

# Detection and replication of epistasis influencing transcription in humans

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## Abstract

Epistasis is the phenomenon whereby one polymorphism’s effect on a trait depends on other polymorphisms present in the genome. The extent to which epistasis influences complex traits<sup>1</sup> and contributes to their variation<sup>2,3</sup> is a fundamental question in evolution and human genetics. Though epistasis has been demonstrated in artificial gene manipulation studies in model organisms,<sup>4,5</sup> and some examples have been reported in other species,<sup>6</sup> few convincing examples exist for epistasis amongst natural polymorphisms in human traits.<sup>7,8</sup> Its absence from empirical findings may simply be due to its low incidence in the genetic control of complex traits,<sup>2,3</sup> but an alternative view is that it has previously been too technically challenging to detect due to statistical power and computational issues.<sup>9</sup> Here we show that, using advanced computation techniques<sup>10</sup> and a gene expression study design, many instances of epistasis are found between common single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). In a cohort of 846 individuals with data on 7339 gene expression levels in peripheral blood, we found 501 significant pairwise epistatic interactions between common SNPs acting on the expression levels of 238 genes ( $p < 2.91 \times 10^{-16}$ ). We tested the discovery interactions for replication in two independent data sets.<sup>11,12</sup> Three hundred and forty-five interactions had replication interaction  $p$ -values that were more extreme than the 2.5% confidence interval of the distribution under the null hypothesis of no epistasis, with 30 significant at a conservative  $p < 0.05$  Bonferroni level. There was evidence of functional enrichment for the interacting SNPs, for instance 44 of the genetic interactions are located within 2Mb of regions of known physical chromosome interactions<sup>13</sup> ( $p = 1.8 \times 10^{-10}$ ). Epistatic networks of three SNPs or more influence the expression levels of 129 genes, whereby one *cis*-acting SNP is modulated by several *trans*-acting SNPs. For example MBNL1 is influenced by an additive effect at rs13069559 which itself is masked by *trans*-SNPs on 14 different chromosomes, with nearly identical genotype-phenotype (GP) maps for each *cis-trans* interaction. This study presents the first evidence for multiple instances of epistatic genetic effects emerging from natural genetic variation in humans.

## Main text

In the genetic analysis of complex traits it is usual for SNP effects to be estimated using an additive model where they are assumed to contribute independently and cumulatively to the mean of a trait. This framework has been successful in identifying thousands of associations.<sup>14</sup> But to date, though its contribution to phenotypic variance is frequently the subject of debate,<sup>1-3</sup> there is little empirical exploration of the role that epistasis plays in the architecture of complex traits in humans.<sup>7,8</sup> Outside the prism of human association studies there is evidence for epistasis, not only at the molecular scale from artificially induced mutations<sup>4</sup> but also at the evolutionary scale in fitness adaptation<sup>15</sup> and speciation.<sup>16</sup>

Methods are now available to overcome the computational problems involved in searching for epistasis, but its detection still remains problematic due to reduced statistical power. For example increased dependence on linkage disequilibrium (LD) between causal SNPs and observed SNPs,<sup>17,18</sup> increased model complexity in fitting interaction terms,<sup>19</sup> and more extreme significance thresholds to account for increased multiple testing<sup>9</sup> all make it more difficult to detect epistasis in comparison to additive effects. Thus, when combined with small genetic effect sizes, as is expected in most complex traits of interest,<sup>14</sup> the power to detect epistasis diminishes rapidly. There are two simple ways to overcome this problem. One is by using extremely large sample sizes;<sup>20</sup> another is by analysing traits that are likely to have large effect sizes among common variants. Because our focus was to ascertain the extent to which instances of epistasis occur amongst natural genetic variation we designed a study around the latter approach and searched for epistatic genetic effects that influence gene expression levels. Transcription levels can be measured for thousands of genes. These traits are largely heritable but on average less polygenic than high level phenotypes,<sup>21</sup> thus many genetic effects are relatively large, maximising the chance at detecting epistasis, should it exist.

In our discovery dataset (Brisbane Systems Genetics Study, BSGS<sup>22</sup>) of 846 individuals genotyped at 528,509 SNPs, we exhaustively tested every pair of SNPs for genetic interactions against each of 7339 expression traits in peripheral blood. After stringent filtering and multiple testing correction (5% significance threshold  $p < 2.91 \times 10^{-16}$ , Methods) we identified 501 putative genetic interactions influencing the expression levels of 238 genes (Supplementary Table 4). Of the 501 discovery interactions, 434 had available data and passed filtering (Methods) in two independent replication datasets, Fehrmann<sup>12</sup> and the Estonian Genomics Centre University of Tartu (EGCUT),<sup>11</sup> in which we saw convincing evidence for replication. We used the summary statistics from the replication datasets to perform a meta analysis to obtain an independent  $p$ -value for the putative interactions, and 30 were significant after applying a Bonferroni correction for multiple testing (5% significance threshold  $p < 0.0001$ , Table 1). These significant interactions exhibited remarkable similarity in GP maps between all three datasets (Figure 1).

In addition, using the meta analysis from the replication samples only, we observed that 316 of the remaining 404 discovery SNPs had replication interaction  $p$ -values more extreme than the 2.5% confidence interval of the distribution under the null distribution of no epistatic effects ( $p < 1.0 \times 10^{-16}$ , Figure 3 and Supplementary Figure S1). The congruence of the epistatic networks in discovery and replication datasets is shown in Figure 2, demonstrating that these complex genetic patterns are common even across independent datasets. A further replication was attempted using the Centre for Health Discovery and Wellbeing (CHDWB) dataset,<sup>23</sup> but only 20 of the SNP pairs passed filtering because the sample size was small ( $n = 139$ ), and likely due to insufficient power we found no evidence for replication (Supplementary Figure S5). It should be noted that although it is a necessary step to establish the veracity of the signals from the discovery set, replication of epistasis is difficult in practice because

the dependence on LD between observed SNPs and causal variants is up to three orders of magnitude higher than it is for independent additive effects.<sup>17,18</sup> Therefore these results are encouraging with regards to the detection and replication of epistasis.

Though seldom the focus of association studies, SNPs with known main effects are often tested for additive  $\times$  additive genetic interactions,<sup>9</sup> but our analysis shows that this is unlikely to be the most effective strategy for its detection. The majority of our discovery interactions comprised of one SNP that was significantly associated with the gene expression level in the discovery dataset, and one SNP that had no previous association<sup>21</sup> (439 out of 501, Methods). Only nine interactions were between SNPs that both had known main effects while 64 were between SNPs that had no known main effects. Additionally, we observed that the largest epistatic variance component for the 501 interactions was equally divided amongst additive  $\times$  additive, additive  $\times$  dominance, dominance  $\times$  additive and dominance  $\times$  dominance at the discovery stage ( $p = 0.22$  for departure from expectation). This is not surprising because the patterns of epistasis used for statistical decomposition are not designed to resemble biological function.<sup>24</sup>

Of the discovery interactions, 47 were *cis-cis* acting (both SNPs were on the same chromosome as the expression gene), 441 were *cis-trans*-acting, and 13 were *trans-trans*-acting. We observed a wide range of significant GP maps (Figure 1) but the most common pattern of epistasis that we detected involved a *trans*-SNP masking the effect of an additive *cis*-SNP. For example, MBNL1 (involved in RNA modification and regulation of splicing<sup>25</sup>) has a *cis* effect at rs13069559 which in turn is controlled by 13 *trans*-SNPs and one *cis*-SNP that each exhibit a masking pattern, such that when the *trans*-SNP is homozygous for the masking allele the decreasing allele of the *cis*-SNP no longer has an effect (Supplementary Figure S6). Each of these interactions has evidence for replication in at least one dataset and six are significantly replicated at the Bonferroni level (Supplementary Figure S2). We see similar epistatic networks involving multiple (eight or more) *trans*-acting SNPs for other gene expression levels too, for example TMEM149 (Supplementary Figure S7), NAPRT1 (Supplementary Figure S8), TRAPPC5 (Supplementary Figure S9), and CAST (Supplementary Figure S10). We observed that from pedigree analysis these five gene expression phenotypes had non-additive variance component estimates within the 95th percentile of the 17,994 gene expression phenotypes that were analysed previously<sup>21</sup> (Supplementary Table S2, Methods).

In total the 501 interactions comprised 781 unique SNPs, which we analysed for functional enrichment (Methods). We tested the SNPs for cell-type specific overlap with transcriptionally active chromatin regions, tagged by histone-3-lysine-4,tri-methylation (H3K4me3) chromatin marks, in 34 cell types<sup>26</sup> (Supplementary Figure S4). There was significant enrichment for *cis*-acting SNPs in haematopoietic cell types only ( $p < 1 \times 10^{-4}$  for the three tissues with the strongest enrichment after adjusting for multiple testing). However *trans*-acting SNPs did not show any tissue specific enrichment ( $p > 0.1$  for all tissues). This difference between *cis* and *trans* SNPs suggests different roles in epistatic in-

teractions where tissue specificity is provided by the *cis* SNPs. There is also enrichment for *cis*-SNPs to be localised in regions with regulatory genomic features as measured by chromatin states<sup>27</sup> (Supplementary Figure S3).

We also demonstrate physical organisation of interacting loci within the cell, suggesting a mechanism by which biological function can lead to epistatic genetic variance. It has been shown that different chromosomal regions spatially colocalise in the cell through chromatin interactions.<sup>13</sup> We cross-referenced our epistatic SNPs with a map of chromosome interacting regions ( $n = 96,139$ ) in K562 blood cell lines<sup>28</sup> (Methods) and found that 44 epistatic interactions mapped to within 2Mb ( $p < 1.8 \times 10^{-10}$ ), (Supplementary Figure S11). Interaction of distant loci may occur through physical proximity in transcriptional factories that organise across different chromosome regions and can regulate transcription of related genes.<sup>29,30</sup>

Though we present many instances of epistasis, quantifying its relative importance to complex traits in humans remains an open question. In this study we are able to identify 238 gene expression traits with at least one significant interaction given our experiment-wide threshold. How does this compare to the number of traits influenced by additive effects? The BSGS dataset has been previously analysed for additive effects at all expression traits,<sup>22</sup> and if we take all the additive eQTLs that were significant at the epistatic threshold of  $p < 2.91 \times 10^{-16}$  we find that 453 gene expression levels out of the 7339 analysed had at least one significant expression quantitative trait locus (eQTL). Therefore it can be argued that the number of instances of detectable epistasis are substantial.

However in terms of their contribution to complex traits a more important metric might be the proportion of the variance that the epistatic loci explain.<sup>2</sup> Ideally one would approach this question from a whole genome perspective<sup>31</sup> but this is intractable for non-additive variance components. Nevertheless, some inference can be made from the ascertained effects in these analyses and it is evident that additive variance is overall a larger component than epistatic variance, as has been argued previously.<sup>2,3</sup> Taking the additive effects detected in Powell *et al* (2012) at the  $p < 2.91 \times 10^{-16}$  threshold, we calculate that on average they explain 1.73% of the phenotypic variance of each of the 7339 probes. By contrast, the epistatic variance from the interacting SNPs detected in this study on average explain 0.25% of phenotypic variance, approximately seven times lower than the additive variance. There are several caveats to this comparison. Firstly, the ratio of additive to epistatic variance may differ at different effect sizes, and our estimate is determined by the threshold used. Secondly, the power of a 1 *d.f.* test exceeds that of an 8 *d.f.* test. And thirdly, the non-additive variance at causal variants is expected to be underestimated by observed SNPs in comparison to estimates for additive variance, due to differences in the rate of decay of the estimate of the genetic variance of the causal SNPs as LD decreases with the observed SNPs.

Overall, we have demonstrated that it is possible to identify and replicate epistasis in complex traits amongst common human variants, despite the relative contribution of pairwise epistasis to phenotypic variation being small. The

bioinformatic analysis of the significant epistatic loci suggests that there are a large number of possible mechanisms that can lead to non-additive genetic variation. Further research into such epistatic effects may provide a useful framework to understanding molecular mechanisms and complex trait variation in greater detail. With computational techniques and data now widely available the search for epistasis in larger datasets for traits of broader interest is warranted.

