



Genome-wide association study of habitual physical activity in over 377,000 UK Biobank participants identifies multiple variants including CADM2 and APOE

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1 **Genome-wide association study of habitual physical activity in over 377,000 UK Biobank**
2 **participants identifies multiple variants including *CADM2* and *APOE***

3 Short Title: Genome-wide association study of habitual physical activity

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22 **Conflict of interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

23 **Abstract**

24 **Background/Objectives:** Physical activity (PA) protects against a wide range of diseases. Habitual PA
25 appears to be heritable, motivating the search for specific genetic variants that may inform efforts to
26 promote PA and target the best type of PA for each individual.

27 **Subjects/Methods:** We used data from the UK Biobank to perform the largest genome-wide association
28 study of PA to date, using three measures based on self-report ($n_{\max}=377,234$) and two measures based on
29 wrist-worn accelerometry data ($n_{\max}=91,084$). We examined genetic correlations of PA with other traits
30 and diseases, as well as tissue-specific gene expression patterns. With data from the Atherosclerosis Risk
31 in Communities (ARIC; $n=8,556$) study, we performed a meta-analysis of our top hits for moderate-to-
32 vigorous PA (MVPA).

33 **Results:** We identified ten loci across all PA measures that were significant in both a basic and a fully
34 adjusted model ($p < 5 \times 10^{-9}$). Upon meta-analysis of the nine top hits for MVPA with results from ARIC,
35 eight were genome-wide significant. Interestingly, among these, the rs429358 variant in the *APOE* gene
36 was the most strongly associated with MVPA, whereby the allele associated with higher Alzheimer's risk
37 was associated with greater MVPA. However, we were not able to rule out possible selection bias
38 underlying this result. Variants in *CADM2*, a gene previously implicated in obesity, risk-taking behavior
39 and other traits, were found to be associated with habitual PA. We also identified three loci consistently
40 associated ($p < 5 \times 10^{-5}$) with PA across both self-report and accelerometry, including *CADM2*. We find
41 genetic correlations of PA with educational attainment, chronotype, psychiatric traits, and obesity-related
42 traits. Tissue enrichment analyses implicate the brain and pituitary gland as locations where PA-
43 associated loci may exert their actions.

44 **Conclusions:** These results provide new insight into the genetic basis of habitual PA, and the genetic
45 links connecting PA with other traits and diseases.

46 **Introduction**

47 A physically active lifestyle has been shown to protect against a wide range of diseases, including
48 cardiovascular disease, cancer, type-2 diabetes, osteoporosis, and Alzheimer’s disease¹⁻⁴. Levels of
49 engagement in physical activity (PA) vary across individuals, and most people do not meet recommended
50 levels to achieve health benefits. Although cultural, economic, and other environmental factors influence
51 PA engagement^{5,6}, genetic factors also likely play a role. Understanding the genetic factors underlying
52 inter-individual variation will better inform efforts to promote PA and potentially allow targeting the best
53 type of PA for each person, what might be called “Precision Exercise Prescription”.

54 Evidence of genetic factors underlying the propensity to exercise in humans has been
55 demonstrated in a number of studies⁷⁻¹³. Several studies have utilized a candidate gene approach to
56 identify specific genetic variants associated with a proclivity towards PA^{8,14-18}. This work generally
57 focused on genes related to the serotonin and dopamine systems, energy metabolism, and neurotrophic
58 factors. However, to our knowledge there have been only two previous reports of genome-wide
59 association studies (GWAS) of PA^{19,20}, neither of which identified a locus at genome-wide significance,
60 likely due to relatively small sample sizes. Thus, while previous work strongly suggests a genetic basis
61 for engagement in PA, the genes that contribute to this healthy lifestyle behavior remain unknown.

62 In this study, we conduct the largest GWAS of PA to date, aiming to identify genetic variants
63 associated with self-reported and accelerometry-based levels of habitual, leisure-time PA. We sought to
64 identify variants in the UK Biobank, a large cohort study of 500,000 adults measured across a wide range
65 of characteristics including genome-wide markers. We then examined the genetic correlation of PA with
66 other traits, examined putative tissues where PA genes may exert their effects, and meta-analyzed the
67 identified loci for MVPA with data on self-reported PA in an independent cohort from the Atherosclerosis
68 Risk in Communities (ARIC) study.

69

70 **Methods**

71 *Studies*

72 Data from the UK Biobank study were used for discovery of variants. Briefly, the UK Biobank is
73 a large prospective cohort study of approximately a half-million adults (ages 40-69) living in the United
74 Kingdom (UK), recruited from 22 centers across the UK ²¹. All participants provided written informed
75 consent. Ethical approval of the UK Biobank study was given by the North West Multicentre Research
76 Ethics Committee, the National Information Governance Board for Health & Social Care, and the
77 Community Health Index Advisory Group. We also used data from the ARIC study (n=8,556), which is a
78 prospective cohort study of over 15,000 adults aged 45-64 years that took place in four United States
79 communities. The selection of this cohort for replication was based on 1) the quality of the PA phenotype
80 which incorporates multiple questions assessing types, intensities, and frequency of PA (see below), 2)
81 the focus on habitual, leisure-time PA, and 3) the relatively large sample size. In the absence of previous
82 effect size estimates for genetic variants on PA, the sample size in ARIC, although comparatively much
83 smaller than the UK Biobank, was deemed, on an a-priori basis, to serve as a suitable replication cohort.
84 Details of the ARIC study can be found elsewhere ²². All participants in ARIC provided written informed
85 consent. Institutional review board approval was obtained by each participating field center, and this
86 study was approved by the University of Arizona Human Subjects Protection Program (Protocol number:
87 1300000659R001). To reduce the potential for confounding by population stratification, we included only
88 individuals of white race/ethnicity in both studies.

