as the top SNV, from the current study. We performed conditional analyses at the 7 loci in Table 2, A where significant associations were identified by GWiS (the remaining 7 loci did not have any SNVs identified as significant by GWiS after accounting for multiple testing), by including both the QT-IGC and ExomeChip variants in the same regression model in the

ARIC Europeans data set (n=9537; Table VI in the Data Supplement). Conditional analyses demonstrate that the coding variant in *SP3* is independent of the top noncoding SNV at this locus discovered from QT-IGC, implicating this gene in QT interval modulation. For *GMPR*, the coding variant is in almost perfect linkage disequilibrium with the noncoding QT-IGC variant ( $r^2$ =0.99 in ARIC), suggesting that the coding variant may be the causal variant explaining the QT-IGC signal. For a third locus, *RNF207,* although conditional analysis suggested that the QT-IGC SNV accounts for the association at this locus, both the top QT-IGC SNV as well as the top SNV from this study are coding variants in high LD, thus implicating the *RNF207* gene in myocardial repolarization. For the remaining 4 loci, 1 coding variant is associated because of the stronger noncoding QT-IGC signal (*KCNH2*); 2 were not properly tested because of no effect in ARIC of the ExomeChip variant (*ATP2A2*) or the QT-IGC variant (*TTN*), although there was low LD (*r* 2 <0.04) between the coding and noncoding variants, suggesting independence; and 1 was unclear (*SMARCAD1*), as putting both SNVs in the model significantly altered the  $β$  estimates for both SNVs.

#### **In Silico Analyses to Implicate Causal Genes**

To further decode the role these loci might play in regulating ventricular repolarization, Data-driven Expression-Prioritized Integration for Complex Traits<sup>9</sup> was used to investigate whether identified loci contain genes from functional annotated gene sets/pathways. Included in Tables 1 through 3 in the DEPICT Implicated Gene(s) column is a list of genes with a false discovery rate <5%. Furthermore, we looked up each of the Tables 1 through 3 SNVs in the Genotype-Tissue Expression Portal to identify single-tissue expression quantitative trait loci<sup>10,11</sup> (left ventricle expression quantitative trait loci, represented by footnote symbols in tables). Findings for

Data-driven Expression-Prioritized Integration for Complex Traits and expression quantitative trait loci analyses are largely consistent with those genes identified because of harboring significant coding variants and help clarify the causative gene.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Our approach of focusing on coding variants and both QT and JT intervals has identified 10 novel loci associated with ventricular repolarization and has implicated 17 specific genes, 7 of which are in novel loci. Previous studies have implicated roles for potassium ion regulation, sodium ion regulation, calcium ion regulation, and autonomic control of QT interval,<sup>12</sup> and our results provide support for each of these pathways. *SLC12A7* (*KCC4*), which is highly expressed in the left ventricle,10,11 is a potassium chloride cotransporter involved in potassium efflux.13 *CASR* is a G protein–coupled receptor that maintains circulating calcium ion homeostasis via parathyroid hormone secretion in the parathyroid and kidney tubule ion handling.14

In addition to previously implicated pathways, our analyses highlight a role for genes involved in generating the physical force of contraction inside of cardiomyocytes and for conducting electric signal between cardiomyocytes across the heart. Pathway enrichment analyses using Data-driven Expression-Prioritized Integration for Complex Traits (detailed methods in the Data Supplement) identified the GO category GO:0005916, which comprised the genes that code for fascia adherens, the structure that links myofibrils between cardiomyocytes, and contains N-cadherin. *NRAP*, found to have a significant independent coding variant, likely anchors terminal actin filaments of myofibrils to other protein complexes beneath the sarcolemma<sup>15,16</sup> and is expressed exclusively in skeletal muscle and heart.10,11 skNAC (skeletal *NACA*) knockout mice, a muscle-specific isoform of *NACA*, which was found to have a significant independent coding variant, die between embryonic days 10.5 and 12.5 because of cardiac defects, showing interventricular septal defects and a thin myocardial wall.<sup>17</sup> With these 3 points of evidence combined with the previously known locus and GWiS-implicated gene, *TTN*, a clear class of genes emerge that influence ventricular repolarization through their effect on myocyte structure.

It is important to note that the intercalated disc, which is the interface between cardiomyocytes, contains fascia adherens, desmosomes, and gap junctions, the last of which is known to play a role in ion-mediated relaying of action potentials between cardiomyocytes and, in combination with the gene *NOS1AP*, has been implicated as regulating QT interval.<sup>18</sup> In contrast, we implicate a nonion-dependent structural/mechanical interconnect between cardiomyocytes mediated by the fascia adherens.

By looking specifically at ventricular repolarization (JT interval) without the influence of depolarization (QRS interval), we detected additional loci related to ventricular repolarization while teasing apart the differential regulation of the various phases of ventricular conduction. Our current results are consistent with our prior findings that variation in some loci influence ventricular depolarization and repolarization in a concordant fashion, others influence depolarization and repolarization in a discordant fashion, and still other loci are associated with one phenotype and not the other.<sup>5,6</sup> Although ventricular depolarization and repolarization are often coregulated, the difference in genetic effect indicates this is not universally true. Several limitations should be noted. First, we did not have an additional sample to perform replication studies although results were consistent across the diverse cohorts included in our study (Figures IV–XIII in the Data Supplement). Second, correlation of effect sizes was weak between the European ancestry and Hispanic and Asian populations, limiting extrapolation of findings to these populations.

In summary, we have identified 10 loci newly associated with ventricular repolarization. This brings the total number of ventricular repolarization–associated loci to 45. In addition, we have directly implicated 17 specific genes contained in these loci as likely affecting ventricular repolarization and outlined a class of genes that mechanically control QT interval. These new discoveries will likely allow for the development of novel vectors for the prevention of lethal ventricular arrhythmias and SCA.

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The Genotype-Tissue Expression (GTEx) Project was supported by the Common Fund of the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health. Additional funds were provided by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Donors were enrolled at Biospecimen Source Sites funded by NCI\SAIC-Frederick, Inc. (SAIC-F) subcontracts to the National Disease Research Interchange (10XS170), Roswell Park Cancer Institute (10XS171), and Science Care, Inc. (X10S172). The Laboratory, Data Analysis, and Coordinating Center was funded through a contract (HHSN268201000029C) to The Broad Institute, Inc. Biorepository operations were funded through an SAIC-F subcontract to Van Andel Institute (10ST1035). Additional data repository and project management were provided by SAIC-F (HHSN261200800001E). The Brain Bank was supported by supplements to University of Miami grants DA006227 and DA033684 and to contract N01MH000028. Statistical Methods development grants were made to the University of Geneva (MH090941 and MH101814), the University of Chicago (MH090951, MH090937, MH101820, and MH101825), the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill (MH090936 and MH101819), Harvard University (MH090948), Stanford University (MH101782), Washington University St Louis (MH101810), and the University of Pennsylvania (MH101822). The data used for the analyses described in this article were obtained from: the GTEx Portal on July 27, 2016 and dbGaP accession number phs000424.vN.pN on July 27, /2016.

#### **SOURCES OF FUNDING**

Funded in part by training grant (National Institute of General Medical Sciences) 5T32GM07814 (Dr Bihlmeyer ), and R01HL116747 (Drs Arking, Bihlmeyer, and Sotoodehnia), and R01 HL111089 (Drs Sotoodehnia and Arking). Dr Sotoodehnia is also supported by the Laughlin Family. This material is based on work supported by the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship under Grant No. DGE-1232825 (Dr Bihlmeyer). Any opinion, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

#### **DISCLOSURES**

Dr Asselbergs is supported by a Dekker scholarship-Junior Staff Member 2014T001 – Netherlands Heart Foundation and UCL Hospitals NIHR Biomedical Research Centre. Dr Psaty serves on the Data and Safety Monitoring Board of a clinical trial funded by the manufacturer (Zoll LifeCor) and on the Steering Committee of the Yale Open Data Access Project funded by Johnson & Johnson. The other authors report no conflicts.

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#### **FOOTNOTES**

Received March 13, 2017; accepted October 3, 2017.