## Methods Summary

We searched for pairwise epistasis exhaustively in the BSGS discovery dataset,<sup>22</sup> which comprises 846 individuals who are genotyped at 528,509 autosomal SNPs. Each individual had gene expression levels measured in peripheral blood at 47,323 probes. Only the probes that passed quality control and had significant expression in  $\geq 90\%$  of individuals were used in the analysis (7,339 probes representing 6,158 RefSeq genes). Recent hardware and software<sup>10</sup> advances that use graphics processing units (GPUs) made it possible to perform the  $1.03 \times 10^{15}$  statistical tests to complete this analysis. We used permutation analysis<sup>32</sup> to calculate an experiment-wide significance threshold of  $T_e = 2.91 \times 10^{-16}$  at the 5% family-wise error rate (FWER). SNP pairs were modelled for full genetic effects, including marginal additive and dominance at both SNPs plus four interaction terms. Though we could have used a less complex model to improve statistical efficiency, we deemed it important to be agnostic about the type of epistasis that might exist, and therefore chose not to over-parameterise the test.<sup>18,19</sup> Because there are many large marginal effects present in these data it was necessary to perform several filtering steps to exclude SNP pairs that were significant due to marginal effects alone. All SNP pairs with LD  $r^2 > 0.1$  and  $D'^2 > 0.1$  were removed to minimise the possibility of haplotype effects. All SNP pairs were required to have at least five data points in all nine genotype classes. If multiple SNP pairs were present on the same chromosomes for a particular expression trait then only the sentinel SNP pair was retained. Finally, a nested test contrasting the full genetic model against the marginal additive and dominance model was performed for each remaining SNP pair (Methods), resulting in 501 significant interactions after Bonferroni correction for multiple testing of the filtered SNPs. The significant SNP pairs were carried forward for replication in two independent datasets that used the same expression assays for analysing transcription in peripheral blood, the Fehrmann dataset<sup>12</sup> ( $n = 1240$ ) and the Estonian Genome Centre University of the University of Tartu (EGCUT) dataset<sup>11</sup> ( $n = 891$ ). Of these, 434 passed filtering in both replication datasets. A meta analysis on the interaction  $p$ -values from each replication dataset was performed to provide an overall replication statistic for each putative interaction.

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# 1 Tables

Table 1: Epistatic interactions significant at the Bonferroni level in two replication sets

	Gene (chr.)	SNP 1 (chr.)	SNP 2 (chr.)	BSGS <sup>2</sup>	Fehrmann <sup>3</sup>	EGCUT <sup>3</sup>	Meta <sup>4</sup>
1	ADK (10)	rs2395095 (10)	rs10824092 (10)	6.69 <sup>1</sup>	18.33 <sup>1</sup>	21.21 <sup>1</sup>	39.82 <sup>1</sup>
2	ATP13A1 (19)	rs4284750 (19)	rs873870 (19)	5.30	12.18	3.25	14.23
3	C21ORF57 (21)	rs9978658 (21)	rs11701361 (21)	9.42	6.08	16.36	21.67
4	CSTB (21)	rs9979356 (21)	rs3761385 (21)	11.99	25.20	16.72	42.27
5	CTSC (11)	rs7930237 (11)	rs556895 (11)	7.16	18.76	15.06	33.53
6	FN3KRP (17)	rs898095 (17)	rs9892064 (17)	16.16	28.24	29.39	59.95
7	GAA (17)	rs11150847 (17)	rs12602462 (17)	13.91	19.98	12.99	32.60
8	HNRPH1 (5)	rs6894268 (5)	rs4700810 (5)	15.38	8.55	3.01	10.37
9	LAX1 (1)	rs1891432 (1)	rs10900520 (1)	19.16	18.60	11.22	29.24
10	MBNL1 (3)	rs16864367 (3)	rs13079208 (3)	13.49	16.25	24.74	41.56
11	MBNL1 (3)	rs7710738 (5)	rs13069559 (3)	7.92	2.55	7.89	9.28
12	MBNL1 (3)	rs2030926 (6)	rs13069559 (3)	7.10	0.91	5.80	5.53
13	MBNL1 (3)	rs2614467 (14)	rs13069559 (3)	5.74	4.13	2.22	5.30
14	MBNL1 (3)	rs218671 (17)	rs13069559 (3)	7.63	0.62	5.82	5.23
15	MBNL1 (3)	rs11981513 (7)	rs13069559 (3)	7.71	0.43	5.36	4.58
16	MBP (18)	rs8092433 (18)	rs4890876 (18)	5.40	7.06	21.91	28.73
17	NAPRT1 (8)	rs2123758 (8)	rs3889129 (8)	8.45	15.12	16.08	30.77
18	NCL (2)	rs7563453 (2)	rs4973397 (2)	7.31	7.51	6.33	12.70
19	PRMT2 (21)	rs2839372 (21)	rs11701058 (21)	4.81	0.69	4.47	4.06
20	RPL13 (16)	rs352935 (16)	rs2965817 (16)	4.98	3.79	14.41	17.24
21	SNORD14A (11)	rs2634462 (11)	rs6486334 (11)	7.31	13.11	10.96	23.22
22	TMEM149 (19)	rs807491 (19)	rs7254601 (19)	12.16	81.55	45.78	145.78
23	TMEM149 (19)	rs8106959 (19)	rs6926382 (6)	5.80	3.06	8.80	10.72
24	TMEM149 (19)	rs8106959 (19)	rs914940 (1)	6.22	3.36	6.96	9.20
25	TMEM149 (19)	rs8106959 (19)	rs2351458 (4)	7.30	0.04	9.61	8.00
26	TMEM149 (19)	rs8106959 (19)	rs6718480 (2)	8.55	3.31	5.15	7.36
27	TMEM149 (19)	rs8106959 (19)	rs1843357 (8)	6.21	3.72	3.33	6.00
28	TMEM149 (19)	rs8106959 (19)	rs9509428 (13)	9.44	0.10	5.75	4.47
29	TRA2A (7)	rs7776572 (7)	rs11770192 (7)	8.23	3.19	1.89	4.09
30	VASP (19)	rs1264226 (19)	rs2276470 (19)	5.09	0.94	5.14	4.95

<sup>1</sup>  $-\log_{10} p$ -values for 4 *d.f.* interaction tests

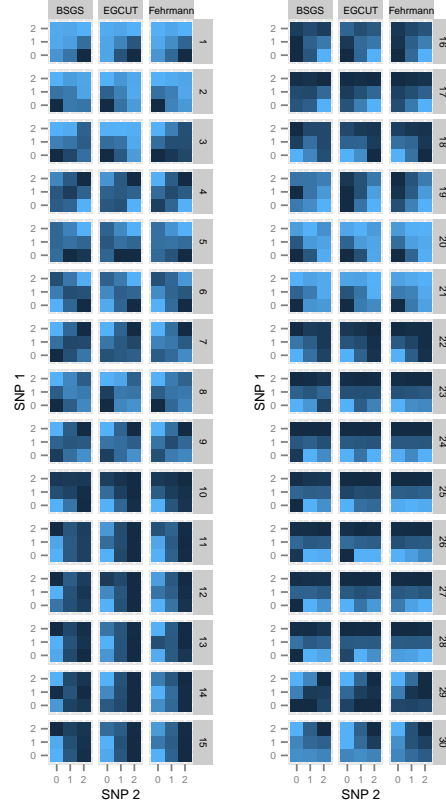
<sup>2</sup> Discovery dataset

<sup>3</sup> Independent replication dataset

<sup>4</sup> Meta analysis of interaction terms between replication datasets only



## 2 Figures



**Figure 1: Replication of GP maps in two independent populations**  
The GP maps for each epistatic interaction that is significant at the Bonferroni level in both replication datasets are shown. Each GP map consists of nine tiles where each tile represents the expression level for that two-locus genotype class. Phenotypes are for gene transcript levels (dark coloured tiles = high expression, light coloured tiles = low expression). Columns of GP maps are for each independent dataset. Rows of GP maps are for each of 30 significantly replicated interactions at the Bonferroni level, corresponding to the rows in Table 1. There is a clear trend of the GP maps replicating across all three datasets.

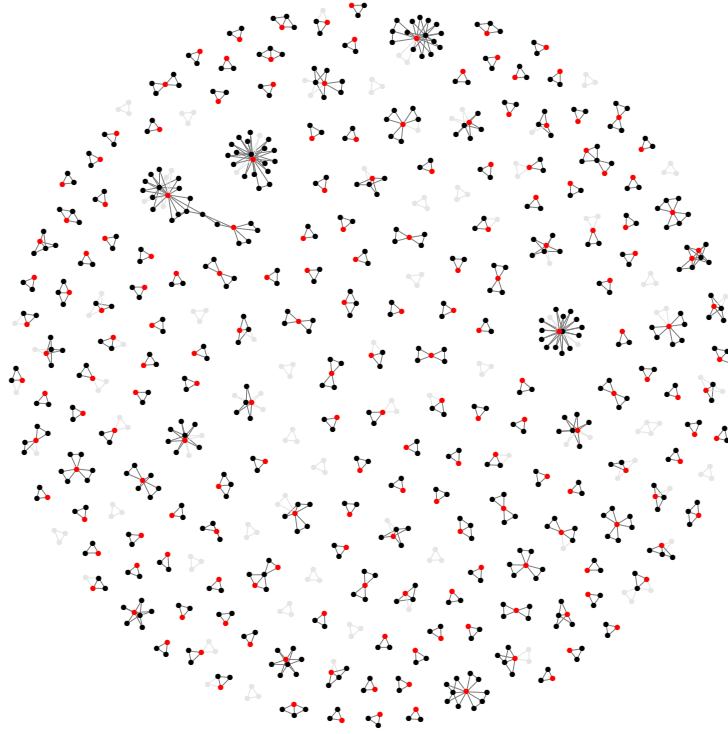


Figure 2: **Discovery and replication of epistatic networks** All 434 putative genetic interactions (edges) with data common to discovery and replication sets is shown, where black nodes represent SNPs and red nodes represent traits (gene expression probes). Three hundred and forty-five interactions had  $p$ -values exceeding the 2.5% confidence interval following meta analysis of the replication data. The remaining 89 interactions that did not replicate are depicted in grey. It is evident that a large proportion of the complex networks identified in the discovery set also exist in independent populations.

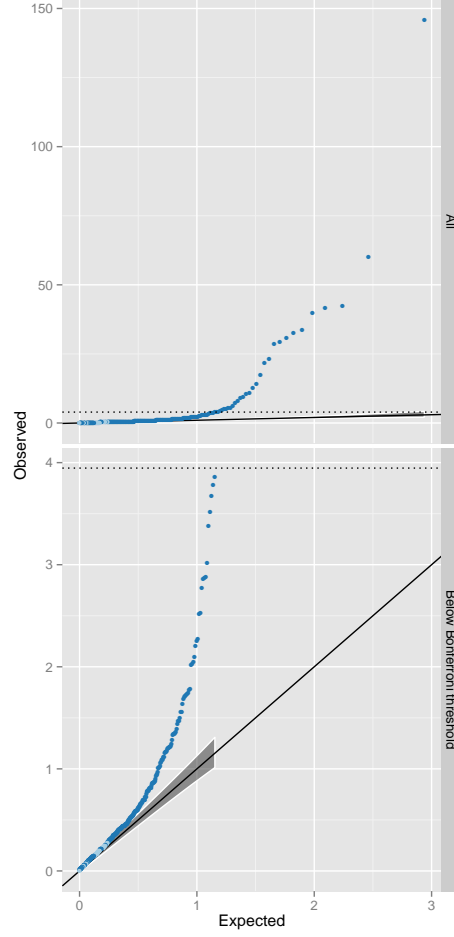


Figure 3: **Q-Q plots of interaction  $p$ -values from replication datasets** The top panel shows all 434 discovery SNPs that were tested for interactions. Observed  $p$ -values ( $y$ -axis,  $-\log_{10}$  scale) are plotted against the expected  $p$ -values ( $x$ -axis,  $-\log_{10}$  scale). The multiple testing correction threshold for significance following Bonferroni correction is denoted by a dotted line. The bottom panel shows the same data as the top panel but excluding the 30 interactions that were significant at the Bonferroni level in the replication datasets. The shaded grey area represents the 5% confidence interval for the expected distribution of  $p$ -values. Dark blue points represent  $p$ -values that exceed the confidence interval, light blue are within the confidence interval.

### 3 Supplementary Figures

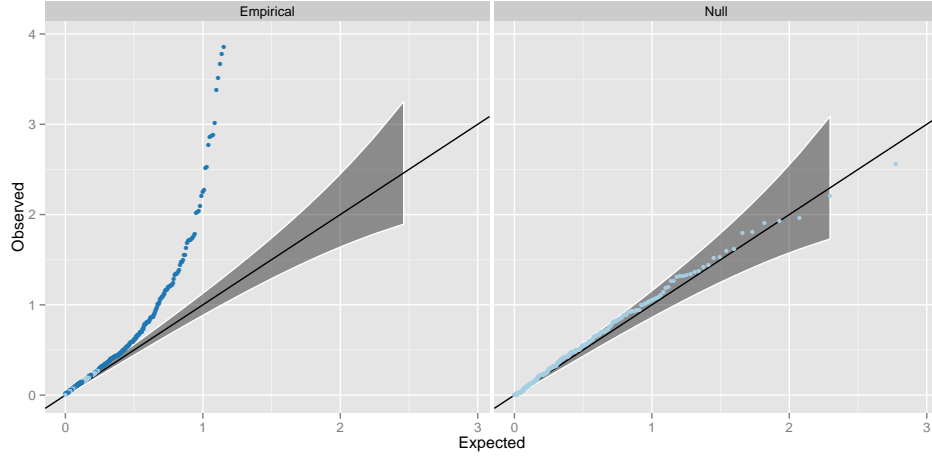


Figure S1: **Q-Q plots of interaction  $p$ -values from replication datasets, excluding the 30 points significant at the Bonferroni level** The right panel (Null) shows the interaction  $p$ -values from a meta analysis across two independent datasets on 434 randomly drawn SNP pairs. The left panel (Empirical) shows the interaction  $p$ -values from the 404 putative interactions that were not significant at the Bonferroni correction threshold. Dark blue points represent  $p$ -values that surpass the 2.5% FDR level, as in Figure 3.