89

90 *Physical activity*

91 In the UK Biobank, self-reported levels of physical activity during work and leisure time were
92 measured via a touchscreen questionnaire, in a fashion similar to the International Physical Activity
93 Questionnaire ²³. For moderate PA (MPA), participants were asked: “In a typical WEEK, on how many

94 days did you do 10 minutes or more of moderate physical activities like carrying light loads, cycling at
95 normal pace? (Do not include walking)”. For vigorous PA (VPA), participants were asked: “In a typical
96 WEEK, how many days did you do 10 minutes or more of vigorous physical activity? (These are
97 activities that make you sweat or breathe hard such as fast cycling, aerobics, heavy lifting)”. For each of
98 these questions, those who indicated 1 or more such days were then asked “How many minutes did you
99 usually spend doing moderate/vigorous activities on a typical DAY”. Participants were asked to include
100 activities performed for work, leisure, travel and around the house. We excluded individuals who selected
101 “prefer not to answer” or “do not know” on the above questions, those reporting not being able to walk,
102 and individuals reporting more than 16 hours of either MPA or VPA per day. Those reporting >3hr/day of
103 VPA or MPA were recoded to 3 hours, as recommended ²⁴. Moderate-to-vigorous PA (MVPA) was
104 calculated by taking the sum of total minutes/week of MPA multiplied by four and the total number of
105 VPA minutes/week multiplied by eight, corresponding to their metabolic equivalents, as previously
106 described ^{23,25}.

107 Since heritability has previously been shown to be higher for intense/vigorous physical activity ¹²,
108 we also considered VPA on its own. Because the distribution of minutes/week of VPA was highly skewed
109 and zero-inflated, we chose to dichotomize minutes/week of VPA into those who reported 0 days of VPA,
110 and those reporting 3 or more days of VPA and also reporting a typical duration of VPA that is 25
111 minutes or greater, corresponding to common physical activity guidelines ²⁶. Individuals that did not fall
112 into either of these two groups were excluded. We decided to pick extremes because of the heavily
113 skewed and zero-inflated nature of vigorous activity duration, and in order to increase our power to detect
114 associations. We also performed a sensitivity analysis in which we included individuals who did not fall
115 into either of the two groups described above, and placed these individuals in the group that did not meet
116 3 days of VPA/week of 25 minutes or greater per day (i.e. those meeting the 3 days/week of VPA at
117 25/mins per day vs. not meeting this amount).

118 We used responses to the question “In the last 4 weeks did you spend any time doing the
119 following?” and follow-up questions assessing the frequency and typical duration of “strenuous sports”
120 and of “other exercises”. The possible responses to the initial question were: ‘walking for pleasure’,
121 ‘other exercises’, ‘strenuous sports’, ‘light DIY’, ‘heavy DIY’, ‘none of the above’, and ‘prefer not to
122 answer’. We identified individuals spending 2-3 days/week or more doing strenuous sports or other
123 exercises (SSOE), for a duration of 15-30 minutes or greater. Controls were those individuals who did not
124 indicate spending any time in the last 4 weeks doing either strenuous sports or other exercises. Individuals
125 that did not fall into either of these two groups were excluded. Extremes were chosen because of the
126 heavily skewed and zero-inflated distributions of these variables.

127 Also, in the UK Biobank, approximately 100,000 participants wore an Axivity AX3 wrist-worn
128 accelerometer, as previously described²⁷. We examined two measures derived from up to seven days of
129 accelerometer wear: overall acceleration average, and fraction of accelerations > 425 milli-gravities (mg)
130²⁷. Since the variable that is available in the UK Biobank is the fraction < 425 mg, we subtracted 1 from
131 this variable. The 425 mg cutoff was chosen because this corresponds to an equivalent of vigorous
132 physical activity (6 METs), as previously reported²⁸. For both accelerometry variables, individuals with
133 less than three days (72 hours) of data, or those not having data in each one-hour period of the 24-hour
134 cycle were excluded. Based on missing data simulations by Doherty et al, 72 hours of wear was
135 determined to be needed to be within 10% of a complete seven-day measure²⁷. Device non-wear time,
136 defined as consecutive stationary episodes ≥ 60 minutes where all three axes had a standard deviation
137 < 13 mg, was imputed using the average of similar time-of-day vector magnitude and intensity distribution
138 data points on different days²⁷. This accounts for wear-time diurnal bias that may occur if the device was
139 less worn during sleep in some individuals²⁷. Finally, we also excluded outliers with values more than 4
140 standard deviations above the mean.