The Data Supplement is available at http://circgenetics. ahajournals.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1161/CIRCGEN.117. 001758/-/DC1.

An educational video is available at http://circgenetics. ahajournals.org/highwire/filestream/257340/field\_highwire\_ adjunct\_files/1/CircGenetics\_CIRCCVG-2018-001758\_supp7. mp4.

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#### **QT and JT Intervals ExomeChip-Wide Analysis of 95 626 Individuals Identifies 10 Novel Loci Associated With**

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Print ISSN: 1942-325X. Online ISSN: 1942-3268 Copyright © 2018 American Heart Association, Inc. All rights reserved. Dallas, TX 75231 *Circulation: Cardiovascular Genetics* is published by the American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue, doi: 10.1161/CIRCGEN.117.001758 *Circ Genom Precis Med.* 2018;11:

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#### **SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL**

- 1. Supplemental Methods
- 2. Cohort Specific Methods
- 3. Ethics Statements
- 4. Cohort Specific Acknowledgments
- 5. Supplemental References
- 6. **Supplemental Table 1**: Clinical Characteristics Summary Statistics and Genotyping Information for Each Cohort
- 7. **Supplemental Table 2:** ExomeChip-wide Significant Variants in QT Meta-analysis
- 8. **Supplemental Table 3:** ExomeChip-wide Significant Variants in JT Meta-analysis
- 9. **Supplemental Table 4:** GWiS Results
- 10. **Supplemental Table 5:** Multi-SNV Analysis of the *SCN5A-SCN10A* Locus
- 11. **Supplemental Table 6:** Conditional Analyses in ARIC European Ancestry Individuals for ExomeChip SNVs and QTIGC SNPs
- 12. **Supplemental Table 7:** Depict Loci Description
- 13. **Supplemental Figure 1:** Manhattan Plot of QT Associated Hits.
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- 15. **Supplemental Figure 3:** Manhattan Plot of JT-only Associated Hits.
- 16. **Supplemental Figure 4:** Forest Plot of rs1361754 Association with QT interval.
- 17. **Supplemental Figure 5:** Forest Plot of rs1801725 Association with QT interval.
- 18. **Supplemental Figure 6:** Forest Plot of rs3189030 Association with QT interval.
- 19. **Supplemental Figure 7:** Forest Plot of rs4934956 Association with QT interval.
- 20. **Supplemental Figure 8:** Forest Plot of rs17608766 Association with QT interval.
- 21. **Supplemental Figure 9:** Forest Plot of rs55910611 Association with QT interval.
- 22. **Supplemental Figure 10:** Forest Plot of rs737154 Association with JT interval.
- 23. **Supplemental Figure 11:** Forest Plot of rs2926743 Association with JT interval.
- 24. **Supplemental Figure 12:** Forest Plot of rs6762208 Association with JT interval.
- 25. **Supplemental Figure 13:** Forest Plot of rs9470361 Association with JT interval.

#### **Supplemental Methods**

#### **Genotyping and Quality Control**

Genotyping and quality control followed ExomeChip best practices put out by the CHARGE Consortium<sup>1</sup>.

#### **SNV Association Tests and Meta-Analysis**

SNV effect size estimates are calculated via standard inverse variance weighted (IVW) meta-analysis of results provided by each cohort from a linear association model with QT/JT as the dependent variable, including covariates age, sex, RR interval, height, body mass index (BMI), and cohort specific adjustments (principal components, clinic, family structure). Significance (*P* value) is determined by first inverse rank normal transforming residuals from a linear model with QT/JT as the outcome using covariates: Age, Sex, RR interval, Height, and BMI, then running a standard IVW meta-analysis on a linear association model with the transformed residuals as the outcome using cohort specific adjustments as covariates. These two models are used in tandem to avoid *P* value inflation from the analysis of the rare variants on the ExomeChip while maintaining the easy interpretation of effect sizes in milliseconds.

Representative SNVs have the lowest p-value in each locus. QT loci are considered discovered if passing a Bonferroni correction, *P*<0.05 / 209,449 SNVs (2E-07). JT loci are considered discovered if passing a Bonferroni correction, *P*< 0.05 / 208,917 SNVs (2E-07). The difference in the number of SNVs is due to the fact not all cohorts that contributed data to the QT analysis contributed data to the JT analysis. Cohorts contribute slightly different number of SNVs due to individual QC efforts. Variants with minor allele counts less than 10 were excluded from the meta-analysis.

#### **LD Calculations and Conditional Analyses**

LD calculations were performed in the merged ExomeChip and HapMap-imputed ARIC European-ancestry dataset with 9,537 samples. Conditional analyses were run only if the QT-IGC variant had a nominal association in ARIC  $(P<0.05)$  to ensure the effect size estimate was stable.

#### **Utilization of Functional Variants to Implicate Individual Genes using GWiS**

Gene-Wide Significance (GWiS) uses a greedy forward selection algorithm to identify independent genetic effects within a given gene/locus<sup>2</sup>. We defined each locus as the most significant SNV  $\pm$ 1 MB and ran on European-only summary statistics from 22 cohorts for a sample size of 83,884 in QT analyses and 80,330 in JT analyses. GWiS finds the number of independent effects in each locus along with a SNV that best represents each independent effect. This is important because even coding variants may be significant in the analysis due to LD with a causal non-coding variant. The LD information needed for the GWiS analysis was estimated in the ARIC Europeans dataset as described above. To ensure accurate estimates of LD, the GWiS analysis was limited to European-only because ARIC has a large number of European-ancestry individuals. An attempt to replace GWiS identified non-coding variants with equivalent coding variants  $(r^2>0.8)$  did not yield any substitutions.

#### **SKAT Gene-based Tests**

SKAT tests were performed using the R package "seqMeta" with rare variants (MAF  $\leq$  0.01) from each gene. Variants were filtered to those that alter protein coding: frame-shift, nonsynonymous, stop-gain, stop-loss, or splicing<sup>1</sup>. In a second analysis, the nonsynonymous variants were further filtered to those predicted to be damaging by at least two of the following prediction algorithms: Polyphen2, LRT, SIFT, Mutation Taster<sup>1</sup>. Genes with only a single variant were excluded. Bonferroni corrected ExomeChip-wide significance is *P*<0.05 divided by the number of genes tested in either of the variant filters: 29,368 for QT and 29,366 for JT.

#### **Pathway Enrichment**

To further decode the role whether QT/JT-associated loci might play in regulating ventricular repolarization, Data-driven Expression-Prioritized Integration for Complex Traits (DEPICT)<sup>3</sup> was used to investigate if

identified loci contain genes from functional annotated gene sets/pathways. The 45 SNVs from Tables 1, 2, and 3 were used to seed the algorithm, however, only 38 SNVs were able to be matched to DEPICT's internal database used by the algorithm (Date Supplement Table VII). Included in Tables 1, 2, and 3 in the "DEPICT Implicated Gene(s)" column is a list of genes with a false discovery rate  $(FDR) < 5\%$ . Three gene sets passed the FDR cutoff of 5%: C1QA subnetwork (ENSG00000173372; p=1.97E-6), fascia adherens (GO:0005916; p=8.28E-6), and ACOT13 subnetwork (ENSG00000112304; p=9.02E-6). Three tissues also passed the FDR cutoff of 5%: Heart Ventricles (A07.541.560; p=9.56E-4), Heart (A07.541; p=9.74E-4), and Atrial Appendage  $(A07.541.358.100; p=0.003).$ 

#### **GTEx eQTL Lookup**

We looked up each of the Tables 1, 2, and 3 representative SNVs and GWiS independent SNVs (60 SNVs) in the GTEx Portal to identify single-tissue expression quantitative trait loci (eQTL) $4.5$ . All eQTLs passed FDR<5%. The results are presented in Tables 1, 2, and 3's "eQTL" column (left ventricle association noted in bold). Genes were excluded if the SNV was towards the bottom of an LD significance peak indicating the association is due to low-level LD with a stronger eQTL not associated with QT/JT interval: *ATP1B1*, *ANKRD9*, *BAZ2A* from the *NACA* locus. Interestingly, rs1361754 was found to be both an ExomeChip-wide significant coding variant in *PM20D1* and an eQTL for the same gene in left ventricle. Furthermore, for loci where there were no independent coding SNV associations to implicate a causal gene, eQTL analysis from left ventricular tissue, arguably the most relevant tissue to the phenotype of cardiac repolarization, identifies 7 additional genes potentially involved in myocardial repolarization (bolded genes in Table 2B).