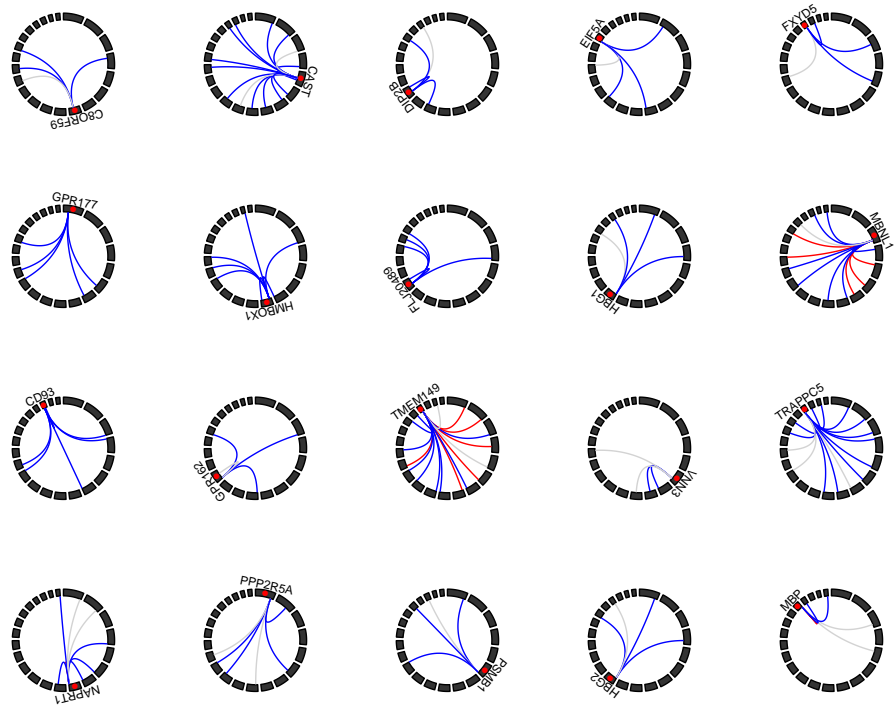
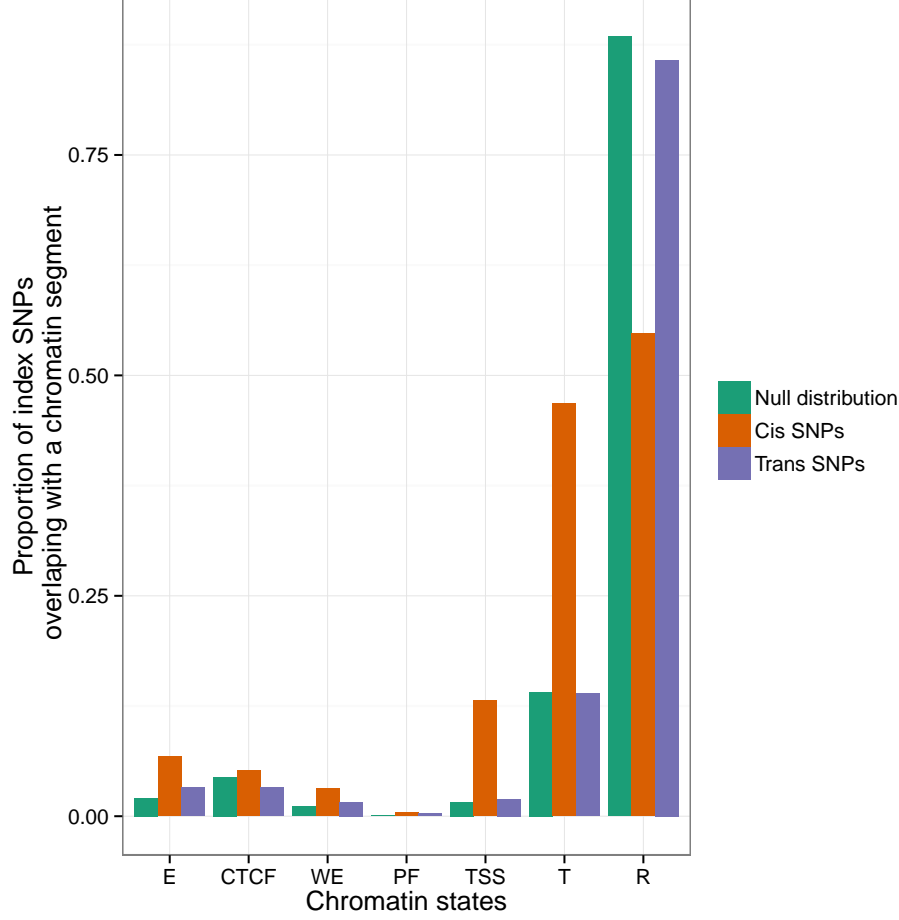


Figure S2: **Gene expression traits with four or more genetic interactions** Circle plots represent the genomic positions for SNPs (linking lines) and expression probes (red points). Chromosomes are represented by black blocks and ordered from 1 to 22 clockwise, starting from the top. Grey lines represent no evidence for replication, blue lines denote interactions that are outside the 97.5% confidence interval or the Q-Q plot (Figure 3), and red lines denote replication at the Bonferroni correction level. Most interactions are characterised as being *cis-trans* to the expression probe.



**Figure S3: Location of SNPs relative to genomic features** We used chromatin segmentation<sup>27</sup> as a method for labelling genomic features. All SNPs within 1Mb and  $r^2 > 0.8$  of each *cis*- and *trans*-SNP were taken to find which genomic features ( $x$ -axis) were covered by the SNPs that compose the 501 significant interactions. Green bars represent the proportion ( $y$ -axis) of the 528,509 SNPs used in the analysis that fall within the range of the different genomic features. There is enrichment for *cis*-acting SNPs (red bars) in promotor regions, but *trans*-acting SNPs (blue bars) are not enriched for genomic features. The labels on the  $x$ -axis are as follows: E = Predicted enhancer, CTCF = CTCF enriched element, WE = Predicted weak enhancer or open chromatin cis regulatory element, PF = Predicted promoter flanking region, TSS = Predicted promoter region including transcriptional start site, T = Predicted transcribed region, R = Predicted Repressed or Low Activity region

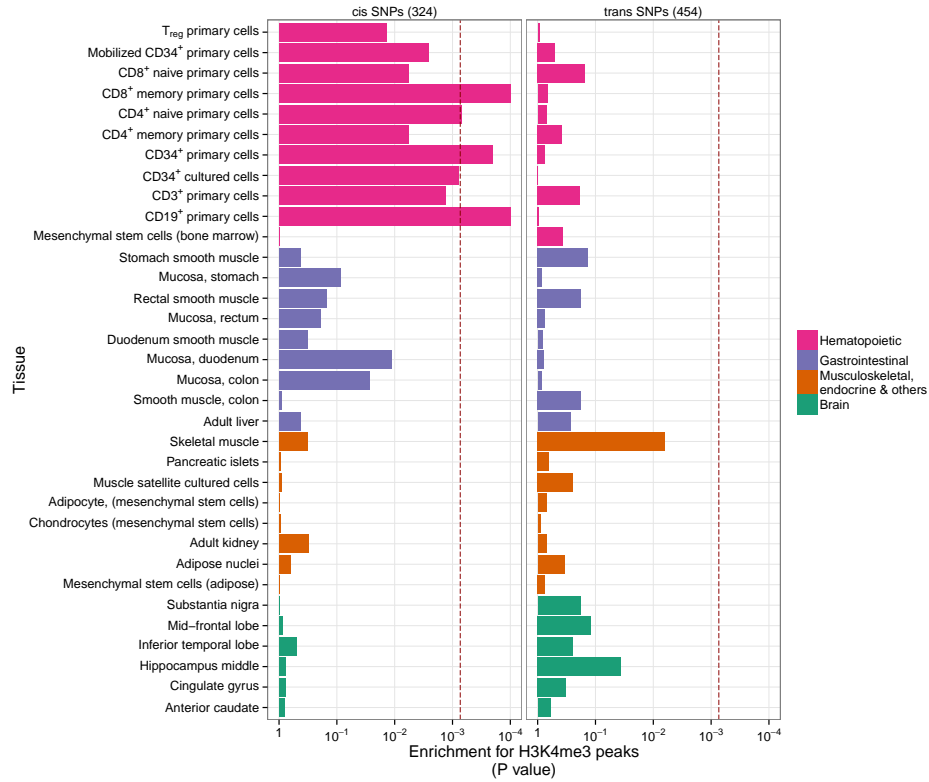


Figure S4: **Tissue specific enrichment of SNPs in transcriptionally active regions** The locations of transcriptional activity can be predicted by chromatin marks, assayed by H3K4me3.<sup>26</sup> Enrichment  $p$ -values are calculated using permutation analysis for 34 different cell types ( $y$ -axis) in four tissue types (Rows of boxes). The dotted red line denotes significance (Bonferroni correction for 34 cell types,  $x$ -axis). There is enrichment for *cis*-acting SNPs in Haematopoietic tissue types only. *Trans*-acting SNPs have no tissue specificity.

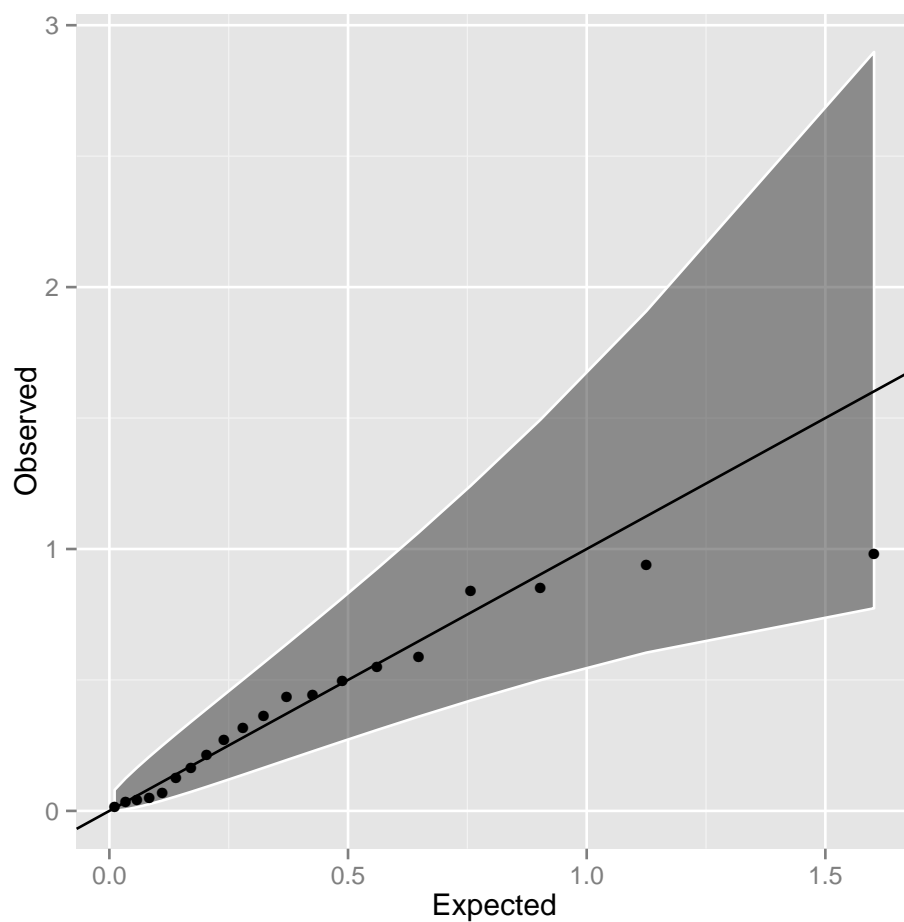


Figure S5: **Q-Q plot of interaction  $p$ -values in the CDHWB dataset**  
 Twenty of the 501 discovery SNP pairs passed filtering in the CDHWB dataset (mainly due to small sample size). There is no evidence for enrichment of interaction terms, most likely due to insufficient power given the limited sample size.