141 In ARIC, self-reported PA was assessed for sports/exercise, within the previous year, based on a
142 modification of the Baecke questionnaire^{29,30}. The sport/exercise index is based on up to four

143 sports/exercises (including modalities of mild, moderate, and strenuous energy exertion) that participants
144 reported in the past year, and was calculated with responses to 4 items: frequency of participation in
145 sports/exercise; frequency of sweating during sports/exercise; a subjective rating of the frequency of
146 participation in sports/exercise compared to others in the same age group; the sum of frequency, duration,
147 and intensity of up to 4 reported sports/exercises. This derived index is described in greater detail
148 elsewhere, along with an assessment of its reliability and accuracy ³¹.

149

150 *Genotypes*

151 The majority of UK Biobank participants were genotyped with the Affymetrix UK Biobank
152 Axiom Array (Santa Clara, CA, USA), while 10% of participants were genotyped with the Affymetrix
153 UK BiLEVE Axiom Array. Detailed quality control and imputation procedures are described elsewhere
154 ³². Briefly, phasing was performed by the UK Biobank team in chunks of 15,000 markers, using
155 SHAPEIT3 ³³ software and 1,000 Genomes phase 3³⁴ dataset as a reference panel. Imputation was
156 performed using a combined panel of the Haplotype Reference Consortium ³⁵ and the UK10K haplotype
157 resource ³⁶ after appropriate marker and sample QC in chunks of 50,000 imputed markers. Principal
158 Components Analysis was also performed by the UK Biobank team, using fastPCA ³⁷ software on a set of
159 147,604 high-quality directly genotyped markers (pruned to minimize LD), and a set of 407,219 unrelated
160 high-quality samples. All other samples were then projected onto the principal components ³². Since
161 corrections for potential problems with the position assignment of the SNPs from the UK10K haplotype
162 resource were not available at the time of analysis, we only included SNPs imputed from the Haplotype
163 Reference Consortium. To minimize the possibility of confounding due to population stratification, only
164 participants who self-identified as European were included. Individuals were excluded based on unusually
165 high heterozygosity or >5% missing rate, a mismatch between self-reported and genetically-inferred sex.
166 These criteria resulted in a total available sample size of 458,969 individuals with genotype data. SNP

167 exclusions were made based on Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium ($p < 1 \times 10^{-6}$), high missingness ($> 1.5\%$), low
168 minor allele frequency ($< 0.1\%$), and low imputation quality ($\text{info} < 0.4$). A total of approximately 11.8
169 million SNPs were used in analyses. Of these, 4.1 million have a minor allele frequency $< 1\%$.

170 In ARIC, participants were genotyped with the Affymetrix Genome-Wide Human SNP Array 6.0
171 (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA, USA). Standard quality control procedures were implemented prior to
172 imputation with IMPUTE2³⁸, using all individuals in the 1,000 Genomes phase 1 integrated v3 release.
173 Quality-control procedures consisted of excluding SNPs with minor allele frequency $< 1\%$, with
174 missingness $> 10\%$, and SNPs out of Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium ($p < 1 \times 10^{-6}$), and excluding individuals
175 with SNP missingness $> 10\%$. We used principal components for the European-ancestry group as
176 provided by ARIC in dbGaP. Briefly, LD pruning resulted in 71,702 SNPs that were used to derive
177 principal components. A total sample size of 8,556 participants was used in the analysis.

178

179 *Statistical analyses*

180 For the continuous variables in the UK Biobank (MVPA and accelerometry variables) we created
181 an adjusted phenotype corresponding to the residual of the regression of the following independent
182 variables on the respective dependent PA variable: age, sex, genotyping chip, first ten genomic principal
183 components, center, season (month) at center visit or wearing accelerometer (coded 0 for Winter, 1 for
184 Fall or Spring, and 2 for Summer). In another model (Model 2), we considered the additional inclusion of
185 the following covariates: levels of physical activity at work (coded as 0 by default, 1 for 'sometimes', 2
186 for 'usually', and 3 for 'always'), extent of walking or standing at work (coded similarly as previous
187 variable), and the Townsend Deprivation Index (TDI; a composite measure of deprivation as previously
188 described^{39,40}). We also considered a third model (Model 3) in which body mass index (BMI) was
189 included as an additional covariate. These covariates were considered since both self-reported and
190 accelerometer-based measures of PA could include PA done as part of one's employment, as opposed to

191 PA during leisure-time. Additionally, both SES and BMI may affect participation in leisure-time PA ⁵.
192 Since the MVPA and fraction of accelerations > 425 mg variables exhibited skewed distributions, we
193 inverse-normalized these variables prior to inclusion in the models. Model residuals conformed to the
194 assumptions of normality and homoscedasticity. GWAS were performed with BOLT-LMM software ^{41,42},
195 which implements a mixed-model linear regression that includes a random effect consisting of the SNPs
196 other than the one being tested, and thus takes into account relatedness among subjects. Since BOLT-
197 LMM implements a linear regression, effect size estimates for case-control outcomes are unreliable.
198 Therefore, as previously done elsewhere ^{43,44}, we derived effect size estimates for the genome-wide
199 significant SNPs for the binary outcomes (VPA and SSOE) using logistic regression in R with the same
200 set of fixed-effect covariates. Given the number of low-frequency SNPs ⁴⁵ and phenotypes tested, we used
201 a more stringent genome-wide significance threshold: $p < 5 \times 10^{-9}$. To examine the relationship of PA-
202 associated SNPs with BMI, we tested the association of identified SNPs with BMI, which was first
203 inverse-normalized, then adjusted via a linear regression with age, sex, genotyping chip, first ten genomic
204 principal components, and center as independent variables. We also sought to identify variants
205 consistently associated with PA across self-report and accelerometry PA measures, for overall PA and for
206 high-intensity PA. We thus searched for variants associated in the same direction, with $p < 5 \times 10^{-5}$ for: 1)
207 MVPA and average acceleration, and 2) VPA, SSOE, and fraction of accelerations >425 mg.