#### **Cohort Specific Methods**

#### AGES

In anticipation of the sequencing of the human genome and description of the human proteome, the Age, Gene/Environment Susceptibility-Reykjavik Study (AGES-Reykjavik)<sup>6</sup> was initiated in 2002. AGES-Reykjavik was designed to examine risk factors, including genetic susceptibility and gene/environment interaction, in relation to disease and disability in old age. The study is multidisciplinary, providing detailed phenotypes related to the cardiovascular, neurocognitive (including sensory), and musculoskeletal systems, and to body composition and metabolic regulation. Relevant quantitative traits, subclinical indicators of disease, and medical diagnoses are identified by using biomarkers, imaging, and other physiologic indicators. The AGES-Reykjavik sample is drawn from an established population-based cohort, the Reykjavik Study. This cohort of men and women born between 1907 and 1935 has been followed in Iceland since 1967 by the Icelandic Heart Association. The AGES-Reykjavik cohort, with cardiovascular risk factor assessments earlier in life and detailed late-life phenotypes of quantitative traits, will create a comprehensive study of aging nested in a relatively genetically homogeneous older population. This approach should facilitate identification of genetic factors that contribute to healthy aging as well as the chronic conditions common in old age.

#### ARIC

The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities study<sup>7</sup> (https://www2.cscc.unc.edu/aric/) includes 15,792 men and women from four communities in the United States (Jackson, Mississippi; Forsyth County, North Carolina; Washington County, Maryland; suburbs of Minneapolis, Minnesota) enrolled in 1987–1989 and prospectively followed. ECGs were recorded at baseline using MAC PC ECG machines (Marquette Electronics) and processed initially by the Dalhousie ECG program in a central laboratory at the EPICORE Center (University of Alberta). Processing was later repeated for the present study using the GE Marquette 12-SL program (2001 version) at the EPICARE Center (Wake Forest University). All ECGs were visually inspected for technical errors and inadequate quality.

#### BRIGHT

The BRIGHT study<sup>8</sup> includes 2000 unrelated white European hypertensive individuals. Twelve-lead ECG recordings (Siemens-Sicard 440; http://www.brightstudy.ac.uk/info/sop04.html) producing automated measurements of the JT and QT interval were available for all subjects. All data were subsequently transferred from each recruitment centre by electronic modem to electrophysiologists from the West of Scotland Primary Prevention Study (Professor Peter MacFarlane) for central reporting.

#### CAMP

The MGH Cardiology and Metabolic Patient (CAMP MGH) cohort comprises 3857 subjects recruited between 2008 and 2012. Two thirds of the subjects were drawn from patients who had appointments with a physician in the MGH Heart Center, whereas one third were recruited independent of any hospital visit. All subjects had plasma and serum samples collected, as well as blood for genomic DNA. ECG was performed on subjects who did not have a tracing within the past 6 months.

#### CHS

The Cardiovascular Health Study (CHS) is a population-based cohort study of risk factors for coronary heart disease and stroke in adults  $\geq 65$  years conducted across four field centers<sup>9</sup>. The original predominantly European ancestry cohort of 5,201 persons was recruited in 1989-1990 from random samples of the Medicare eligibility lists; subsequently, an additional predominantly African-American cohort of 687 persons were enrolled for a total sample of 5,888. CHS was approved by institutional review committees at each field center and individuals in the present analysis had available DNA and gave informed consent including consent to use of genetic information for the study of cardiovascular disease.

#### ERF

The Erasmus Rucphen Family study<sup>10</sup> is comprised of a family-based cohort embedded in the Genetic Research in Isolated Populations (GRIP) program in the southwest of the Netherlands. The aim of this program is to identify genetic risk factors for the development of complex disorders. In ERF, twenty-two families that had a large number of children baptized in the community church between 1850 and 1900 were identified with the help of detailed genealogical records. All living descendants of these couples, and their spouses, were invited to take part in the study. Comprehensive interviews, questionnaires, and examinations were completed at a research center in the area; approximately 3,200 individuals participated. Examinations included 12 lead ECG measurements. Electrocardiograms were recorded on ACTA electrocardiographs (ESAOTE, Florence, Italy) and digital measurements of the QT and JT intervals were made using the Modular ECG Analysis System (MEANS). Data collection started in June 2002 and was completed in February 2005. In the current analyses, 965 participants for whom complete phenotypic, genotypic and genealogical information was available were studied.

#### FHS

The objective of the Framingham Heart Study was to identify the common factors or characteristics that contribute to CVD by following its development over a long period of time in a large group of participants who had not yet developed overt symptoms of CVD or suffered a heart attack or stroke. The researchers recruited 5,209 men and women between the ages of 30 and 62 from the town of Framingham, Massachusetts, and began the first round of extensive physical examinations and lifestyle interviews that they would later analyze for common patterns related to CVD development. Since 1948, the subjects have continued to return to the study every two years for a detailed medical history, physical examination, and laboratory tests, and in 1971, the Study enrolled a second generation - 5,124 of the original participants' adult children and their spouses - to participate in similar examinations. In 1994, the need to establish a new study reflecting a more diverse community of Framingham was recognized, and the first Omni cohort of the Framingham Heart Study was enrolled. In April 2002 the Study entered a new phase, the enrollment of a third generation of participants, the grandchildren of the Original Cohort. In 2003, a second group of Omni participants was enrolled.

#### Generation Scotland

The Generation Scotland: Scottish Family Health Study (GS:SFHS)<sup>11</sup> is a collaboration between the Scottish Universities and the NHS, funded by the Chief Scientist Office of the Scottish Government. GS:SFHS is a family-based genetic epidemiology cohort with DNA, other biological samples (serum, urine and cryopreserved whole blood) and socio-demographic and clinical data from  $\approx$ 24,000 volunteers, aged 18-98 years, in  $\approx$ 7,000 family groups. Participants were recruited across Scotland, with some family members from further afield, from 2006 - 2011. Most (87%) participants were born in Scotland and 96% in the UK or Ireland. GS:SFHS operates under appropriate ethical approvals, and all participants gave written informed consent.

#### **GOCHA**

The Genetics of Cerebral Hemorrhage on Anticoagulation (GOCHA) study<sup>12</sup> is a multicenter study comprised of patients age >55 years presenting to participating hospitals with primary ICH. Controls were enrolled from ambulatory clinics in the same centers from which cases were recruited.

#### GRAPHIC

The GRAPHIC Study<sup>13</sup> comprises 2024 individuals from 520 nuclear families recruited from the general population in Leicestershire, UK between 2003-2005 for the purpose of investigating the genetic determinants of blood pressure and related cardiovascular traits. Families were included if both parents aged 40-60 years and two offspring ≥18 years wished to participate. A detailed medical history was obtained from study subjects by standardized questionnaires and clinical examination was performed by research nurses following standard

procedures. Measurements obtained included height, weight, waist-hip ratio, clinic and ambulatory blood pressure and a 12-lead ECG.

#### Inter99

The Inter99 study<sup>14</sup> carried out in 1999-2001 included invitation of 12934 persons aged 30-60 years drawn from an age- and sex-stratified random sample of the population. The baseline participation rate was 52.5%, and the study included 6784 persons. The Inter99 study was a population-based randomized controlled trial (CT00289237, ClinicalTrials.gov) and investigated the effects of lifestyle intervention on CVD. Here 5827 participants with information on lipids and exome chip were analysed. ECG information was obtained from the MUSE Cardiology Information System (GE Healthcare, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin) analysed by Marquette 12SL algorithm version 21.