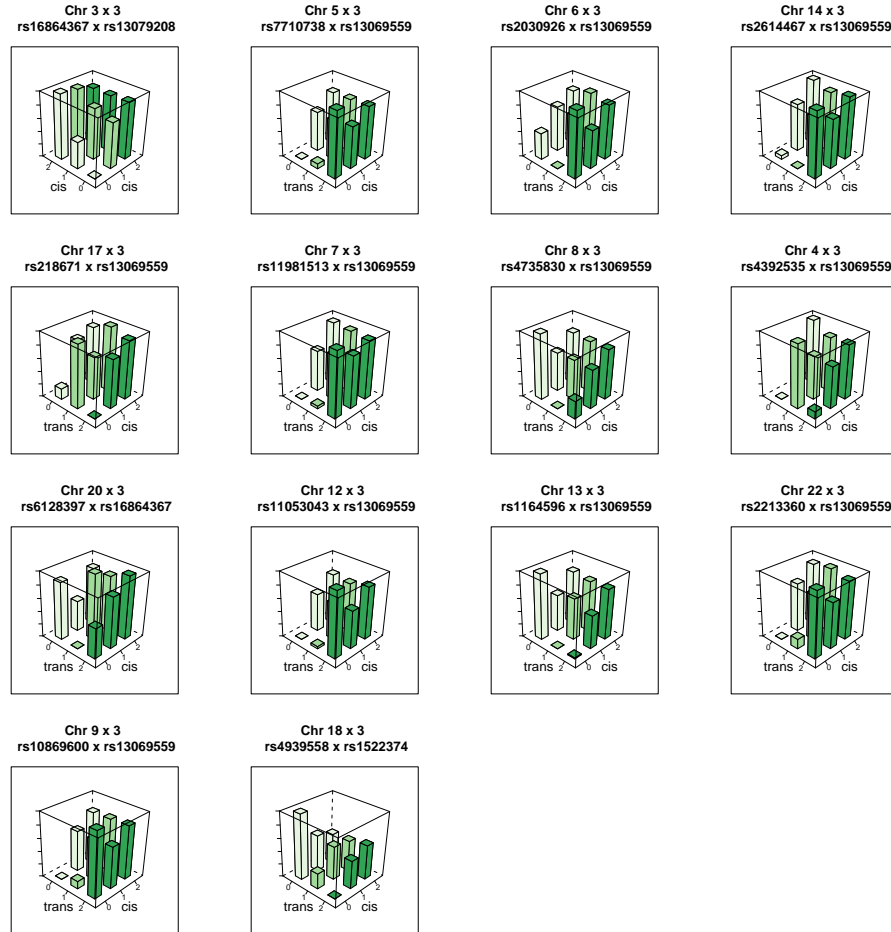


Figure S6: **Genotype-phenotype maps for 14 interactions influencing the expression of MBNL1** Each bar represents the mean phenotypic value for individuals in that genotype class. The rs13069559 SNP typically has a *cis*-additive decreasing effect on the expression of MBNL1, but in many of these interactions the *cis* effect is masked when the *trans* SNP is homozygous for the masking allele.

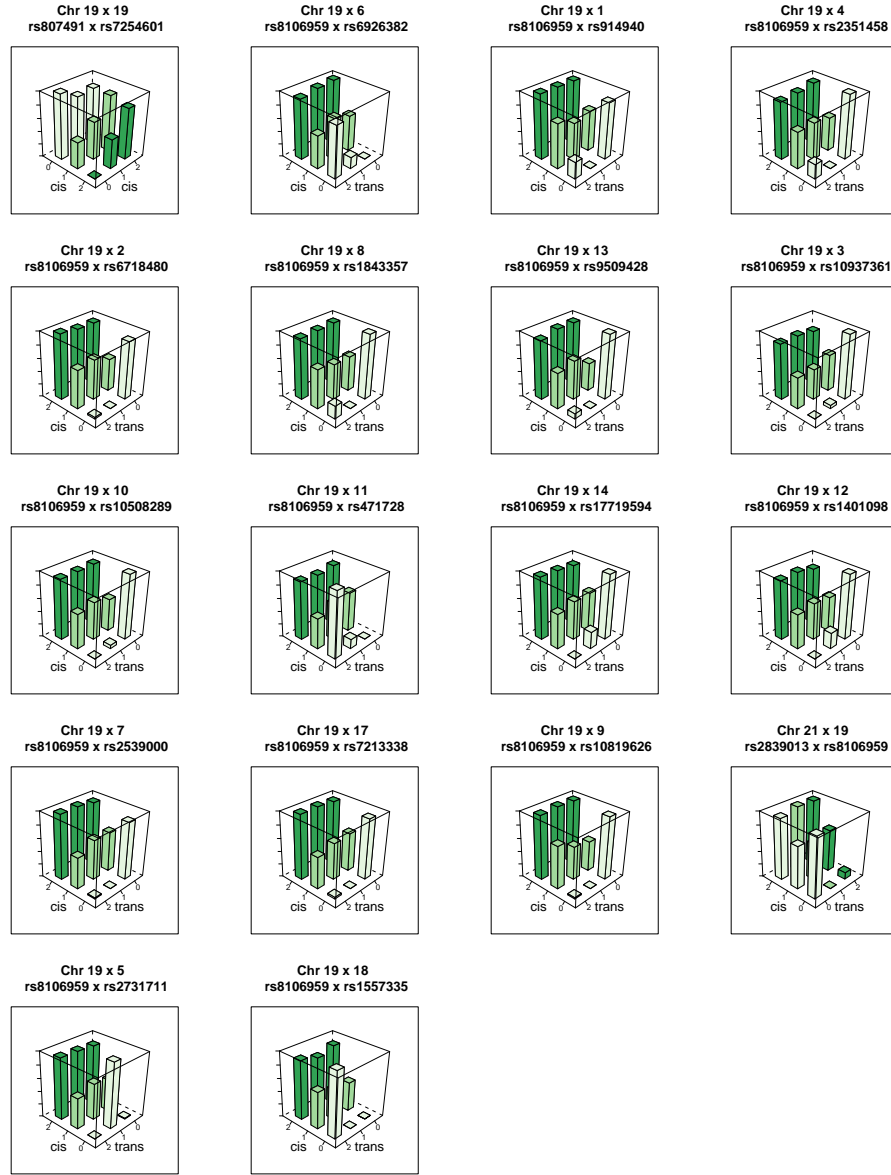


Figure S7: **Genotype-phenotype maps for 19 interactions influencing the expression of TMEM149** Each bar represents the mean phenotypic value for individuals in that genotype class. The rs13069559 SNP typically has a *cis*-additive decreasing effect on the expression of TMEM149, but in many of these interactions the *cis* effect is masked when the *trans* SNP is homozygous for the masking allele.

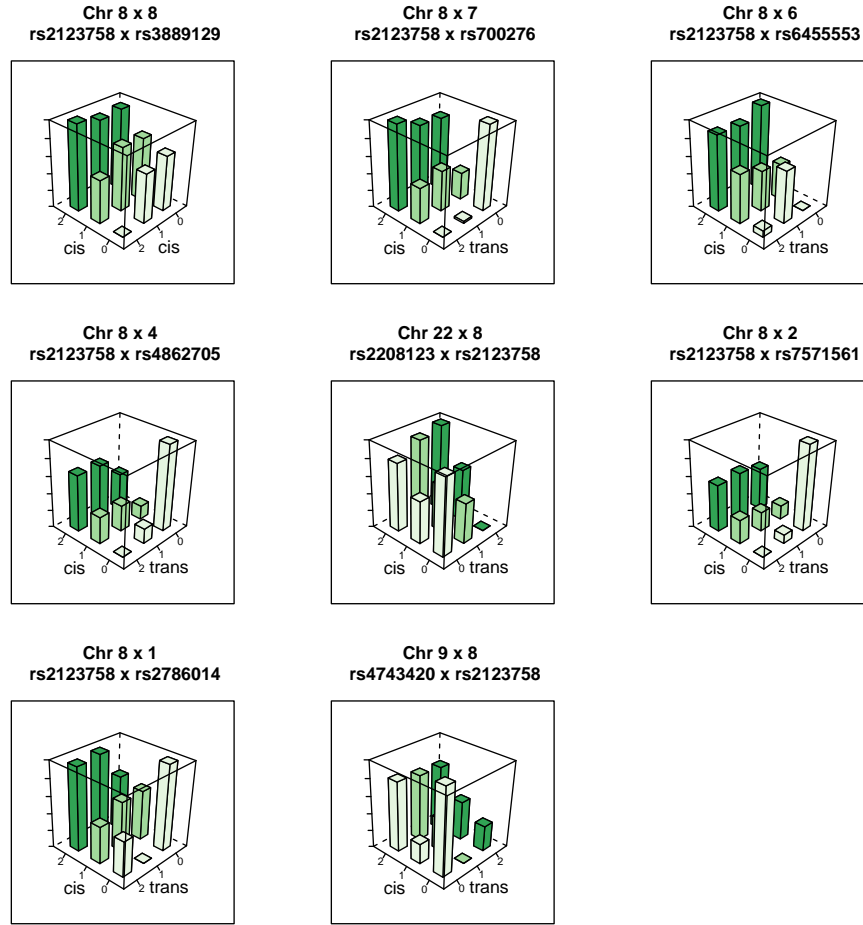


Figure S8: **Genotype-phenotype maps for 8 interactions influencing the expression of NAPRT1** Each bar represents the mean phenotypic value for individuals in that genotype class.

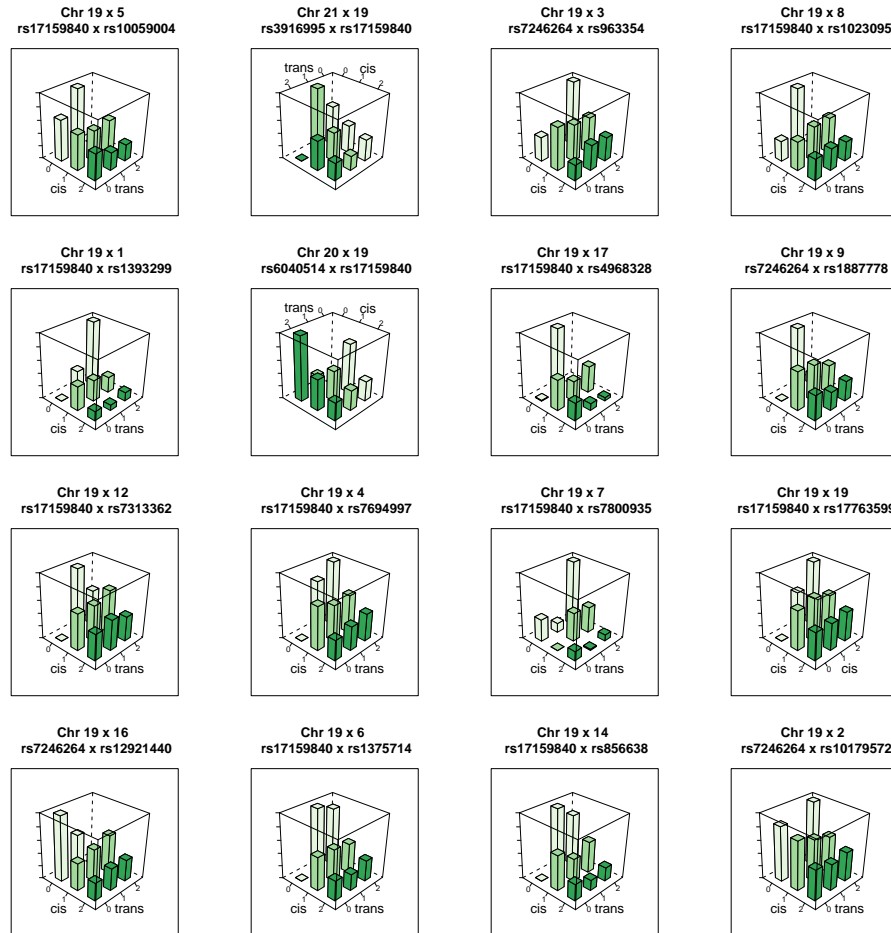


Figure S9: **Genotype-phenotype maps for 16 interactions influencing the expression of TRAPPC5** Each bar represents the mean phenotypic value for individuals in that genotype class.