208 To determine the extent to which the loci identified in Model 3 may have been subject to collider
209 bias on account of including BMI as a covariate, we derived an approach to estimate the unbiased effect
210 of each SNP of interest on each metric of PA. Our approach was an extension of the methodology
211 employed in Yaghootkar et al. ⁴⁶ – the primary difference being the collider in our method (i.e., BMI) is a
212 quantitative trait as opposed to a categorical/disease trait. The unbiased coefficient can be expressed as:

213
$$\beta_{SNP \rightarrow PA}^* = \frac{\beta_{SNP,I} + \beta_{SNP,II} \beta_{BMI,I}}{1 - \beta_{BMI,I} \beta_{PA,II}}$$

214 where each $\beta_{i,j}$ is the corresponding coefficient of the i^{th} variable in the j^{th} model:

$$\begin{aligned} 215 \quad & \text{I: } PA \sim SNP + BMI \\ & \text{II: } BMI \sim SNP + PA. \end{aligned}$$

216 We confirmed this approach via simulation under a variety of conditions, including the inclusion of
217 additional covariates and different relationships between BMI, PA, and a genetic marker (results not
218 shown). For simplicity we modeled PA as a quantitative trait in all cases.

219 Given the association that we identified with the rs428358 variant in *APOE* (see Results), we
220 performed several additional analyses. First, we examined the associations with the *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ haplotype,
221 using this SNP along with the rs7412 SNP. Different protein isoforms of APOE, which is a component of
222 various lipoproteins, are produced by the different haplotypes defined by these two SNPs, and these
223 haplotypes are well-established risk factors for Alzheimer's disease⁴⁷ and coronary artery disease^{48,49}.
224 Individuals with homozygous CC genotypes at both of these SNPs were classified as homozygous for the
225 *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ allele. Individuals with homozygous CC genotypes at either SNP and heterozygous at the other
226 SNP were classified as being heterozygous for the $\epsilon 4$ allele. We excluded a relatively small number of
227 individuals heterozygous at both SNPs ($n \approx 10,000$), because it is not possible to assign a haplotype status
228 when both loci are heterozygous. We assumed an additive model in association testing. Second, to
229 examine whether this association may be driven by individuals with a known family history of
230 Alzheimer's disease increasing their levels of PA, we examined the association of a binary variable
231 indicating any self-reported first-degree family history (mother, father, or siblings) of Alzheimer's disease
232 or dementia with MVPA. Third, we examined the interaction of family history with the rs429358 SNP on
233 MVPA. Fourth, we examined whether the association of rs429358 with MVPA was modified by age, by
234 testing the interaction of this SNP with age, and testing the association of rs429358 with MVPA among
235 individuals in their 40s, 50s, and 60s. Finally, given prior evidence of an association of *APOE* variants
236 with BMI and the slightly attenuated associations upon our adjustment for BMI, we tested whether BMI

237 mediated the association of rs429358 with MVPA. For this analysis, we used the mediation package⁵⁰ in
238 R statistical software⁵¹.

239 All genome-wide significant loci were examined in ARIC, where we modeled PA as a continuous
240 variable (as described above). We used multiple linear regression to model PA as a function of age, sex,
241 first ten genomic principal components, center, season (coded in the same way as described above).
242 Residuals from this model conformed to the assumptions of normality and homoscedasticity. They were
243 standardized to have a mean of 0 and standard deviation of 1, and were used as the outcome in the
244 genome-wide SNP association analysis. We performed meta-analysis of the top hits for MVPA in the UK
245 Biobank with the corresponding SNP association results in ARIC, using fixed-effects inverse-variance
246 weighted meta-analysis. We also used a method that uses only the p-values⁵² to perform meta-analyses of
247 the top hits for the other UK Biobank PA measures. Additional analyses were performed with R statistical
248 software.

249 To examine the association of genes identified in the UK Biobank with gene expression patterns
250 in different tissues, we used the web-based platform, Functional Mapping and Annotation of Genome-
251 Wide Association Studies (FUMA GWAS)⁵³, which uses data from GTEx⁵⁴ and the MAGMA gene-
252 based analysis⁵⁵. Also from this platform, we examined results of gene-set analyses performed for
253 curated gene sets and Gene Ontology terms. We also used the summary statistics from our UK Biobank
254 GWAS to examine heritability of PA traits and their genetic correlation with over 200 traits and diseases
255 using LD score regression⁵⁶⁻⁵⁸, implemented in an online interface (<http://ldsc.broadinstitute.org/>).
256 Briefly, this method tests the correlation between the LD score of each SNP (reflecting how correlated it
257 is with nearby SNPs) and its test statistic, where the slope corresponds to the SNP/chip heritability, and
258 the intercept is an estimate of inflation. It uses only SNPs that are likely well imputed (1,000 Genomes³⁴
259 EUR MAF>5%), while removing strand-ambiguous SNPs, insertions/deletions, those that do not match
260 those in the 1000 Genomes data phase 3, those in the MHC region, and those with extremely large effect
261 sizes^{57,58}. The genetics of other traits and diseases are inferred from previously published GWAS. A