#### JHS

The Jackson Heart Study<sup>15</sup> (https://www.jacksonheartstudy.org/) includes 5,306 African-American men and women from the three counties, Hinds, Madison, and Rankin, that comprise the Jackson, MS metropolitan area. Participants were enrolled in 2000-2004 and have been followed prospectively. A supine 12-lead digital electrocardiogram (ECG) was recorded with the Marquette MAC/PC digital ECG recorder (Marquette Electronics, Milwaukee, Wis), and with electrode placement that duplicates that of the ARIC study. The ECGs are analyzed in accordance with the Minnesota Code Classification system, via an extensively validated computer algorithm that was developed specifically for epidemiologic studies. In-hospital surveillance ECGs are read visually according to the Minnesota Code Classification system.

#### KORA

KORA (Kooperative Gesundheitsforschung in der Region Augsburg)<sup>16,17</sup> is a series of independent populationbased epidemiological surveys and follow-up studies of participants living in the city of Augsburg, Southern Germany, or its two adjacent counties. All participants are residents of Germany and have been sampled in strata of age and sex from the local registries. In the baseline survey used in this study, KORA S4, 4,261 subjects have been examined. 3,080 subjects participated in a 7-year follow-up examination of S4 in 2006-2008. Illumina HumanExome BeadChip was measured in KORA F4 participants.

#### CROATIA-Korcula

The CROATIA-Korcula<sup>18</sup> study sampled Croatians from the Adriatic island of Korcula, between the ages of 18 and 88. The fieldwork was performed in 2007 in the eastern part of the island, targeting healthy volunteers from the town of Korčula and the villages of Lumbarda, Žrnovo and Račišće.

#### Lifelines

LifeLines<sup>19</sup> is a multi-disciplinary prospective population-based cohort study examining in a unique threegeneration design the health and health-related behaviours of 165,000 persons living in the North East region of The Netherlands. It employs a broad range of investigative procedures in assessing the biomedical, sociodemographic, behavioral, physical and psychological factors which contribute to the health and disease of the general population, with a special focus on multimorbidity and complex genetics. Details of the protocol have been described elsewhere (https://www.lifelines.nl/lifelines-research/news). Standard 12-lead electrocardiograms were recorded with CardioPerfect equipment (Cardio Control; currently Welch Allyn, Delft, The Netherlands) and digital measurements of the QT intervals were extracted.

#### **MESA**

The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis  $(MESA)^{1,20}$  is a study of the characteristics of subclinical cardiovascular disease (disease detected non-invasively before it has produced clinical signs and symptoms) and the risk factors that predict progression to clinically overt cardiovascular disease or progression of the subclinical disease. The cohort is a diverse, population-based sample of 6,814 asymptomatic men and women aged 45-84. Approximately 38 percent of the recruited participants are white, 28 percent African-American, 22 percent Hispanic, and 12 percent Asian (predominantly of Chinese descent). Participants were recruited during 2000-2002 from 6 field centers across the U.S. (at Wake Forest University; Columbia University; Johns Hopkins University; the University of Minnesota; Northwestern University; and the University of California – Los Angeles). All underwent anthropomorphic measurement and extensive evaluation by questionnaires at baseline, followed by 4 subsequent examinations at intervals of approximately 2-4 years. Age and sex were selfreported. ECGs were recorded in the supine position after a period of rest. ECG data were collected using GE MAC 1200 electrocardiographs. Digitally collected ECGs were transferred via phone lines to the MESA ECG center (EPICARE). The ECGs were automatically processed by use of GE Marquette 12-SL software (2001 version), after visual inspection of the recordings for quality.

#### NEO

The Netherlands Epidemiology of Obesity (NEO) study<sup>21</sup>: The NEO was designed for extensive phenotyping to investigate pathways that lead to obesity-related diseases. The NEO study is a population-based, prospective cohort study that includes 6,671 individuals aged 45–65 years, with an oversampling of individuals with overweight or obesity. At baseline, information on demography, lifestyle, and medical history have been collected by questionnaires. In addition, samples of 24-h urine, fasting and postprandial blood plasma and serum, and DNA were collected. Genotyping was performed using the Illumina HumanCoreExome chip, which was subsequently imputed to the 1000 genome reference panel. Participants underwent an extensive physical examination, including anthropometry, electrocardiography, spirometry, and measurement of the carotid artery intima-media thickness by ultrasonography. In random subsamples of participants, magnetic resonance imaging of abdominal fat, pulse wave velocity of the aorta, heart, and brain, magnetic resonance spectroscopy of the liver, indirect calorimetry, dual energy X-ray absorptiometry, or accelerometry measurements were performed. The collection of data started in September 2008 and completed at the end of September 2012. Participants are currently being followed for the incidence of obesity-related diseases and mortality.

#### RS

The Rotterdam Study<sup>22</sup> is a prospective cohort study in the Ommoord district in the city of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Following the pilot in 1989, recruitment started in January 1990. The main objectives of the Rotterdam Study were to investigate the risk factors of cardiovascular, neurological, ophthalmological and endocrine diseases in the elderly. Up to 2008, approximately 15,000 subjects aged 45 years or over have been recruited. Participants were interviewed at home and went through an extensive set of examinations, bone mineral densiometry, including sample collections for in-depth molecular and genetic analyses. Examinations were repeated every 3-4 years in potentially changing characteristics. Participants were followed for the most common diseases in the elderly, including coronary heart disease, heart failure and stroke, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, depression and anxiety disorders, macular degeneration and glaucoma, diabetes mellitus and osteoporosis.

#### SHIP

The Study of Health In Pomerania<sup>23</sup> is a prospective longitudinal population-based cohort study in Western Pomerania assessing the prevalence and incidence of common diseases and their risk factors. SHIP encompasses the two independent cohorts SHIP and SHIP-TREND. Participants aged 20 to 79 with German citizenship and principal residency in the study area were recruited from a random sample of residents living in the three local cities, 12 towns as well as 17 randomly selected smaller towns. Individuals were randomly selected stratified by age and sex in proportion to population size of the city, town or small towns, respectively. A total of 4,308 participants were recruited between 1997 and 2001 in the SHIP cohort. Between 2008 and 2012 a total of 4,420 participants were recruited in the SHIP-TREND cohort. Individuals were invited to the SHIP study centre for a computer-assisted personal interviews and extensive physical examinations.

#### TwinsUK

TwinsUK<sup>24</sup> is a nation-wide registry of volunteer twins in the United Kingdom, with about 12,000 registered twins (83% female, equal number of monozygotic and dizygotic twins, predominantly middle-aged and older). Over the last 20 years, questionnaire and blood/urine/tissue samples have been collected on over 7,000 subjects, as well as three comprehensive phenotyping assessments in the clinical facilities of the Department of Twin Research and Genetic Epidemiology, King's College London. The primary focus of study has been the genetic basis of healthy aging process and complex diseases, including cardiovascular, metabolic, musculoskeletal, and ophthalmologic disorders. Alongside the detailed clinical, biochemical, behavioral, and socio-economic characterization of the study population, the major strength of TwinsUK is availability of several 'omics' technologies for the participants. These include genome-wide scans of single nucleotide variants, nextgeneration sequencing, exome sequencing, epigenetic markers (MeDIP sequencing), gene expression arrays and RNA sequencing, telomere length measures, metabolomic profiles, and gut flora microbiomics.

#### UHP

The Utrecht Health Project (UHP)<sup>25</sup> is an ongoing dynamic population study initiated in a newly developed large residential area in Leidsche Rijn, part of the city of Utrecht. All new inhabitants were invited by their general practitioner to participate in the UHP. Written informed consent was obtained and an individual health profile (IHP) was made by dedicated research nurses. The UHP study was approved by the Medical Ethical Committee of the University Medical Center, Utrecht, The Netherlands. A large number of measures were taken, including anthropomorphic and blood pressure measurements, andeach participant filled out a questionnaire. A 12-lead ECG was made at rest and digitally stored. PR, QRS, QT, and RR intervals were calculated automatically.

#### WHI

The Women's Health Iniative (WHI)<sup>26,27</sup> is a long-term national health study that has focused on strategies for preventing heart disease, breast and colorectal cancers, and osteoporotic fractures in postmenopausal women. The WHI was designed as a set of randomized controlled clinical trials (CTs) and an observational study (OS). The CT (n = 68,132) included 3 overlapping components: the hormone therapy trials (n = 27,347), dietary modification trial (n = 48,835), and calcium and vitamin D trial (n = 36,282). Eligible women could be part of several of the CT components. Women who were ineligible or unwilling to join the CT were invited to join the OS (n = 93,676). All participants in the CT were administered ECGs every three years. In the current paper we include the baseline ECGs of women who were genotyped on the ExomeChip.