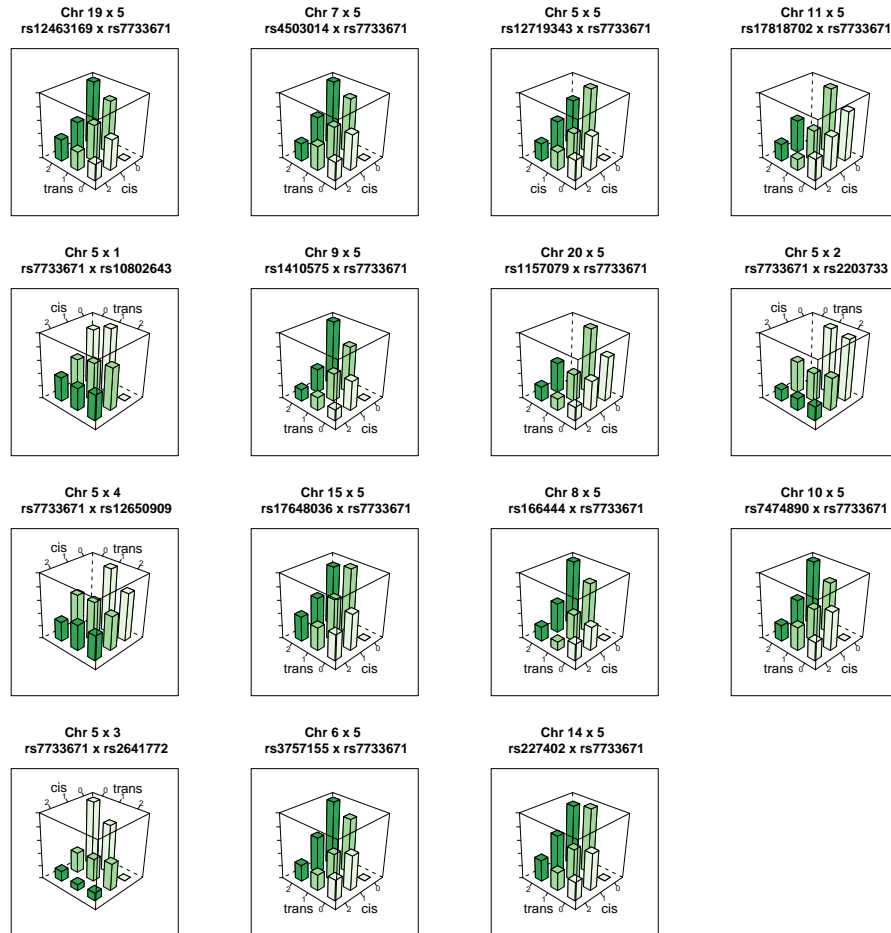
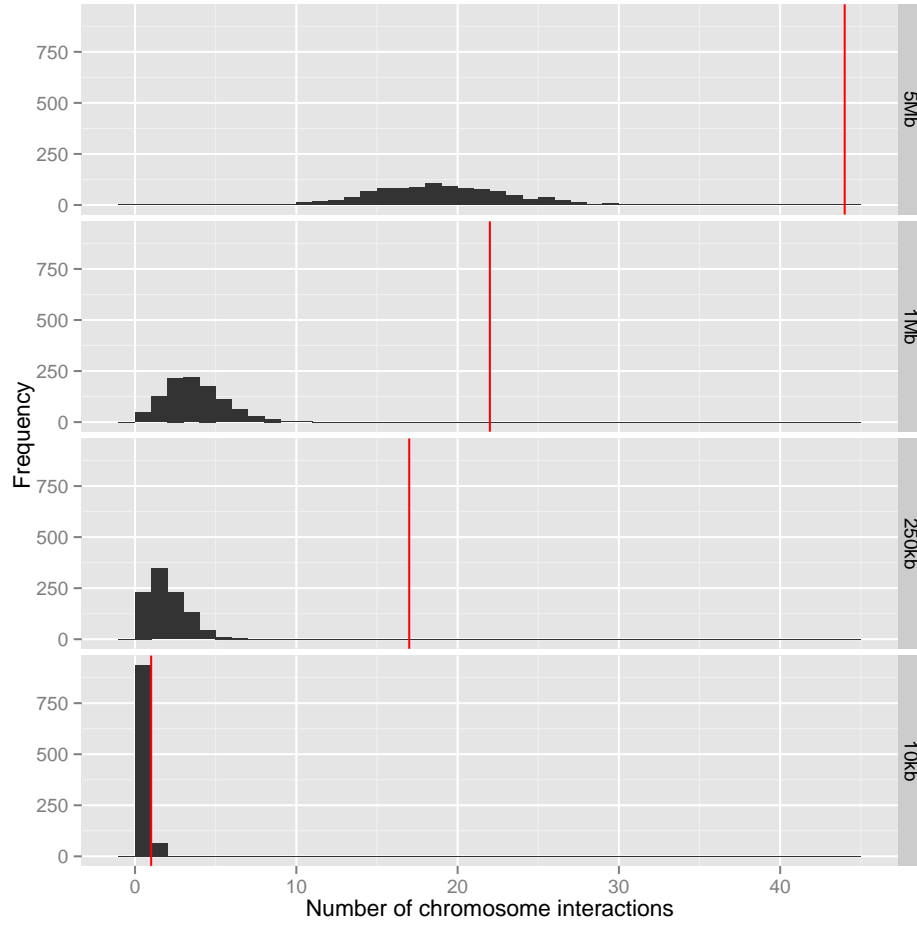


Figure S10: **Genotype-phenotype maps for 15 interactions influencing the expression of CAST** Each bar represents the mean phenotypic value for individuals in that genotype class.



**Figure S11: Number of overlaps between chromosome interactions and epistatic interactions** Interacting chromosome regions may be a possible mechanism underlying epistatic interactions. The number of epistatic interactions within 20kb, 500kb, 2Mb and 10Mb of known chromosome interacting regions are shown by red vertical lines. The histograms represent the null distribution based on random sampling of 1,000 datasets for each window size.

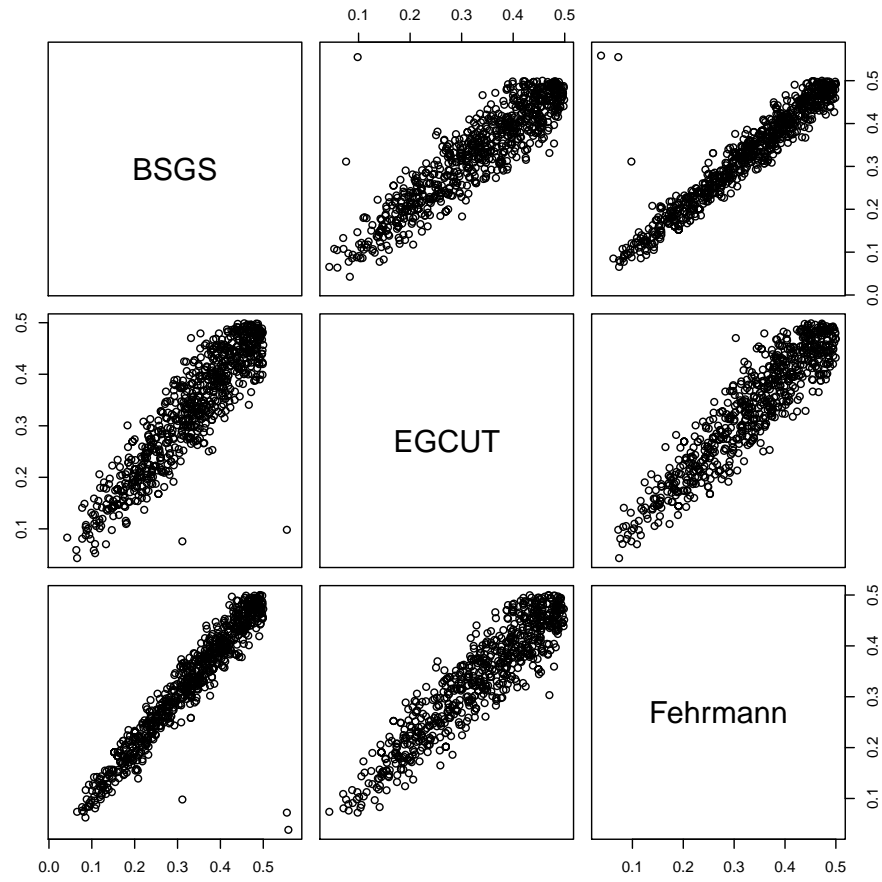
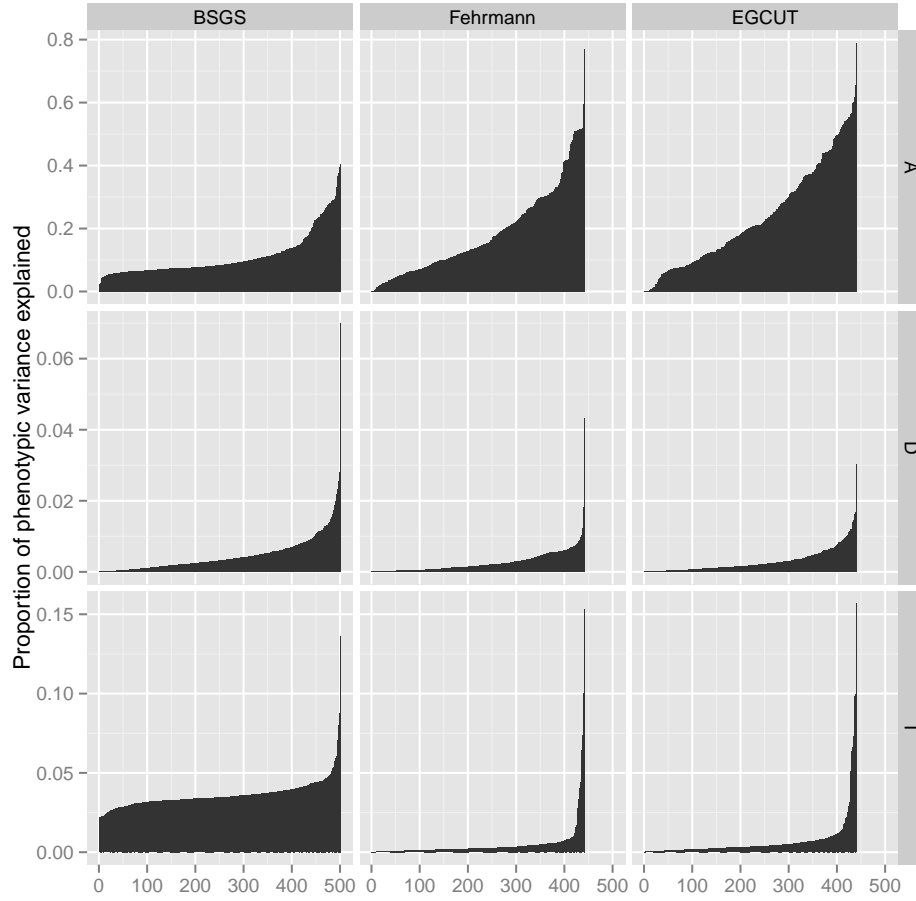


Figure S12: **Comparison of allele frequencies for 781 SNPs involved in genetic interactions across independent populations** Outliers were removed from the analysis as part of the filtering stage during replication.



**Figure S13: Comparison of variance explained by additive, dominant and epistatic effects from different cohorts** How does the estimated variance decomposition change in different cohorts? The proportion of the phenotypic variance that is additive (A), dominant (D), or epistatic (I) for each putative interaction is shown on the  $y$ -axis (Note: different scales for each row). BSGS has 501 interactions whereas Fehrmann and EGCUT have 434 ( $x$ -axis). The variance estimates in each plot are ordered from lowest additive to highest. This is done independently for each cohort to depict the distribution of estimated effects.