262 significant genetic correlation was considered if $p < 2.5 \times 10^{-4}$, assuming a correction for 200 different
263 tests, which is conservative given that many of the traits/diseases tested are correlated with each other.
264 Finally, we queried our top hits in the Oxford Brain Imaging Genetics Server to examine associations
265 with other traits, including brain imaging phenotypes, in the UK Biobank (<http://big.stats.ox.ac.uk/>)⁵⁹,
266 and in the GTEx Portal for expression quantitative trait locus (eQTL) analysis.

267

268 **Results**

269 *Self-reported PA in UK Biobank*

270 There were 377,234 individuals with non-missing MVPA data. 80,721 individuals were excluded
271 due to insufficient data on either moderate or vigorous PA days and/or duration. There were 261,055
272 individuals with non-missing VPA data. 175,965 individuals were excluded from the VPA analysis
273 because they belonged to neither of the two defined groups. 21,946 individuals were excluded from VPA
274 analyses because of insufficient data on VPA days and/or duration. For both measures, individuals
275 excluded because of insufficient data were more likely to be female, older, and have a higher BMI ($p < 2 \times$
276 10^{-16}). A summary of self-report PA variables can be found in Table 1. BMI and TDI were consistently
277 negatively associated with these variables, whereas warmer season and male gender were consistently
278 positively associated with them (see Supplementary Table 1). Physical activity at work was positively
279 associated with MVPA and VPA, and negatively associated with SSOE. Self-report PA measures were
280 weakly correlated with accelerometry-based measures (see Supplementary Table 2). ‘Chip heritability’
281 estimates for self-report PA measures were approximately 5% (Supplementary Table 3). Although Q-Q
282 plots show some evidence of inflation (see Supplementary Figure 1), LD score regression intercepts
283 (< 1.03) suggest no significant systematic inflation of test statistics.

284 We found nine loci significantly associated ($p < 5 \times 10^{-9}$) with MVPA (see Figure 1 and Table 2).
285 Among these, four were significantly associated with MVPA in both Models 1 and 3: *APOE*, *EXOC4*,

286 *CADM2*, and *PAX5*. The *RPP21* and *ZNF165* were significant in Models 1 and 2, but not in Model 3.
287 However, effect estimates were generally similar for all nine loci across Models 1 and 3. The *CALU* locus
288 was only significant in Model 1. The *PBX2* and *ARHGEF26-AS1* loci were only significant in Models 2
289 and 3. Two loci, *C11orf80* and *CCDC188*, were only significant in Model 3 (see Supplementary Tables 4
290 and 5, Supplementary Figures 2 and 3). Among the nine identified SNPs, six exhibited trends with BMI
291 in the expected direction, based on the negative phenotypic correlation between PA and BMI. Among the
292 other three, the PA-increasing alleles at the *CADM2* and *PAX5* loci are associated with higher BMI
293 ($p=7.9 \times 10^{-13}$ and 5.2×10^{-8} , respectively; see Table 2).

294 Most notably among the MVPA associations, the C allele at SNP rs429358 in *APOE* was
295 associated with higher self-reported MVPA. This MVPA-increasing allele is the one associated with
296 higher Alzheimer's disease risk (see Discussion). We found it to also be associated with higher levels of
297 the four other PA measures, though not always reaching nominal significance (VPA: $p=5.3 \times 10^{-7}$; SSOE:
298 $p=0.097$; average acceleration: $p=8.2 \times 10^{-3}$; fraction of accelerations >425mg: $p=0.24$). Testing the
299 association of the Alzheimer's disease-related *APOE* $\epsilon 4$ allele with MVPA resulted in nearly identical
300 findings. In models adjusted for other covariates, including BMI, this *APOE* variant remained genome-
301 wide significant (see Supplementary Tables 4 and 5 and Supplementary Figures 2 and 3). Mediation
302 analysis suggests partial mediation ($\sim 14\%$, $p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$) by BMI on the association of rs429358 with
303 MVPA. There were 45,440 individuals reporting any family history of Alzheimer's disease or dementia
304 among parents and siblings. These individuals reported lower levels of MVPA ($p=1.2 \times 10^{-4}$). We found a
305 significant interaction of rs429358 with family history ($p=0.012$), whereby the association of rs429358
306 with MVPA was stronger among those reporting a family history ($\beta=0.042$, $p=5.13 \times 10^{-8}$) compared to
307 among those without a reported family history ($\beta=0.019$, $p=6.38 \times 10^{-9}$). We also observed a significant
308 interaction of age with this variant ($p=0.005$). Specifically, among individuals in their forties, the
309 association was weaker ($\beta=0.011$, $se=0.006$, $p=0.067$) than among individuals in their fifties ($\beta=0.017$,
310 $se=0.005$, $p=0.0013$) and sixties ($\beta=0.030$, $se=0.005$, $p=1.28 \times 10^{-10}$). In addition, the frequency of the C

311 allele decreased slightly across these age groups ($r=-0.006$, $p<5 \times 10^{-5}$), at 0.314, 0.309, and 0.305 among
312 individuals in their forties, fifties and sixties, respectively.