#### YFS

The YFS<sup>28</sup> is a population-based follow up-study started in 1980. The main aim of the YFS is to determine the contribution made by childhood lifestyle, biological and psychological measures to the risk of cardiovascular diseases in adulthood. In 1980, over 3,500 children and adolescents all around Finland participated in the baseline study. The follow-up studies have been conducted mainly with 3-year intervals. The latest 30-year follow-up study was conducted in 2010-11 (ages 33-49 years) with 2,063 participants. The study was approved by the local ethics committees (University Hospitals of Helsinki, Turku, Tampere, Kuopio and Oulu) and was conducted following the guidelines of the Declaration of Helsinki. All participants gave their written informed.

#### **Ethics Statements**

#### AGES

The study is approved by the Icelandic National Bioethics Committee, (VSN: 00–063) and the Data Protection Authority.

#### ARIC

Institutional Review Board approvals were obtained by each participating ARIC study center (the Universities of NC, MS, MN, and John Hopkins University) and the coordinating center (University of NC), and the research was conducted in accordance with the principles described in the Helsinki Declaration. All subjects in the ARIC study gave informed consent. For more information see dbGaP Study Accession: phs000280.v2.p1. JHSPH IRB number H.34.99.07.02.A1. Manuscript proposal number MS2572.

#### BRIGHT

All subjects in the BRIGHT study participated as volunteers and were recruited via hypertension registers from the MRC General Practice Framework in the UK. Ethics Committee approval was obtained from the multi- and local research committees of the partner institutes, and all participants gave written informed consent.

#### CAMP

The Institutional Review Board at MGH reviews the study protocol annually. Each participant provided written, informed consent prior to enrollment.

#### **CHS**

CHS was approved by institutional review committees at each site, the subjects gave informed consent, and those included in the present analysis consented to the use of their genetic information for the study of cardiovascular disease. It is the position of the UW IRB that these studies of de-identified data, with no patient contact, do not constitute human subjects research. Therefore we have neither an approval number, nor an exemption.

#### ERF

The Medical Ethics Committee of the Erasmus University Medical Center approved the ERF study protocol and all participants, or their legal representatives, provided written informed consent.

#### FHS

The Boston University Medical Campus Institutional Review Board approved the FHS genome-wide genotyping (protocol number H-226671).

#### Generation Scotland

Data was collected for GS:SFHS between 2006 and 2011 with ethical approval from the NHS Tayside Committee on Medical Research Ethics A (ref 05/S1401/89). All participants gave written informed consent. GS:SFHS is now a Research Tissue Bank approved by the East of Scotland Research Ethics Service (ref 15/ES/0040).

#### **GOCHA**

The Institutional Review Board at MGH reviewed and approved the study. Participants or their next of kin provided informed consent at the time of enrollment.

#### GRAPHIC

GRAPHIC was approved by the Leicestershire Research Ethics Committee (LREC Ref N. 6463).

#### Inter99

Written informed consent was obtained from all participants and the study was approved by the Scientific Ethics Committee of the Capital Region of Denmark (KA98155, H-3-2012-155) and was in accordance with the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki II.

#### **JHS**

Written informed consent was obtained from all participants. The Jackson Heart Study is conducted with approval of the Institutional Review Board of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, DHHS FWA #00003630.

#### KORA

Written informed consent was obtained from all participants and the study was approved by the local ethics committee (Bayerische Landesärztekammer).

#### **KORCULA**

Ethical approval was given for recruitment of all Korcula study participants by ethics committees in both Scotland and Croatia. All volunteers gave informed consent prior to participation.

#### Lifelines

The Lifelines study followed the recommendations of the Declaration of Helsinki and was in accordance with research code of the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG). The LifeLines study is approved by the medical ethical committee of the UMCG, the Netherlands. All participants signed an informed consent form before they received an invitation for the physical examination. For a comprehensive overview of the data collection, please visit the LifeLines catalogue at www.LifeLines.net.

#### MESA

All MESA participants provided written and informed consent to participate in genetic studies. All study sites received approval to conduct this research from local Institutional Review Boards at: Columbia University (for the MESA New York Field Center), Johns Hopkins University (for the MESA Baltimore Field Center), Northwestern University (for the MESA Chicago Field Center), University of California, Los Angeles (for the MESA Los Angeles Field Center), University of Minnesota (for the MESA Twin Cities Field Center), Wake Forest University Health Sciences Center (for the MESA Winston-Salem Field Center).

#### NEO

The Netherlands Epidemiology of obesity (NEO) study is supported by the participating Departments, the Division and the Board of Directors of the Leiden University Medical Center, and by the Leiden University, Research Profile Area Vascular and Regenerative Medicine. All participants gave written informed consent and the Medical Ethical Committee of the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) approved the study design.

#### RS

The Rotterdam Study has been approved by the medical ethics committee according to the Population Study Act Rotterdam Study, executed by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports of the Netherlands. A written informed consent was obtained from all participants.

#### SHIP

The SHIP study followed the recommendations of the Declaration of Helsinki. The study protocol of SHIP was approved by the medical ethics committee of the University of Greifswald. Written informed consent was obtained from each of the study participants. The SHIP study is described in PMID: 20167617.

#### TwinsUK

The study has ethical approval from the NRES Committee London–Westminster, London, UK (EC04/015). Written consent was obtained from all participants. Research was carried out in accordance with the Helsinki declaration.

#### UHP

The Utrecht Health Project has been approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of the University Medical Centre Utrecht. All participants give written informed consent. The masking of all personal data for researchers and for other possible users of UHP has been regulated in a legal document.

#### WHI

All WHI participants provided written and informed consent. All study sites received approval to conduct this research from local Institutional Review Boards at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer research Center.

#### YFS

The Young Finns Study was approved by the local ethics committees (University Hospitals of Helsinki, Turku, Tampere, Kuopio and Oulu) and was conducted following the guidelines of the Declaration of Helsinki. All participants gave their written informed consent.

#### **Cohort Specific Acknowledgments**

#### AGES

The Age, Gene/Environment Susceptibility Reykjavik Study is funded by NIH contract N01-AG-12100, the NIA Intramural Research Program, Hjartavernd (the Icelandic Heart Association), and the Althingi (the Icelandic Parliament), in addition an Intramural Research Program Award (ZIAEY000401) from the National Eye Institute, an award from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) Division of Scientific Programs (IAA Y2-DC\_1004-02). The study is approved by the Icelandic National Bioethics Committee, VSN: 00-063. The researchers are indebted to the participants for their willingness to participate in the study.

#### ARIC

The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study is carried out as a collaborative study supported by National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute contracts (HHSN268201100005C, HHSN268201100006C, HHSN268201100007C, HHSN268201100008C, HHSN268201100009C, HHSN268201100010C, HHSN268201100011C, and HHSN268201100012C), R01HL087641, R01HL59367 and R01HL086694; National Human Genome Research Institute contract U01HG004402; and National Institutes of Health contract HHSN268200625226C. The authors thank the staff and participants of the ARIC study for their important contributions. Infrastructure was partly supported by Grant Number UL1RR025005, a component of the National Institutes of Health and NIH Roadmap for Medical Research. Funding support for "Building on GWAS for NHLBI-diseases: the U.S. CHARGE consortium" was provided by the NIH through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) (5RC2HL102419).

#### BRIGHT

The BRIGHT study was funded by the Wellcome Trust (Strategic Award 083948) for genotyping of the Exome chip, the Medical Research Council of Great Britain (grant number: G9521010D) and British Heart Foundation. The BRIGHT study is extremely grateful to all the patients who participated in the study and the BRIGHT nursing team. This work forms part of the research themes contributing to the translational research portfolio for the NIHR Barts Cardiovascular Biomedical Research Unit. N.J.S. holds a British Heart Foundation Chair of Cardiology and is a Senior National Institute for Health Research Investigator. A.F.D. was supported by the British Heart Foundation (grant numbers RG/07/005/23633, SP/08/005/25115); and by the European Union Ingenious HyperCare Consortium: Integrated Genomics, Clinical Research, and Care in Hypertension (grant number LSHM-C7-2006-037093).