## 4 Supplementary Tables



Table S1 – continued from previous page

Expression trait			SNP 1			SNP 2			Interaction statistic <sup>f</sup> / -log <sub>10</sub> p-values			Distance / Mb <sup>h</sup>		
Gene ID <sup>a</sup>	Probe ID <sup>b</sup>	Chr.	rs ID	Chr.	Pos / Mb <sup>c</sup>	Association <sup>d</sup>	rs ID	Chr.	Pos / Mb <sup>c</sup>	Association <sup>d</sup>	BSGS <sup>e</sup>	Fehrmann <sup>f</sup>	EGCUT <sup>g</sup>	Meta <sup>g</sup>
CSORF59	ILMN_1653205	8	rs8051751	16	7188323		rs2896452	8	86102223	CSORF59	5.79	1.39	0.18	0.87
C9ORF72	ILMN_1741881	9	rs10122902	9	27556780	C9ORF72	rs2526698	8	86102223		6.36	0.96	0.01	0.37
CABO1	ILMN_1731064	10	rs12765847	10	4353908		rs3738725	1	227174210	CABO1	6.36	0.94	0.00	0.34
CARD9	ILMN_1712532	9	rs4266763	9	139289825	INPP5E	rs684040	1	82128660		5.81			
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs1157079	11	6026661		rs4077515	9	139266496	INPP5E	6.61	0.09	0.86	0.42
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs12463169	19	17321669		rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	7.07	0.23	0.96	0.62
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs12599264	16	81840122		rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	5.73	0.02	2.85	1.75
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs12719343	5	125369113		rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	7.00			
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs1410575	9	78255630		rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	7.68	0.36	1.57	1.20
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs166444	8	78392770		rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	6.55	0.13	1.34	0.78
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs17648036	15	27311111		rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	7.01	0.27	0.52	0.37
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs17818702	11	86107920		rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	7.81	0.97	0.03	0.41
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs282402	14	70496867		rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	6.62	1.15	0.59	1.09
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs2222124	21	15166804		rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	6.12	0.11	0.01	0.01
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs3757155	6	136458593		rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	6.87			
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs4503014	7	31149140		rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	7.24	0.07	0.33	0.12
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs7474890	10	59590078		rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	5.88	1.56	1.72	1.72
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	rs10802643	1	238120177		7.42	0.49	0.12	0.23
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	rs12650909	4	170128890		6.74	0.75	0.78	0.93
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	rs2203733	2	224093101		7.42	0.23	0.78	0.50
CAST	ILMN_1717234	5	rs7733671	5	96000269	CAST	rs2641772	3	195531841		6.07	0.22	0.87	0.54
CAT	ILMN_1651705	11	rs872311	18	66175386		rs11032695	11	34447586	CAT	6.93	0.19	0.26	0.15
CCDC88B	ILMN_1722208	11	rs23532303	19	17099980		rs541207	11	64125142	CCDC88B	5.68	0.33	0.37	0.31
CD36	ILMN_1772208	11	rs694739	17	64097233	CCDC88B	rs12771349	10	96989193		5.62	0.23	0.18	0.14
CD55	ILMN_1800540	7	rs3211834	11	80280117		rs1254900	2	85816334	CD55	6.93	0.15	0.01	0.02
CD93	ILMN_1704730	20	rs1884655	20	23074375	CD93	rs10255470	7	157182030	VAMP8	5.09	0.08	0.03	0.02
CD93	ILMN_1704730	20	rs1884655	20	23074375	CD93	rs4696726	4	7992632		6.06	1.74	0.24	1.20
CD93	ILMN_1704730	20	rs1884655	20	23074375	CD93	rs7622580	3	196721395		5.71	0.13	0.80	0.42
CD93	ILMN_1704730	20	rs1884655	20	23074375	CD93	rs838875	12	125145394		5.56	0.04	0.27	0.08
CD93	ILMN_1704730	20	rs2868504	20	37771578	CD93	rs9576388	13	38434472	CD93	6.31	0.24	1.67	1.16
CD93	ILMN_1704730	20	rs4813479	20	23076914	CD93	rs1884655	20	23074375		5.71	0.71	0.22	0.45
CD93	ILMN_1704730	20	rs4813479	20	23076914	CD93	rs10925747	1	238899903		7.43			
CD93	ILMN_1704730	20	rs4813479	20	23076914	CD93	rs2873420	8	136500554		7.02			
CD93	ILMN_1704730	20	rs4813479	20	23076914	CD93	rs4328531	18	74439542		6.13			
CD93	ILMN_1704730	20	rs4813479	20	23076914	CD93	rs4789981	17	77264482		6.08			
CD93	ILMN_2339796	13	rs861544	14	104162263	CD93	rs7324744	13	115008038	CD93	5.46	0.21	0.14	0.11
CDK5R1	ILMN_1730928	17	rs9905940	17	46614102	HOXB2	rs11655031	17	30831362	CDK5R1	5.47	0.95	0.07	0.45
CEACAM21	ILMN_1745949	19	rs200690	19	42068556	CEACAM21	rs4803481	19	42068556	CEACAM21	6.15	0.90	0.12	0.48
CEACAM21	ILMN_1745949	19	rs4803481	19	42068556	CEACAM21	rs2421050	5	158943044	CEACAM21	6.67	2.16	0.16	1.44
CEP192	ILMN_1703754	18	rs6505780	18	13069792	CEP192	rs13132719	3	180265266		5.75	0.15	0.24	0.12
CEP63	ILMN_1787808	3	rs3825569	14	101350298	CEP192	rs13079012	3	134247706	ANAPC13	6.36	0.23	0.10	0.09
CES1	ILMN_2359945	16	rs1992935	16	55861794	CES1	rs772788	2	235248562		5.65			
CHPT1	ILMN_2209240	12	rs591967	13	38838122		rs2695290	12	102087844	CHPT1	5.74	0.72	0.20	0.44
CHPT1	ILMN_2209240	12	rs6539014	12	102277782		rs867578	11	81937002		4.75	0.92	0.02	0.36
CLEC12A	ILMN_1663142	12	rs429790	16	84471642		rs7313235	12	10132283	CLEC12A	5.55	0.07	1.28	0.67
CLEC12A	ILMN_2403228	12	rs7305054	11	96929337		rs3903088	10	134236688		7.54	0.95	0.36	0.73
CLTB	ILMN_1674609	5	rs17129799	11	96929337		rs6863172	5	175595960	CLTB	5.55		0.27	
CNN2	ILMN_1770290	19	rs3752237	19	1047161	ABCA7	rs169130	16	63121080		7.56	0.07	0.02	0.02
CNN2	ILMN_1770290	19	rs3752237	19	1047161	ABCA7	rs7336017	13	67713633		6.33	1.92	0.28	1.39
CP5F1	ILMN_1654545	8	rs4333645	8	145569535		rs1455268	4	61738094		6.34	0.10	0.01	0.01
CPVL	ILMN_1682928	7	rs12596791	16	26115562		rs2455884	7	29188475	CPVL	5.74	0.06	0.57	0.23

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Table S1 – continued from previous page

Expression trait			SNP 1			SNP 2			Interaction statistic / -log <sub>10</sub> p-values			Distance / Mb		
Gene ID <sup>a</sup>	Probe ID <sup>b</sup>	Chr.	rs ID	Chr.	Pos / Mb <sup>c</sup>	Association <sup>d</sup>	rs ID	Chr.	Pos / Mb <sup>c</sup>	Association <sup>d</sup>	BSGS <sup>e</sup>	Fehrmann <sup>f</sup>	EGCUT <sup>g</sup>	Meta <sup>g</sup>
CPVL	ILMN-1682928	7	rs2835998	21	39202070		rs245884	7	29185475	CPVL	5.55	0.19	0.03	0.04
CRPT	ILMN-1813256	2	rs6131290	4	188859908		rs1531133	2	46843631	CRPT	5.47	0.28	0.10	0.12
CRUS1	ILMN-1737685	20	rs139887	20	5986234	CRUS1	rs1473927	5	62406408		6.18	0.10	0.36	0.15
CS1B	ILMN-1761797	21	rs9979356	21	45230974		rs3761385	21	45198355		11.99	25.20	16.72	42.27
CTNNA1	ILMN-1804854	5	rs624943	18	69500505		rs176382	5	138226767	CTNNA1	5.74	0.02	0.41	0.11
CTSC	ILMN-1696347	11	rs2457684	11	88139983	CTSC	rs7079264	10	10679892		5.67	0.92	0.74	1.03
CTSC	ILMN-1696347	11	rs75732236	22	26250645		rs1728352	11	88087357	CTSC	5.84	0.49	0.80	0.73
CTSC	ILMN-2242463	11	rs7930237	11	88117962		rs56895	11	88077479		7.16	18.76	15.06	33.53
CWF19L1	ILMN-1651886	10	rs7108734	11	11456027		rs12784396	10	102027407	CWF19L1	5.42	0.21	0.01	0.03
CYBRD1	ILMN-1712305	2	rs2592948	4	129994690		rs888427	2	172368120	CYBRD1	5.89	0.23	0.53	0.34
CYBRD1	ILMN-1712305	2	rs7852475	9	140698856		rs888427	2	172368120	CYBRD1	5.68	0.20	0.02	0.04
CYBRD1	ILMN-2087692	2	rs11257679	10	12318284		rs888427	2	172368120	CYBRD1	5.81	0.39	1.87	1.47
CYBRD1	ILMN-2087692	2	rs6137908	20	23344590		rs888427	2	172368120	CYBRD1	5.53	0.05	0.83	0.36
CYP27A1	ILMN-2087692	2	rs888427	2	172368120	CYBRD1	rs7591849	2	160112881		5.85	0.87	0.10	0.44
CYP27A1	ILMN-1704985	2	rs6021982	20	36571928		rs933994	2	219650616	CYP27A1	5.42	0.29	0.86	0.60
DAB2	ILMN-2128428	5	rs7778910	7	110451383		rs835223	5	39381357	DAB2	5.44	0.48	0.41	0.44
DDX58	ILMN-1811648	17	rs9900173	17	133111688		rs1343244	6	82076988		9.12	0.00	0.58	0.14
DDX58	ILMN-1690982	22	rs9760102	22	24248761	DDT	rs2378341	3	187475208		5.62	0.64	0.25	0.42
DEM1	ILMN-1797001	9	rs4937097	9	125962645		rs7042042	9	32451144		5.31	0.61	0.29	0.44
DEM1	ILMN-1783996	1	rs10120023	9	137810259	COQ10A	rs2519515	7	88204888		5.47	0.08	0.41	0.16
DHSR9	ILMN-1733998	2	rs12363827	11	106703727		rs10120023	9	137810259	COQ10A	6.39	0.77	0.02	0.29
DHSR9	ILMN-1733998	2	rs1519956	12	89468283		rs7566044	2	169960422	DHSR9	6.00	0.06	1.17	0.58
DHSR9	ILMN-1733998	2	rs1528529	7	147132505		rs7566044	2	169960422	DHSR9	6.48	0.37	0.34	0.32
DHSR9	ILMN-2384181	2	rs2831914	21	29959453		rs2161037	2	169893419	DHSR9	5.51	0.88	0.04	0.37
DHSR9	ILMN-2384181	4	rs7661304	4	187776431		rs2161037	2	169893419	DHSR9	7.64	0.05	0.11	0.03
DP2B	ILMN-1755589	12	rs11069033	17	29161503	LASS5	rs11169322	12	50610976	LASS5	4.65	0.32	0.05	0.10
DP2B	ILMN-1755589	12	rs11169335	12	50636364		rs2872008	7	153134888	LASS5	4.87	0.30	0.58	0.19
DP2B	ILMN-1755589	19	rs3383858	19	4171815	LASS5	rs1808634	8	50730458		5.31	0.37	0.02	0.01
DP2B	ILMN-1755589	12	rs7314595	12	50730458	LASS5	rs4532958	10	115214154	LASS5	5.03	0.09	0.02	0.11
DP2B	ILMN-1755589	12	rs7312252	12	50744171	LASS5	rs12427378	12	151074199	LASS5	5.92	0.48	0.00	0.01
DP2B	ILMN-1755589	12	rs871257	12	117994348		rs3779589	7	157163614	DNABJ6	5.79	0.23	1.45	0.97
DNABJ6	ILMN-1793770	7	rs2286842	7	157216093		rs1566972	3	16320360	DNABJ6	6.17	1.58	0.27	1.12
ECGF1	ILMN-2140610	3	rs12232308	15	93409054		rs4891884	18	64004670	DNABJ6	4.81	0.15	1.18	0.70
ECGF1	ILMN-2109708	22	rs140522	22	50971266		rs11206043	1	53402552	ECGHC2	6.19	0.22	0.35	0.22
ECGHC2	ILMN-1671568	1	rs4324091	22	241911027	ECGF1	rs11206043	1	53402552	ECGHC2	5.58	0.64	0.16	0.35
ECGHC2	ILMN-1720083	15	rs5992637	22	17675900		rs1043166	15	42192040	ECGHC2	6.98	0.90	0.47	0.79
EIF2B2	ILMN-1719380	18	rs6567288	18	60218334		rs148166	15	42192040	EIF2B2	5.56	0.23	0.11	0.10
EIF5A	ILMN-1794522	17	rs7216490	17	7221707	EIF5A	rs1269096	14	996903119		5.44	0.56	0.08	0.24
EIF5A	ILMN-1794522	17	rs7216490	17	7221707	EIF5A	rs1553474	2	49359676		5.55	0.28	0.59	0.41
EIF5A	ILMN-1794522	17	rs7216490	17	7221707	EIF5A	rs2197210	8	129624067		6.36	0.08	0.05	0.02
EIF5A	ILMN-1794522	17	rs7216490	17	7221707	EIF5A	rs4471434	11	126387391		5.52	0.05	1.12	0.53
EMR2	ILMN-1794522	17	rs2827076	21	23196249		rs9305048	19	14879034	EMR2	6.51	0.36	0.04	0.11
EMR2	ILMN-2353633	19	rs9405048	19	14879034		rs3007765	13	102480759	EMR2	5.56	0.45	0.40	0.41
EPHX2	ILMN-1709237	8	rs1107764	11	12790396	EMR2	rs13269963	8	27400604	EPHX2	6.03	0.20	0.58	0.35
EPHX2	ILMN-1731001	8	rs10894861	11	13461176		rs12115088	8	578742	ERICH1	5.70	0.25	1.20	0.81
ERICH1	ILMN-1731001	8	rs5766218	22	45337329		rs12115088	8	607161	ERICH1	6.11	0.20	0.11	0.09
ERICH1	ILMN-1731001	8	rs726145	18	31187910		rs12115088	8	578742	ERICH1	5.65	0.29	0.04	0.08
ERICH1	ILMN-2104696	8	rs4735895	8	600729	ERICH1	rs1517297	4	182786760		5.63	0.67	1.03	1.06
EXOC3	ILMN-1789419	5	rs187076	10	55228462		rs12188164	5	428236	EXOC3	6.83	0.74	0.19	0.44
FAHD1	ILMN-2246661	16	rs1560104	16	12708208		rs344363	16	1972548	FAHD1	5.61	0.27	0.30	0.23
FCN1	ILMN-1668063	9	rs12580388	12	129591144		rs10120023	9	137810259	COQ10A	6.33	0.27	0.30	0.23

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Table S1 – continued from previous page