313 Five loci were significantly associated with VPA using Model 1. The strongest among these were
314 variants in *CADM2*. Four of these were significantly associated with VPA in all three models tested:
315 *CADM2*, *EXOC4*, *CTBP2*, and *DPY19L1*. The *FOXO3* locus was significant in Models 1 and 2, but not
316 Model 3, and loci *NEGR1* and *MYOM3* were significant only in Model 3 (see Supplementary Tables 4
317 and 5, Supplementary Figures 2 and 3). The VPA-increasing G allele at the *NEGR1* SNP (rs3101340) is
318 in LD ($r^2=0.60$) with a previously identified variant (rs3101336-C) associated with increased BMI⁶⁰.
319 Although different individual *CADM2* SNPs were identified across models and with MVPA, these SNPs
320 were in strong to moderate LD, suggesting allelic heterogeneity at this locus (see Supplementary Figures
321 4 and 5). Among all five VPA-associated SNPs, only two had consistent trends of association with BMI
322 in the direction expected based on the negative phenotypic correlation. Notably, the PA-increasing allele
323 at the *CADM2* SNP was associated with higher BMI ($p=6.8 \times 10^{-7}$; see Table 2). In a sensitivity analysis
324 in which all individuals who did not self-report at least 3 days/week at 25 minutes/day of VPA were
325 included as controls (as opposed to only individuals reporting 0 days of VPA), results were similar but
326 generally weaker despite a larger sample size, with a chip heritability of approximately one half of that for
327 the analysis using more extreme controls ($h^2=0.026$ (0.002) vs. 0.054 (0.003); see Supplementary Figure
328 6).

329 Six loci were significantly associated with SSOE using Model 1(see Table 2 and Figure 1).
330 *CADM2* was the most strongly associated locus. Four loci (*CADM2*, *AKAP10*, *CTC-436P18.1*, and
331 *SIPA1L1*) were consistently significantly associated in both Models 1 and 3. Locus *GATAD2A* was
332 associated with SSOE only in Model 1, and *HIST1H1D* was associated with SSOE only in Models 1 and
333 2 (see Supplementary Tables 4 and 5, Supplementary Figures 2 and 3). The C allele at a variant in *FTO*
334 (rs55872725) was associated with lower odds of SSOE only upon adjustment for BMI (Model 3). This
335 allele is in complete LD ($r^2=1$) with the T allele of the well-established variant (rs1558902) associated

336 with lower BMI. Correction for collider bias, shown in Supplementary Table 5, reduces the strength of
337 this *FTO* SNP association with SSOE from $p=7.0 \times 10^{-13}$ to $p=3.0 \times 10^{-3}$ in the unbiased model, with the
338 same direction of association. Among all five SSOE-associated SNPs, three showed consistent trends of
339 association with BMI in the direction expected based on the negative phenotypic correlation. Notably, the
340 PA-increasing allele at the *CADM2* SNP was associated with higher BMI ($p=1.2 \times 10^{-7}$; see Table 2).

341 Upon meta-analysis of the 9 top hits for MVPA with the results in ARIC, 8 were genome-wide
342 significant ($p < 5 \times 10^{-9}$), including the *APOE*, *EXOC4*, and *CADM2* variants (see Supplementary Table 6).
343 The direction of effect was consistent across ARIC and the UK Biobank for all 9 loci. For both VPA and
344 SSOE, we observed consistent directions of effect for 3 out of the 5 top loci (see Supplementary Table 7).

345

346 *Accelerometer-based PA in UK Biobank*

347 There were approximately 91,000 individuals with non-missing accelerometry data.
348 Approximately 6,500 individuals were excluded because of insufficient wear-time. These excluded
349 individuals were slightly more likely to be male ($p=0.03$), younger ($p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$) and have a higher BMI
350 ($p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$). ‘Chip heritability’ estimates for the accelerometry-based measures were higher (14% for
351 average acceleration, and 11% for fraction of accelerations >425 mg) than for self-report PA measures
352 (Supplementary Table 3). Although Q-Q plots show some evidence of inflation (see Supplementary
353 Figure 1), LD score regression intercepts (<1.008) suggest no significant systematic inflation of test
354 statistics.

355 Using Model 1, two loci were found to be significantly associated with average acceleration and
356 one locus with fraction of accelerations >425 mg (see Table 2 and Figure 1). Only the *CRHR1* locus
357 remained genome-wide significant in Model 3. The *RIT2/SYT4* locus was only associated with average
358 acceleration in Model 1, and the *PML* locus was only significant with fraction of accelerations >425 mg
359 in Models 1 and 2 (see Table 2, Supplementary Tables 4 and 5, and Supplementary Figures 1 and 2).

360 In general, with the exception of the *FTO* locus as mentioned above, we observed minimal
361 evidence of collider bias because of adjustment for BMI (see Supplementary Table 5).