#### CAMP

The recruitment, collection of samples, and genotyping was supported by Pfizer. Analysis of data was a three way collaboration between MGH, the Broad Institute, and Pfizer. Dr. Huang is supported by grants from the NIH (NS33335, NS055104). Dr. Lubitz was supported by NIH/NHLBI K23HL114724 and a Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Clinical Scientist Development Award 2014105. This work was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health to Dr. Ellinor (1RO1HL092577, R01HL128914, K24HL105780). Dr. Ellinor is also supported by an Established Investigator Award from the American Heart Association (13EIA14220013) and by the Fondation Leducq (14CVD01).

#### **CHS**

Cardiovascular Health Study: This CHS research was supported by NHLBI contracts HHSN268201200036C, HHSN268200800007C, N01HC55222, N01HC85079, N01HC85080, N01HC85081, N01HC85082, N01HC85083, N01HC85086; and NHLBI grants U01HL080295, R01HL068986, R01HL087652, R01HL105756, R01HL103612, R01HL120393, and R01HL130114 with additional contribution from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Additional support was provided through R01AG023629 from the National Institute on Aging (NIA). A full list of principal CHS investigators and institutions can be found at CHS-NHLBI.org.

The provision of genotyping data was supported in part by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, CTSI grant UL1TR000124, and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease Diabetes Research Center (DRC) grant DK063491 to the Southern California Diabetes Endocrinology Research Center.

#### ERF

The ERF study as a part of EUROSPAN (European Special Populations Research Network) was supported by European Commission FP6 STRP grant number 018947 (LSHG-CT-2006-01947) and also received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013)/grant agreement HEALTH-F4-2007-201413 by the European Commission under the programme "Quality of Life and Management of the Living Resources" of 5th Framework Programme (no. QLG2-CT-2002-01254). The ERF study was further supported by ENGAGE consortium and CMSB. High-throughput analysis of the ERF data was supported by joint grant from Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (NWO-RFBR 047.017.043). We are grateful to all study participants and their relatives, general practitioners and neurologists for their contributions to the ERF study and to P Veraart for her help in genealogy, J Vergeer for the supervision of the laboratory work and P Snijders for his help in data collection.

#### FHS HL120393

#### Generation Scotland

Generation Scotland received core support from the Chief Scientist Office of the Scottish Government Health Directorates [CZD/16/6] and the Scottish Funding Council [HR03006]. Genotyping of the GS:SFHS samples was carried out by the Genetics Core Laboratory at the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility, Edinburgh, Scotland and was funded by the Medical Research Council UK and the Wellcome Trust (Wellcome Trust Strategic Award "STratifying Resilience and Depression Longitudinally" (STRADL) Reference 104036/Z/14/Z). We are grateful to all the families who took part, the general practitioners and the Scottish School of Primary Care for their help in recruiting them, and the whole Generation Scotland team, which includes interviewers, computer and laboratory technicians, clerical workers, research scientists, volunteers, managers, receptionists, healthcare assistants and nurses.

#### **GOCHA**

The Genetics of Cerebral Hemorrhage with Anticoagulation was carried out as a collaborative study supported by grants R01NS073344, R01NS059727, and 5K23NS059774 from the NIH–National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NIH-NINDS)

#### GRAPHIC

The GRAPHIC study was funded by the BHF.

#### Inter99

The Inter99 was initiated by Torben Jørgensen (PI), Knut Borch-Johnsen (co-PI), Hans Ibsen and Troels F. Thomsen. The steering committee comprises the former two and Charlotta Pisinger. The study was financially supported by research grants from the Danish Research Council, the Danish Centre for Health Technology Assessment, Novo Nordisk Inc., Research Foundation of Copenhagen County, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Health, the Danish Heart Foundation, the Danish Pharmaceutical Association, the Augustinus Foundation, the Ib Henriksen Foundation, the Becket Foundation, and the Danish Diabetes Association. The Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Basic Metabolic Research is an independent Research Center at the University of Copenhagen partially funded by an unrestricted donation from the Novo Nordisk Foundation [\(www.metabol.ku.dk\)](http://www.metabol.ku.dk/).

#### JHS

We thank the Jackson Heart Study (JHS) participants and staff for their contributions to this work. The JHS is supported by contracts HHSN268201300046C, HHSN268201300047C, HHSN268201300048C, HHSN268201300049C, HHSN268201300050C from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

#### KORA

The KORA research platform (KORA, Cooperative Research in the Region of Augsburg) was initiated and financed by the Helmholtz Zentrum München - German Research Center for Environmental Health, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and by the State of Bavaria. Furthermore, KORA research was supported within the Munich Center of Health Sciences (MC Health), Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, as part of LMUinnovativ. The work was further supported by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme FP7-HEALTH-2013 No. 602299: EU-CERT-ICD to Dr. Kääb and by the DZHK (German Centre for Cardiovascular Research), partner site: Munich Heart Alliance, Munich, Germany.

#### CROATIA-Korcula

The CROATIA-Korcula study was funded by grants from the Medical Research Council (UK), European Commission Framework 6 project EUROSPAN (Contract No. LSHG-CT-2006-018947), European Commission Framework 7 project BBMRI-LPC (FP7 313010), the Republic of Croatia Ministry of Science, Education and Sports research grant (216-1080315-0302) and the Croatian Science Foundation (grant 8875). We would like to acknowledge the staff of several institutions in Croatia that supported the field work, including but not limited to The University of Split and Zagreb Medical Schools and Croatian Institute for Public Health. The SNP genotyping for the KORCULA cohort was performed in Helmholtz Zentrum München, Neuherberg, Germany

#### Lifelines

The LifeLines Cohort Study, and generation and management of GWAS genotype data for the LifeLines Cohort Study is supported by the Netherlands Organization of Scientific Research NWO (grant 175.010.2007.006), the Economic Structure Enhancing Fund (FES) of the Dutch government, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Ministry for Health, Welfare and Sports, the Northern Netherlands Collaboration of Provinces (SNN), the Province of Groningen, University Medical Center Groningen, the University of Groningen, Dutch Kidney Foundation and Dutch Diabetes Research Foundation. Niek Verweij is supported by ICIN-NHI and Marie Sklodowska-Curie GF (call: H2020-MSCA-IF-2014, Project ID: 661395).

We thank Behrooz Alizadeh, Annemieke Boesjes, Marcel Bruinenberg, Noortje Festen, Ilja Nolte, Lude Franke, Mitra Valimohammadi for their help in creating the GWAS database, and Rob Bieringa, Joost Keers, René Oostergo, Rosalie Visser, Judith Vonk for their work related to data-collection and validation. The authors are grateful to the study participants, the staff from the LifeLines Cohort Study and Medical Biobank Northern Netherlands, and the participating general practitioners and pharmacists. LifeLines Scientific Protocol Preparation: Rudolf de Boer, Hans Hillege, Melanie van der Klauw, Gerjan Navis, Hans Ormel, Dirkje Postma, Judith Rosmalen, Joris Slaets, Ronald Stolk, Bruce Wolffenbuttel; LifeLines GWAS Working Group: Behrooz Alizadeh, Marike Boezen, Marcel Bruinenberg, Noortje Festen, Lude Franke, Pim van der Harst, Gerjan Navis, Dirkje Postma, Harold Snieder, Cisca Wijmenga, Bruce Wolffenbuttel. The authors wish to acknowledge the services of the LifeLines Cohort Study, the contributing research centres delivering data to LifeLines, and all the study participants.

#### **MESA**

This research was supported by the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA) contracts HHSN2682015000031, N01-HC-95159, N01-HC-95160, N01-HC-95161, N01-HC-95162, N01-HC-95163, N01-HC-95164, N01-HC-95165, N01-HC-95166, N01-HC-95167, N01-HC-95168, N01-HC-95169 and by grants UL1-TR-000040, UL1-TR-001079, and UL1-RR-025005 from NCRR. Funding for MESA SHARe genotyping was provided by NHLBI Contract N02-HL-6-4278. The provision of genotyping data was supported in part by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, CTSI grant UL1TR000124, and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease Diabetes Research Center (DRC) grant DK063491 to the Southern California Diabetes Endocrinology Research Center.