Gene ID <sup>a</sup>	Expression trait	Probe ID <sup>b</sup>	Chr.	SNP 1		Pos/Mb <sup>c</sup>	Association <sup>d</sup>	rs ID	Chr.	SNP 2		Pos/Mb <sup>c</sup>	Association <sup>d</sup>	BSGS <sup>e</sup>		Interaction statistic <sup>f</sup>	-log <sub>10</sub> p-value	Distance / Mb <sup>g</sup>
				rs ID	Chr.					rs ID	Chr.			Fehrmann <sup>f</sup>	EGCUT <sup>g</sup>			
FE2Z	ILMN_1739586	2	rs2356400	19	44321776	2	36791226	FE2Z	5.78	0.14	0.33	0.16						
FE2Z	ILMN_1739586	2	rs969010	4	159963132	2	36810133	FE2Z	5.69	0.14	0.28	0.14						
FGD2	ILMN_2115005	6	rs4803848	19	46203050	6	37001267	FGD2	5.69	0.12	0.25	0.11						
FGD2	ILMN_2115005	6	rs902634	12	133943531	12	133943531	FGD2	5.49	1.20	0.11	0.66						
FLJ20489	ILMN_1761073	12	rs17036706	12	17036706	12	17036706	FLJ20489	5.81	0.06	0.70	0.29						
FLJ20489	ILMN_1761073	12	rs4803848	12	133943531	12	133943531	FLJ20489	5.79	0.13	0.13	0.04						
FLJ20489	ILMN_1778144	12	rs7021190	15	70929121	15	70929121	FLJ20489	5.79	0.13	0.13	0.04						
FLJ20489	ILMN_1778144	12	rs4803848	12	133943531	12	133943531	FLJ20489	5.79	0.13	0.13	0.04						
FLJ20489	ILMN_1778144	12	rs7204135	16	50626195	12	97033129	FLJ20489	4.81	0.31	0.47	0.36						
FLJ20489	ILMN_1778144	12	rs7204135	16	50626195	12	97033129	FLJ20489	4.81	0.31	0.47	0.36						
FLJ20489	ILMN_1778144	12	rs9325634	21	43818790	12	97033129	FLJ20489	6.04	0.14	0.95	0.53						
FLJ20489	ILMN_1778144	12	rs9325634	21	43818790	12	97033129	FLJ20489	6.04	0.14	0.95	0.53						
FLJ43093	ILMN_2123450	6	rs6906101	14	107276627	6	36667610	FLJ43093	5.48	0.39	0.06	0.13						
FLJ43093	ILMN_2123450	6	rs6906101	14	107276627	6	36667610	FLJ43093	5.48	0.39	0.06	0.13						
FLJ43093	ILMN_2123450	6	rs6906101	14	107276627	6	36667610	FLJ43093	5.48	0.39	0.06	0.13						
FN3KRP	ILMN_1652333	17	rs898095	17	80890638	17	80890638	FUCA1	16.16	28.24	29.39	59.95						
FUC1	ILMN_1752728	1	rs4971478	17	80890638	1	24168019	FUCA1	6.41	0.01	0.30	0.06						
FXYD5	ILMN_2309848	19	rs1633921	19	35695290	13	98328559	FXYD5	3.70	0.09	0.41	0.17						
FXYD5	ILMN_2309848	19	rs17398183	20	55609148	19	35660450	FXYD5	6.58	0.03	0.48	0.15						
FXYD5	ILMN_2309848	19	rs2285515	19	35660450	5	141709163	FXYD5	5.70	0.07	0.17	0.05						
FXYD5	ILMN_2309848	19	rs2285515	19	35660450	3	95310148	FXYD5	6.00	0.09	0.09	0.51						
FXYD5	ILMN_2309848	19	rs2285515	19	35660450	4	7567329	FXYD5	6.10	0.08	0.28	0.08						
F3BP2	ILMN_2381758	4	rs10230232	7	29390239	4	7654604	F3BP2	5.19	0.08	0.37	0.14						
GAA	ILMN_2410783	17	rs11150847	17	78153130	17	78146016	GAA	13.91	19.98	12.99	32.60						
GAA	ILMN_2410783	17	rs8068856	17	78100731	12	1326748089	GAA	5.65	0.11	0.39	0.17						
GAPT	ILMN_1675191	5	rs10070522	5	57786110	2	2356955228	GAPT	5.85	0.01	0.78	0.28						
GAPT	ILMN_1675191	5	rs7082031	10	128038717	5	57786110	GAPT	5.72	0.26	0.11	0.11						
GATS	ILMN_1699631	7	rs1147447	14	66460742	7	99827148	GATS	5.47	0.83	0.63	0.87						
GATS	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATS	6.22	0.42	0.35	0.33						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38	0.35	0.24						
GATPD3	ILMN_1699631	7	rs245256	20	35056572	7	99827148	GATPD3	6.57	0.38								

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Table S1 – continued from previous page

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Table S1 – continued from previous page

Expression trait			SNP 1			SNP 2			Interaction statistic / -log10 p-values			Distance / Mb		
Gene ID <sup>a</sup>	Probe ID <sup>b</sup>	Chr.	rs ID	Chr.	Pos/Mb <sup>c</sup>	Association <sup>d</sup>	rs ID	Chr.	Pos/Mb <sup>c</sup>	Association <sup>d</sup>	BSGS <sup>e</sup>	Fehrmann <sup>f</sup>	EGCUT <sup>g</sup>	Meta <sup>g</sup>
REBE	ILMN-1802380	1	rs4982958	14	24987865		rs301819	1	8501786	REBE	5.66	0.61	1.23	1.17
REBE	ILMN-1802380	1	rs7697290	4	132424366		rs301819	1	8501786	REBE	5.74	0.14	0.10	0.06
REBE	ILMN-2327795	1	rs11085829	19	13174312		rs301819	1	8501786	REBE	5.74	0.21	0.33	0.21
REBE	ILMN-2327795	1	rs3852011	3	112844086		rs301819	1	8501786	REBE	5.71	0.08	0.60	0.26
RNASE6	ILMN-1780533	14	rs11628398	14	8106521	RNASE6	rs7324365	13	100601327		5.48	0.42	0.21	0.26
RNASE6	ILMN-1780533	14	rs6603134	19	8106521		rs11628398	14	21182800	RNASE6	5.11	0.09	0.22	0.08
RNF167	ILMN-1794726	17	rs2382330	17	4875566		rs4848487	13	34668512		4.37			
RNF167	ILMN-1794726	17	rs400668	17	4839930	RNF167	rs11706900	3	36348908		5.59	0.71	0.46	0.64
RNPEP	ILMN-1738347	1	rs1107121	21	46127549		rs2819365	1	201983242		6.27	0.11	0.30	0.13
RNPEP	ILMN-1738347	1	rs8071611	17	67153386		rs2819365	1	201983242		4.32	1.48	0.32	1.28
RPL13	ILMN-2413278	16	rs352935	16	89648580		rs2965817	16	89513234		4.98	3.79	14.41	17.24
RPL23AP7	ILMN-2222750	12	rs1401202	16	80320056		rs4849261	2	114450028	RPL23AP7	5.55	0.13	0.73	0.38
RPL36AL	ILMN-2186933	14	rs3007033	14	50103816	RPL36AL	rs17495030	9	138038093		5.46	0.09	0.06	0.02
RPL36AL	ILMN-2186936	14	rs4009028	14	50020817		rs1502991	6	66137260		5.86	0.32	0.20	0.19
RPL8	ILMN-1764721	8	rs2958482	8	145984615	RPL8	rs1619856	1	234585790		4.59	0.10	0.37	0.15
RPL8	ILMN-1764721	8	rs4143674	20	4741304		rs2958482	8	145984615	RPL8	4.33	0.13	0.45	0.22
SEC13	ILMN-3297880	3	rs4889214	16	80913946		rs696221	3	10342876	SEC13	6.48	0.22	1.73	1.17
SEMA4A	ILMN-1702787	11	rs17085428	5	95388015		rs7695	1	156147326	SEMA4A	5.70	0.02	0.51	0.15
SES3	ILMN-1694027	11	rs12147460	14	104412137		rs684856	11	94906111	SES3	5.50	0.31	0.06	0.10
SES3	ILMN-1694027	11	rs355391	15	46591793	SES3	rs684856	11	94906111	SES3	5.67	0.21	0.51	0.31
SES3	ILMN-1694027	11	rs684856	11	49406111		rs7004947	8	134606425	PPBP	5.60	0.21	0.12	0.35
SH3BGLR2	ILMN-1762764	6	rs10838191	11	43893658		rs1354034	3	56849749	PPBP	5.52	0.70	0.51	0.30
SH3BGLR2	ILMN-1762764	6	rs2545385	5	6683979		rs1354034	3	56849749	PPBP	5.97	0.32	0.71	0.33
SH3BGLR2	ILMN-1762764	6	rs6845304	4	88280502		rs1354034	3	56849749	PPBP	5.23	0.32	0.71	0.33
SH3BGLR2	ILMN-2158336	9	rs1034120	21	18196922		rs17455517	9	131785369	SH3BGLR2	7.40	0.22	0.18	0.13
SIRPG	ILMN-1771801	20	rs1535883	20	1612819	SIRPG	rs6842739	4	60489510		5.74	0.29	0.18	0.17
SLC22A18	ILMN-2382505	11	rs11673260	19	52181798		rs367035	11	2923826	SLC22A18	5.47	0.09	0.24	0.09
SLC22A18	ILMN-2382505	11	rs367035	19	2923826	SLC22A18	rs3110874	7	153224179		5.70	0.15	0.10	0.06
SLC22A18	ILMN-2382505	11	rs367035	11	2923826	SLC22A18	rs7772054	2	241678528		6.15	0.39	0.13	0.19
SLC41A3	ILMN-236111	3	rs1912136	11	24616743		rs6771703	3	125801067	SLC41A3	5.88	1.10	0.82	1.24
SLC45A4	ILMN-1747578	8	rs698508	8	142337734	SLC45A4	rs70701916	5	174598073		5.95	0.86	0.97	0.40
SLC46A3	ILMN-1658639	13	rs19805	17	5502091		rs7981190	13	29259349	SLC46A3	5.52	0.09	0.58	0.26
SMG7	ILMN-1775553	1	rs8032509	15	97403923		rs10911353	1	183489203	SMG7	6.52	0.17	0.09	0.06
SMOX	ILMN-1706333	20	rs1183515	9	4161500	SMOX	rs116777815	2	65800982		5.68	0.39	0.62	0.32
SNHG8	ILMN-1775380	20	rs11677215	19	1336050253		rs705832	4	19225940	SNHG8	6.11	0.29	1.03	0.72
SNHG8	ILMN-1775380	20	rs11677215	19	1336050253		rs214097	11	17291499	SNHG8	7.31	0.31	0.30	0.34
SNORD14A	ILMN-1709381	4	rs150620	15	46250108		rs6486334	11	1701557	SNORD14A	6.08	0.31	0.30	0.34
SNORD14A	ILMN-1709381	4	rs150620	15	46250108		rs750783	2	101889306	SNORD89	5.96	0.31	0.30	0.34
SNORD89	ILMN-3238662	2	rs10445863	11	112992941		rs750783	2	101889306	SNORD89	6.33	0.31	0.30	0.34
SNORD89	ILMN-3238662	2	rs11605822	11	122986326		rs2135064	5	26778066	SNORD89	6.45	0.13	1.41	0.83
SNORD89	ILMN-3238662	2	rs2135064	5	26778066		rs2135064	5	26778066	SNORD89	6.45	0.13	1.41	0.83
SNUPN	ILMN-1739932	15	rs134646	21	46376528	SNUPN	rs1472075	3	193706323		5.59	0.34	0.00	0.06
SNUPN	ILMN-2364535	15	rs134646	21	46376528		rs4774580	15	45652086	SPATA5L1	5.44	0.67	0.12	0.33
SPATA5L1	ILMN-1729179	15	rs1313620	21	41117869		rs100620	11	72509713	STYXL1	5.88	0.57	0.17	0.31
STARD10	ILMN-2170752	11	rs2221406	13	90174526		rs100620	11	72509713	STYXL1	5.51	0.46	0.24	0.30
STYXL1	ILMN-2170752	11	rs4073164	14	104947517		rs392994	4	180439236	TUFM	7.05	0.01	0.05	0.00
SULT1A4	ILMN-2345142	20	rs1463965	18	74332954	SULF2	rs3785354	16	28550667	TUFM	5.83	0.26	0.16	0.14
SULT1A4	ILMN-2336133	16	rs1463965	18	74332954		rs3785354	16	28550667	TUFM	5.83	0.26	0.16	0.14
SURF6	ILMN-2336133	16	rs2836657	20	40119768		rs3785354	16	28550667	TUFM	5.83	0.26	0.16	0.14
SURF6	ILMN-1778032	9	rs6099626	20	56013994		rs3118663	9	136281753	SURF6	5.47	0.28	0.31	0.24
SYTL2	ILMN-2336609	11	rs1375719	13	103410782		rs485485	11	85495269	SYTL2	5.55	0.03	0.15	0.03
THBS3	ILMN-1804663	1	rs1939875	14	95422867		rs4072037	1	155162067	THBS3	5.55	0.31	0.76	0.55
THBS3	ILMN-1804663	1	rs8014956	14	20687978		rs2049805	1	155194980	THBS3	5.65	0.31	0.76	0.55
TIPRL	ILMN-1781457	1	rs2823245	21	16745523		rs1320993	1	168154599	TIPRL	5.22	0.07	0.40	0.15