362

363 *Consistent loci across self-report and accelerometry*

364 We found a total of seven loci associated ($p < 5 \times 10^{-5}$) with both self-report and accelerometry
365 measures using Model 1 (see Supplementary Table 8). For MVPA and average acceleration, we identified
366 four loci (*MEF2C*, *RCOR1*, *STOML1* and *CRHR1*). For VPA, SSOE, and fraction of acceleration >425
367 mg, we identified three loci (*CADM2*, *PML*, and *CCNE1*). However, among these, only *RCOR1*, *CRHR1*,
368 and *CADM2* remained significant in Models 2 and 3 (see Supplementary Table 9).

369

370 *Follow-up analyses*

371 We found highly significant negative genetic correlations of both MVPA and VPA with
372 intelligence (see Figure 2). We also found significant positive genetic correlations of MVPA and VPA
373 with early-morning chronotype and psychiatric diseases, and negative correlations with body fat and waist
374 circumference. In contrast to the genetic correlations with MVPA and VPA, we found a positive
375 correlation of SSOE with years of schooling and intelligence. We also found positive genetic correlations
376 with age at first birth and negative correlations with neuroticism, depressive symptoms, insomnia, body
377 fat, and waist circumference (see Figure 2). Among the accelerometry-based measures, we found highly
378 significant negative genetic correlations of PA with waist and hip circumference, body fat, obesity, BMI,
379 and other cardiometabolic traits (see Figure 3). Genetic correlation results remained very similar with
380 GWAS models including activity at work and TDI as covariates, except for generally attenuated
381 correlations with intelligence in the model with all covariates except BMI (Model 2, see Figure 2).
382 However, upon the addition of BMI as a covariate (Model 3), the direction of genetic correlation between

383 PA and obesity traits was reversed (see Figures 2 and 3). As we note below, caution may be warranted in
384 interpreting results from these adjusted models, especially since we observed a reversal of direction of
385 correlations with obesity-related traits upon BMI adjustment.

386 Gene-based tissue enrichment analysis using data from GTEx generally implicate the brain and
387 pituitary gland as primary tissues through which the PA-associated loci may exert their effects (see Figure
388 4). Examination of more specific tissues reveals several different parts of the brain. The cerebellum and
389 the frontal cortex appear most consistently implicated across the five PA phenotypes (see Supplementary
390 Figures 7 and 8). Results remained similar when using Models 2 and 3. Gene-set analyses reveal several
391 nervous system gene sets across the PA phenotypes, but the only significant gene set after correction for
392 multiple testing was for enrichment of genes involved in the synapse, for SSOE (see Supplementary Table
393 10).

394 Look-up of top SNPs in the Oxford Brain Imaging server suggests associations with mental
395 health, body composition, educational attainment, sleep and psychiatric traits, in addition to physical
396 activity traits. The rs62253088-T PA-increasing allele in *CADM2* was also associated with decreased
397 neuroticism, and decreased self-reported nervous and anxious feelings. The rs7804463-C allele (*EXOC4*)
398 associated with less PA is also associated with higher self-reported time spent using computer, fewer
399 mood swings, and greater daytime dozing. The rs55657917-G allele (*CRHRI*) associated with greater PA
400 was also associated with greater neuroticism, lower pulmonary function, greater sense of hurt feelings,
401 and fewer naps during the day (see Supplementary Figure 9). Gene expression analyses imply several
402 different tissues including the brain, adrenal and thyroid gland, skeletal muscle and adipose tissue, among
403 others (see Supplementary Tables 11 and 12). Genes that we identified have previously been implicated in
404 a range of other traits and diseases, including behavioral, cardiometabolic, psychiatric, educational
405 attainment, and pulmonary function traits (see Supplementary Table 11).

406

407 Discussion

408 Given the importance of PA for many dimensions of health, and its' reported heritability, we
409 sought to identify genetic variants that are associated with engagement in habitual physical activity, while
410 considering important covariates such as season, physical activity at work, socio-economic status, and
411 BMI. In the UK Biobank, with a very large sample size and multiple measures of PA, we identified ten
412 loci that were genome-wide significant for at least one of the PA measures and were consistently
413 associated with the respective PA measure in both the basic (Model 1) and the fully adjusted model
414 (Model 3). We also identified three loci that exhibit consistent associations across both self-report and
415 accelerometry measures.

416 Although most of the identified loci were novel, the genes that they were in or in proximity to
417 have previous links to various diseases and traits (see Supplementary Table 11). Among these, variants in
418 *CADM2*, a gene which encodes cell adhesion molecule 2, and is primarily expressed in the brain, has been
419 linked to BMI variation^{60,61}, risk-taking behavior and other personality and behavioral traits⁶²⁻⁶⁵, as well
420 as with information processing speed⁶⁶. The previously identified BMI-associated variant (rs13078960)
421^{60,61} is not in LD ($r^2 < 0.07$) with the PA-associated variants that we identified, except for the SSOE-
422 increasing allele at rs62253088 being positively, but weakly, correlated with the BMI-increasing allele at
423 rs13078960 ($r^2 = 0.2$). The previously identified G alleles at both rs13084531⁶⁴ and rs57401290⁶³
424 associated with risk taking are weakly to moderately correlated ($r^2 = 0.52$ and 0.23 , respectively) with the
425 SSOE-increasing allele that we identified at rs62253088 (see Supplementary Figure 5). It thus appears
426 that this locus may be important for several personality, cognitive, and behavioral traits, and may
427 potentially be involved in reward systems. We found that the association of *CADM2* variants with PA in
428 Model 1 was unaffected by the inclusion of BMI as a covariate. Furthermore, the PA-increasing alleles at
429 this locus are associated with higher BMI, in the opposite direction of the phenotypic correlation. Along
430 these lines, but with slightly deviating results, a recent study in mice found that *Cadm2*-deficient mice
431 exhibit increased locomotor activity along with reduced adiposity⁶⁷. Finally, it is important to note that