#### **NEO**

The authors of the NEO study thank all individuals who participated in the Netherlands Epidemiology in Obesity study, all participating general practitioners for inviting eligible participants and all research nurses for collection of the data. We thank the NEO study group, Pat van Beelen, Petra Noordijk and Ingeborg de Jonge for the coordination, lab and data management of the NEO study. The genotyping in the NEO study was supported by the Centre National de Génotypage (Paris, France), headed by Jean-Francois Deleuze. The NEO study is supported by the participating Departments, the Division and the Board of Directors of the Leiden University Medical Center, and by the Leiden University, Research Profile Area Vascular and Regenerative Medicine. Dennis Mook-Kanamori is supported by Dutch Science Organization (ZonMW-VENI Grant 916.14.023).

#### RS

The generation and management of the Illumina exome chip v1.0 array data for the Rotterdam Study (RS-I) was executed by the Human Genotyping Facility of the Genetic Laboratory of the Department of Internal Medicine, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The Exome chip array data set was funded by the Genetic Laboratory of the Department of Internal Medicine, Erasmus MC, from the Netherlands Genomics Initiative (NGI)/Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)-sponsored Netherlands Consortium for Healthy Aging (NCHA; project nr. 050-060-810); the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO; project number 184021007) and by the Rainbow Project (RP10; Netherlands Exome Chip Project) of the Biobanking and Biomolecular Research Infrastructure Netherlands (BBMRI-NL; www.bbmri.nl ). We thank Ms. Mila Jhamai, Ms. Sarah Higgins, and Mr. Marijn Verkerk for their help in creating the exome chip database, and Carolina Medina-Gomez, MSc, Lennard Karsten, MSc, and Linda Broer PhD for QC and variant calling. Variants were called using the best practice protocol developed by Grove et al. as part of the CHARGE consortium exome chip central calling effort. The Rotterdam Study is funded by Erasmus Medical Center and Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands Organization for the Health Research and Development (ZonMw), the Research Institute for Diseases in the Elderly (RIDE), the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Ministry for Health, Welfare and Sports, the European Commission (DG XII), and the Municipality of Rotterdam. The authors are grateful to the study participants, the staff from the Rotterdam Study and the participating general practitioners and pharmacists.

#### SHIP

SHIP (Study of Health in Pomerania) and SHIP-TREND both represent population-based studies. SHIP is supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF); grants 01ZZ9603, 01ZZ0103, and 01ZZ0403) and the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG); grant GR 1912/5-1). SHIP and SHIP-TREND are part of the Community Medicine Research net (CMR) of the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University Greifswald (EMAU) which is funded by the BMBF as well as the Ministry for Education, Science and Culture and the Ministry of Labor, Equal Opportunities, and Social Affairs of the Federal State of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania. The CMR encompasses several research projects that share data from SHIP. The EMAU is a member of the Center of Knowledge Interchange (CKI) program of the Siemens AG. SNP typing of SHIP and SHIP-TREND using the Illumina Infinium HumanExome BeadChip (version v1.0) was supported by the BMBF (grant 03Z1CN22). We thank all SHIP and SHIP-TREND participants and staff members as well as the genotyping staff involved in the generation of the SNP data.

#### TwinsUK

This work was funded by a grant from the British Heart Foundation (PG/12/38/29615). TwinsUK is funded by the Wellcome Trust, Medical Research Council, European Union, the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)-funded BioResource, Clinical Research Facility and Biomedical Research Centre based at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with King's College London.

#### UHP

The Utrecht Health Project received grants from the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports (VWS), the University of Utrecht, the Province of Utrecht, the Dutch Organisation of Care Research, the University Medical Centre of Utrecht, and the Dutch College of Healthcare Insurance Companies. The exome chip data were generated in a research project that was financially supported by BBMRI-NL, a Research Infrastructure financed by the Dutch government (NWO 184.021.007).

#### WHI

The WHI program is funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through contracts HHSN268201100046C, HHSN268201100001C, HHSN268201100002C, HHSN268201100003C, HHSN268201100004C, HHSN271201100004C, HHSN268201600018C, HHSN268201600001C, HHSN268201600002C, HHSN268201600003C, and HHSN268201600004C. The authors thank the WHI investigators and staff for their dedication, and the study participants for making the program possible. A full listing of WHI investigators can be found at:

http://www.whi.org/researchers/Documents%20%20Write%20a%20Paper/WHI%20Investigator%20Long%20 List.pdf

#### YFS

The Young Finns Study has been financially supported by the Academy of Finland: grants 286284, 134309 (Eye), 126925, 121584, 124282, 129378 (Salve), 117787 (Gendi), and 41071 (Skidi); the Social Insurance Institution of Finland; Kuopio, Tampere and Turku University Hospital Medical Funds (grant X51001); Juho Vainio Foundation; Paavo Nurmi Foundation; Finnish Foundation for Cardiovascular Research ; Finnish Cultural Foundation; Tampere Tuberculosis Foundation; Emil Aaltonen Foundation; Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation; Signe and Ane Gyllenberg Foundation; and Diabetes Research Foundation of Finnish Diabetes Association. The expert technical assistance in the statistical analyses by Irina Lisinen is gratefully acknowledged.

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## **Supplemental Table 1: Clinical Characteristics Summary Statistics and Genotyping Information for Each Cohort**









## **Supplemental Table 2: ExomeChip-wide Significant Variants in QT Meta-analysis**





Damaging: loss of function or predicted damaging by at least 2 of the following methods: Polyphen, LRT, SIFT, Mutation Taster (1=True, 0=False)[1]. CAF=coded allele frequency; N=sample size; BETA= effect size in milliseconds; SE=standard error of effect size estimate. Combined=all ethnicities meta-analysis; EA=European ancestry-only meta-analysis; AA=African American-only meta-analysis.

## **Supplemental Table 2: ExomeChip-wide Significant Variants in QT Meta-analysis -Continued-**





Damaging: loss of function or predicted damaging by at least 2 of the following methods: Polyphen, LRT, SIFT, Mutation Taster (1=True, 0=False)[1]. CAF=coded allele frequency; N=sample size; BETA= effect size in milliseconds; SE=standard error of effect size estimate. Combined=all ethnicities meta-analysis; EA=European ancestry-only meta-analysis; AA=African American-only meta-analysis.

## **Supplemental Table 3: ExomeChip-wide Significant Variants in JT Meta-analysis**





Damaging: loss of function or predicted damaging by at least 2 of the following methods: Polyphen, LRT, SIFT, Mutation Taster (1=True, 0=False)[1]. CAF=coded allele frequency; N=sample size; BETA= effect size in milliseconds; SE=standard error of effect size estimate. Combined=all ethnicities meta-analysis; EA=European ancestry-only meta-analysis; AA=African American-only meta-analysis.

## **Supplemental Table 3: ExomeChip-wide Significant Variants in JT Meta-analysis -Continued-**





Damaging: loss of function or predicted damaging by at least 2 of the following methods: Polyphen, LRT, SIFT, Mutation Taster (1=True, 0=False)[1]. CAF=coded allele frequency; N=sample size; BETA= effect size in milliseconds; SE=standard error of effect size estimate. Combined=all ethnicities meta-analysis; EA=European ancestry-only meta-analysis; AA=African American-only meta-analysis.

#### **Supplemental Table 4: GWiS Results**





GWiS was run on all variants in each locus (most significant  $SNP \pm 1 \text{ MB}$ ) from the European ancestry-only QT or JT interval association. SNVs are added into the GWiS model in the order they are listed.  $r^2 = r^2$  between the SNV being added to the model and the previous SNV held in the model (or zero for the first SNV); # Tests= number of independent tests after accounting for LD between SNVs. For the 35 previously identified loci, LD calculations are shown in Supplemental Table 3 between the QTIGC representative SNV and each of the independent representative SNVs picked by GWiS. LD calculations are performed in the merged ExomeChip and HapMap-imputed ARIC Europeans dataset with 9,537 samples. LD is made bold if >0.5. Loci with no SNPs are those in which no SNPs were significant after multi-test correction.