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Table S1 – continued from previous page

Gene ID <sup>a</sup>		Expression trait		SNP 1		SNP 2		Interaction statistic / -log <sub>10</sub> p-values							
Gene ID <sup>a</sup>	Probe ID <sup>b</sup>	Chr.	rs ID	Chr.	Pos/Mb <sup>c</sup>	Association <sup>d</sup>	rs ID	Chr.	Pos/Mb <sup>c</sup>	Association <sup>d</sup>	BSGS <sup>e</sup>	Fehrmann <sup>f</sup>	EGCUT <sup>g</sup>	Meta <sup>g</sup>	Distance / Mb <sup>h</sup>
TMED4	ILMN-1804148	7	rs19340400	11	132389627		rs17725246	7	44581986	TMED4	3.70	0.06	1.34	0.70	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs28390113	21	47248981		rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	8.11	0.16	0.48	0.26	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs5762235	22	27925288		rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	6.79				
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs6090518	20	43207005		rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	11.09	0.76			
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs807491	19	36268923	SNX26	rs7254601	19	36147315	TMEM149	12.16	81.55	45.78	145.78	0.122
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs10508289	10	47991159		8.12	1.55	3.09	3.07	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs10819626	3	18839436		8.02	0.40	0.99	0.80	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs10937361	3	128850436		8.39	3.61	1.18	3.78	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs1401098	12	128884559		7.37	2.41	1.00	2.52	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs1557335	18	64268976		6.95	0.08	0.07	0.03	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs17719594	14	90932398		6.93	3.06	0.77	2.87	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs1843357	8	13822381		6.21	3.72	3.33	6.00	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs2351458	4	113317583		7.30	0.04	9.61	8.00	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs2539000	7	147619772		6.70	1.57	1.52	2.27	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs2731711	5	171792273		5.92	0.19	0.33	0.19	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs471128	11	129595460		8.89	0.90	3.62	3.51	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs6718480	2	233879066		8.55	3.31	5.15	7.36	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs6926382	6	161683974		5.80	3.06	8.80	10.72	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs7213338	17	80357420		5.49	0.07	3.14	2.10	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs914940	1	242889492		6.22	3.36	6.96	9.20	
TMEM149	ILMN-1786426	19	rs8106939	19	36219525	TMEM149	rs9509428	13	21473952		9.44	0.10	5.75	4.47	
TMEM63A	ILMN-1719649	1	rs1254086	13	72890603		rs4149226	1	226027323	TMEM63A	5.60				
TMEM80	ILMN-1708482	11	rs1548475	19	58058246		rs4963126	11	65845	TMEM80	5.79	0.64	0.12	0.32	
TMPO3	ILMN-1683811	7	rs1537146	9	4859303		rs10488630	7	128593948	IRF5	5.61	0.11	0.15	0.07	
TMPO3	ILMN-1683811	7	rs199793	20	22287303		rs10488630	7	128593948	IRF5	5.52	1.03	0.17	0.62	
TRAPPC4	ILMN-1731043	7	rs7776572	7	23528927		rs11770192	7	23498358	TRAPPC4	8.23	3.19	1.89	4.09	
TRAPPC4	ILMN-1814650	11	rs1278760	13	133531675		rs3916581	11	118887887	TRAPPC4	5.61	0.28	0.40	0.29	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs17159840	19	7758194	TRAPPC5	rs10059004	5	166970604	TRAPPC4	5.52	0.93	0.01	0.36	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs17159840	19	7758194	TRAPPC5	rs1023095	8	132022957	TRAPPC4	5.97	0.21	1.60	1.07	12.131
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs17159840	19	7758194	TRAPPC5	rs1375714	6	156404902	TRAPPC4	6.92	0.37	0.87	0.68	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs17159840	19	7758194	TRAPPC5	rs1393299	1	24329791	TRAPPC5	7.79	0.12	0.18	0.09	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs17159840	19	7758194	TRAPPC5	rs17763599	19	2369415	TRAPPC5	6.43	0.63	0.47	0.58	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs17159840	19	7758194	TRAPPC5	rs4068328	17	57495457	TRAPPC5	6.38	0.21	0.24	0.16	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs17159840	19	7758194	TRAPPC5	rs7313362	12	129644342	TRAPPC5	6.51	0.50	0.38	0.44	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs17159840	19	7758194	TRAPPC5	rs7694997	4	9947811	TRAPPC5	7.08	0.04	0.65	0.25	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs17159840	19	7758194	TRAPPC5	rs800935	7	146690926	TRAPPC5	5.86	0.20	0.36	0.22	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs17159840	19	7758194	TRAPPC5	rs856638	14	85439550	TRAPPC5	6.27	0.15	0.33	0.16	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs30708	22	22740855	TRAPPC5	rs17159840	19	7758194	TRAPPC5	7.58	0.85	0.78	1.01	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs3916995	19	45128451	TRAPPC5	rs17159840	19	7758194	TRAPPC5	7.73	0.51	0.55	0.56	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs6040514	20	11272861	TRAPPC5	rs17159840	19	7758194	TRAPPC5	8.10	0.51	0.55	0.56	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs7246264	19	7762978	TRAPPC5	rs10179572	2	228504503	TRAPPC5	6.71	0.14	0.02	0.02	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs7246264	19	7762978	TRAPPC5	rs12921440	16	30408705	TRAPPC5	7.34	0.14	0.26	0.13	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs7246264	19	7762978	TRAPPC5	rs1887778	3	134635088	TRAPPC5	7.05	0.08	0.86	0.40	
TRAPPC5	ILMN-2372639	19	rs7246264	19	7762978	TRAPPC5	rs963354	3	157393770	TRAPPC5	7.41	0.36	0.90	0.69	
TREM1	ILMN-1688231	6	rs10862975	12	85749398		rs2395771	6	41264577	TREM1	5.42	0.11	0.25	0.11	
TREM1	ILMN-1688231	6	rs2527180	17	158808416		rs2032447	6	82273679	TREM1	5.92	1.20	1.23	1.69	
TREM1	ILMN-1697971	6	rs2527180	17	158808416		rs10748526	10	26044369	TREM1	5.92	1.20	1.23	1.69	
TSPAN14	ILMN-1785060	10	rs968726	7	27194634	MYBPC3	rs12800098	11	2317951	TSPAN14	6.00	0.04	0.91	0.39	
TSPAN32	ILMN-1718621	11	rs10838738	11	47663049	MYBPC3	rs6206007	6	137947208	TSPAN32	5.01	0.07	0.18	0.06	
TSPAN32	ILMN-2389070	11	rs12800098	11	2317951	TSPAN32	rs4783126	16	85147633	TSPAN32	5.51				
TYP	ILMN-323126	22	rs140522	22	50971266	ECGF1	rs1198819	2	238746880	TYP	6.34				
TYP	ILMN-323126	22	rs470119	22	50966914	ECGF1	rs4783126	16	85147633	TYP	6.13				

Continued on next page

Table S1 – continued from previous page

Expression trait			SNP 1			SNP 2			Interaction statistic / -log <sub>10</sub> p-values						
Gene ID <sup>a</sup>	Probe ID <sup>b</sup>	Chr.	rs ID	Chr.	Pos/Mb <sup>c</sup>	Association <sup>d</sup>	rs ID	Chr.	Pos/Mb <sup>c</sup>	Association <sup>d</sup>	BSGS <sup>e</sup>	Fehrmann <sup>f</sup>	EGCUT <sup>g</sup>	Meta <sup>g</sup>	Distance / Mb <sup>h</sup>
UBASH3A	LMN-2338348	21	rs1893592	21	43855067	UBASH3A	rs7201194	16	83600397		5.91	0.59	0.42	0.52	
UBASH3A	LMN-2338348	21	rs1893592	21	43855067	UBASH3A	rs7512594	1	214517361		6.01	0.48	1.29	1.10	
USP36	LMN-1697227	17	rs2279308	17	76794981	USP36	rs7225546	17	75151717		5.71	0.03	0.14	0.03	1.643
VASP	LMN-1743646	19	rs1264226	19	40663167		rs2276470	19	45974668	VNN2	5.09	0.94	5.14	4.95	0.088
VNN2	LMN-1678939	6	rs10435352	7	103252718		rs1883613	6	133077063	VNN2	5.64	0.84	0.15	0.46	
VNN2	LMN-1678939	6	rs13044386	20	9116155		rs1883617	6	133072650	VNN2	5.44	0.39	0.69	0.57	
VNN2	LMN-1678939	6	rs134447	22	49927332		rs1883617	6	133072650	VNN2	5.72				
VNN3	LMN-1678939	6	rs216495	11	16834510		rs1883617	6	133072650	VNN2	5.77	0.33	0.19	0.19	
VNN3	LMN-1678939	6	rs10278073	7	151662184		rs2267932	6	133067782	VNN3	6.44	0.16	0.74	0.41	
VNN3	LMN-1804935	6	rs1443946	8	73006453		rs2267932	6	133067782	VNN3	5.74	0.23	0.48	0.31	
VNN3	LMN-1804935	6	rs348462	9	75547169		rs2267952	6	133067782	VNN3	6.44	0.31	0.17	0.17	
VNN3	LMN-1804935	6	rs7157055	14	83262064		rs2267952	6	133067782	VNN3	5.82	0.03	0.19	0.04	
VNN3	LMN-2387680	6	rs2823165	21	5694253		rs2267952	6	133067782	VNN3	6.12	0.73	1.15	1.21	
VNN3	LMN-2387680	6	rs9596437	13	51692548		rs2267952	6	133067782	VNN3	4.83	0.46	0.05	0.16	
VSTM1	LMN-1763455	19	rs10500316	19	54553697	VSTM1	rs4552100	18	71024750	VNN3	5.60	0.53	0.54	0.57	
VSTM1	LMN-1763455	19	rs10500316	19	54553697	VSTM1	rs7895870	10	123095249	VNN3	5.71	0.48	0.17	0.26	
VSTM1	LMN-1763455	19	rs9628570	22	30261219	VSTM1	rs10500316	19	54553697	VSTM1	5.88	0.81	1.38	1.47	
WDR48	LMN-1762103	3	rs1388935	4	18827822		rs6778963	3	39091812	WDR48	5.88	0.19	0.13	0.09	
WDR48	LMN-1762103	3	rs1887778	9	134635088		rs833349	3	39067925	WDR48	6.34	0.57	1.35	1.22	
WDR6	LMN-1762103	3	rs9554833	13	102624790	RAPGEF1	rs7619193	3	39044116	WDR48	5.85	0.18	0.61	0.35	
WDR6	LMN-1669484	3	rs12362253	11	123571708		rs7619193	3	39044116	WDR6	4.86	1.64	1.43	2.25	
XAF1	LMN-2330573	17	rs1535031	17	6673170	XAF1	rs12591171	15	93119799	WDR6	4.86	2.38	0.17	1.63	
ZFP90	LMN-1684628	16	rs909446	21	37040648		rs12591171	15	93119799	ZFP90	5.79	0.09	0.36	0.15	
ZNF500	LMN-1700238	16	rs4823723	22	48283177		rs182968	16	68573945	ZNF500	5.29	0.67	0.27	0.46	
ZNF500	LMN-1700238	16	rs4823723	22	48283177		rs2290560	16	4799041	ZNF500	6.04	0.26	0.01	0.05	
ZYX	LMN-1701875	7	rs6056281	20	8935312		rs2242601	7	143093824	ZYX					

<sup>a</sup> Phenotypes are expression levels of RefSeq Genes<sup>b</sup> Illumina probe ID used to measure gene expression<sup>c</sup> Physical SNP position in base pairs (HG19)<sup>d</sup> RefSeq Gene ID of gene expression level that is influenced by the SNP (BSGS discovery dataset, significance threshold = 1.29 × 10<sup>-11</sup>)<sup>e</sup> Interaction - log<sub>10</sub> p-value from discovery dataset<sup>f</sup> Interaction - log<sub>10</sub> p-value from replication dataset<sup>g</sup> Interaction - log<sub>10</sub> p-value from meta analysis of replication datasets only<sup>h</sup> Distance in Mb between interacting SNPs for *cis-cis* acting SNP pairs<sup>i</sup> p-values are absent if the interaction did not pass the QC filtering in the replication dataset<sup>j</sup> Meta analysis p-values are absent if the interaction did not pass the QC filtering in either replication dataset

Table S2: **Estimation of additive and non-additive variance components from pedigree information** Taken from previous analysis in Powell et al 2013<sup>21</sup>

Gene	Probe	Additive		Non-additive	
		Variance	s.e.	Variance	s.e.
NAPRT1	ILMN_1710752	0.37	0.03	0.14	0.05
TMEM149	ILMN_1786426	0.41	0.04	0.09	0.04
MBNL1	ILMN_2313158	0.18	0.03	0.11	0.04
TRAPPC5	ILMN_2372639	0.32	0.04	0.13	0.05
CAST	ILMN_1717234	0.31	0.03	0.10	0.04

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