#### **Supplemental Table 5A: Significant Coding Variants**



Supplemental Table 5A lists the 3 ExomeChip-wide significant coding variants in the *SCN5A-SCN10A* locus from the all ancestries QT association. Supplemental Table 5B contains the result of running GWiS on all 413 variants in the locus from the European ancestry-only QT association. 4 variants representing 4 independent effects in the locus are shown with one of them being represented by a coding variant in *SCN10A*. "r<sup>2</sup>" is the correlation between the SNV being added to the model and the previous SNV held in the model (or zero for the first SNV). "# Tests" is the effective number of independent tests in the locus, which is fewer than "SNPs Tested" due to LD between SNVs. Supplemental Table 5A uses data from 95,626 multi-ethnic individuals. Supplemental Table 5B uses data from 83,884 European ancestry individuals.



#### **Supplemental Table 6: Conditional Analyses in ARIC European Ancestry Individuals for ExomeChip SNVs and QTIGC SNPs**

Conditional analyses demonstrate that the coding variant in *SP3* is independent of the top noncoding SNV at this locus discovered from QT-IGC, implicating this gene in QT interval modulation. For *GMPR*, the coding variant is in almost perfect linkage disequilibrium with the noncoding QT-IGC variant  $(r^2=0.99$  in ARIC), suggesting that the coding variant may be the causal variant explaining the QT-IGC signal. For a third locus, *RNF207,* while conditional analysis suggested that the QT-IGC SNV accounts for the association at this locus, both the top QT-IGC SNV as well as the top SNV from this study are coding variants in high LD, thus implicating the *RNF207* gene in myocardial repolarization. For the remaining 4 loci, one coding variant is associated due to the stronger noncoding QT-IGC signal (*KCNH2*); two were not properly tested due to no effect in ARIC of the ExomeChip variant ( $ATP2A2$ ) or the QT-IGC variant ( $TTN$ ), though there was low LD ( $r^2$  < 0.04) between the coding and non-coding variants, suggesting independence; and 1 was unclear (*SMARCAD1*), as putting both SNPs in the model significantly altered the beta estimates for both SNPs. EC=ExomeChip (this study); The "Con Survive" column indicates if the ExomeChip SNV or QTIGC SNP or both have effect size estimates that remain unchanged in the conditional model. LD calculations are performed in the merged ExomeChip and HapMap-imputed most likely genotype ARIC Europeans dataset with 9,537 samples. Conditional analyses were run in the same ARIC Europeans dataset, however limited to 9,005 individuals due to phenotype exclusions. Effect sizes (Beta) are in milliseconds.

## **Supplemental Table 7: DEPICT Loci Description**



**Supplemental Figure 1: Manhattan Plot of QT Associated Hits.** Significance level  $(\text{-log}_{10}(P))$  for each tested variant from single variant statistical models is plotted by genomic location. Loci of interest are labeled by nearby gene. Figure truncated at  $-log_{10}(P)=24$ .

**Known Hits** 



Chromosome | 241,552 SNPs | 95,626 Samples

**Supplemental Figure 2: Correlation of Effect Estimates between Ethnic Groups.** Correlation of effect estimates (Beta) between European Ancestry (EA) individuals and African American (AA) individuals (left panel) Hispanic (HIS) individuals (center panel) and Chinese (CHS) individuals (right panel). Effect estimates are in milliseconds. The line is the 45 degree identity line.



**Supplemental Figure 3: Manhattan plot of JT-only Associated Hits.** Significance level  $(-\log_{10}(P))$  for each tested variant from single variant statistical models is plotted by genomic location. Loci of interest are labeled by nearby gene. Figure truncated at  $-log_{10}(P)=24$ . Only non-QT associated loci labeled.

#### 24 **Known Hits Novel Hits CDKN1A** 18  $-log_{10}(Pval)$ **SENP2** 12 **NACA** ÷ **SLC12A7** 6  $\pmb{0}$ 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 X Y pA Mt  $\overline{c}$ 3 7 9 10  $11$

# JT-only Associated Hits

Chromosome | 241,440 SNPs | 92,046 Samples

**Supplemental Figure 4:** Forest Plot of rs1361754 Association with QT interval.



**Supplemental Figure 5:** Forest Plot of rs1801725 Association with QT interval.





**Supplemental Figure 7:** Forest Plot of rs4934956 Association with QT interval.



**Supplemental Figure 8:** Forest Plot of rs17608766 Association with QT interval.



**Supplemental Figure 9:** Forest Plot of rs55910611 Association with QT interval.





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**Supplemental Figure 13:** Forest Plot of rs9470361 Association with JT interval.



(95% CI)

 $\overline{4}$ 

This is an overview of an article entitled "ExomeChip-Wide Analysis of 95,626 Individuals Identifies 10 Novel Loci Associated with QT and JT Intervals", published in the January 2018 issue of *Circulation: Genomic and Precision Medicine*.

The electrocardiographic QT interval spans from the beginning of the QRS complex to the end of the T wave, as shown in the schematic here. The QT interval is measured in order to assess the length of duration of ventricular repolarization. Abnormality of the QT interval in either direction, too long or too short, predisposes to arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death. The JT interval, as shown here, is a more precise measure of ventricular repolarization since it subtracts the QRS interval, which is when ventricular depolarization occurs, from the QT interval.

To assess for genetic factors that contribute to clinical traits, genetic association studies are performed. The most commonly done association study has been the genome-wide association study, or GWAS, which assesses common DNA variants throughout the genome for strength of association with the phenotype of interest. These common variants are for the most part noncoding variants. More recently, exome chips that can directly interrogate coding variants in genes have become available. While the exome chips do cover some noncoding variants, they are very comprehensive with respect to coding variants, covering all coding variants that were found in at least 3 individuals out of 12,000 individuals who had undergone exome sequencing. This comprises almost 200,000 coding variants in more than 17,000 genes.

The authors of the paper under discussion performed an exome chip genotyping association study in more than 95,000 individuals, most of whom were of European descent, although several other ethnicities were represented in smaller numbers. The rationale for using the exome chip is that GWASs tend to identify noncoding variants that often do not pinpoint specific genes, since noncoding variants can affect genes at a large distance, meaning that each GWAS hit might implicate numerous candidate genes in the vicinity of the locus. In contrast, exome chip studies tend to identify coding variants within genes, which implicate those specific genes as the causal genes.

Here are the results of the exome chip analysis with the QT interval. In this graph, the x-axis is the position in the genome, split into different chromosomes, and the yaxis is the strength of association. The green line indicates a stringent threshold for statistical significance, taking into account the hundreds of thousands of variants tested in the study. Many known loci implicated by previous association studies were validated in this study, indicated in yellow. In red are genes or loci being linked to the QT interval for the first time in this study.

Here are the genes or loci associated with the JT interval but not the QT interval. There were no prior loci linked only to the JT interval. This study found 4 novel genes or loci, indicated in red.

There were several key findings in this study. First, the exome chip analysis identified coding variants in two notable genes as being linked to the QT interval, *SCN10A* and *KCNQ1*. Both have previously been linked to cardiac repolarization— *SCN10A* to Brugada syndrome by GWAS, and *KCNQ1* is the well-established causal gene for long QT syndrome type 1. [pause] Second, the study found 4 hits associated only with the JT interval. Third, functional annotation of the various exome chip hits identified several known pathways—potassium, sodium, or calcium ion regulation, and autonomic control—and new pathways—the physical force of contraction of cardiomyocytes, as well as conduction of the electrical signal between cardiomyocytes.

In conclusion, this study identified a total of 10 new loci associated with the QT and/or JT interval. The exome chip analysis pinpointed variants in 17 genes, 7 of which are in new loci. These findings validated previously identified molecular pathways involved in cardiac repolarization and nominated new pathways. Finally, by identifying hits linked to the JT interval but not the QT interval, this study suggests that different genetic factors might influence the depolarization and repolarization phases of the ventricles. Together, these findings shed new light on normal cardiac electrophysiology, diseases with repolarization abnormalities, and potential treatments for the diseases.