432 this locus appeared to be more strongly associated with VPA and SSOE as compared to MVPA. It may
433 thus be specifically implicated in the proclivity to engage in intentional high-intensity exercise and sport,
434 as opposed to more general and/or lower intensity PA.

435 Interestingly, a well-established variant in *APOE* (part of *APOE* ϵ 4 allele), strongly implicated in
436 Alzheimer's disease^{47,68}, exhibited one of the strongest associations with PA, and remained significant
437 upon meta-analysis. How the *APOE* risk allele is associated with greater PA is not clear. An exercise
438 training study found that *APOE* ϵ 4 carriers had a greater increase in aerobic capacity⁶⁹. This increased
439 responsiveness to PA could reinforce engagement in PA or be related to other factors that influence the
440 tendency to engage in PA. Although another potential explanation for our finding is that individuals with
441 a known family history of dementia or Alzheimer's disease purposefully increase their levels of PA in the
442 hope of reducing risk for developing the disease, our findings do not suggest that individuals with a first-
443 degree family history of Alzheimer's disease or dementia engage in higher levels of PA. However, we
444 could not rule out the possibility of selection bias. Since the association was markedly stronger among
445 older participants and the frequency of the risk allele decreased slightly with age from 40 to 69 years, it
446 may be that the older *APOE* risk allele carriers are particularly enriched for healthy lifestyles. It is
447 important to note that an association between *APOE* and PA may lead to spurious gene-environment
448 interactions⁷⁰, and thus further work is needed to confirm and clarify this observed association.

449 Among the other specific loci that we identified, we did not find any of the loci that have
450 previously been linked to PA^{15,16}. The pattern of tissue-specific expression of the identified genes (or
451 nearby genes) varied quite widely, although we observe an overall enrichment of genes expressed in the
452 brain and pituitary gland, and more specifically in the cerebellum and frontal cortex. The cerebellum is
453 involved in the precise coordination of motor activity, and the frontal cortex is involved in decision
454 making, personality expression, and executive function. We also observed an enrichment of genes
455 involved in the nervous system, including in the synapse. Other than *CADM2* and *APOE*, the other
456 identified genes have been previously associated with a wide variety of traits, including intelligence,

457 cognitive decline, blood cell traits, schizophrenia, and obesity among others. They are also expressed in a
458 wide variety of tissues. We suspect that there are many potential paths leading to differences in PA. These
459 could include response to exercise, personality, hormonal levels, body composition. Future research is
460 needed to help elucidate the genetic underpinnings of these proximate mechanisms, and to provide insight
461 into how each of the identified loci contribute to habitual PA behavior.

462 Previous studies have shown that BMI-associated genetic variants are also associated with PA
463 ^{71,72}. Similarly, we found an overall shared genetic basis for PA (especially accelerometer-based
464 measures) with several obesity-related traits (in the expected negative direction of association),
465 suggesting that genetic risk for obesity coincides with genetic propensity for lower PA. There is likely a
466 complex set of genetic, environmental, and phenotypic factors that connect PA and obesity across the
467 lifespan, that involve many pleiotropic genetic factors. Although we identified previously identified BMI-
468 associated genes (*FTO* and *NEGR1*) in Model 3, these results appear to be at least partly attributed to
469 collider bias. Similarly, for all five PA traits, we observed that the direction of the genetic correlation
470 between PA and obesity-related traits is reversed when BMI is included as a covariate, despite a strong
471 negative phenotypic correlation between PA and BMI. In addition to the caution warranted by potential
472 collider bias which occurs when one controls for a variable (i.e. BMI) that is caused by both another
473 covariate (i.e. gene) and the outcome variable in the model (i.e. PA) ^{46,73}, caution is also warranted in
474 interpreting results of genetic associations in which heritable covariates are included in the association
475 model ⁷⁴. On the other hand, however, adjustment for the covariates may help identify/confirm loci that
476 may or may not be spuriously associated with PA because of confounding via correlated factors.

477 Our study is strengthened by the large sample size, the availability of both self-reported and
478 objective accelerometer-based measures of PA, and the availability of a replication cohort from a
479 different country. However, we note several limitations. Given the relatively small genetic effect sizes
480 observed for these PA phenotypes, we were insufficiently powered to formally replicate associations in
481 the much smaller sample size in ARIC. Our inability to firmly replicate these findings does detract from

482 our confidence in the generalizability of the UK Biobank results. It could be, for example, that the genetic
483 architecture and implicated genes for habitual PA differ widely by country, as well as by age group (see
484 below), and by PA measure. Additional and larger replication studies are thus needed to more robustly
485 identify PA-associated loci. Furthermore, the self-report measures of PA used in ARIC differed from the
486 one used in the UK Biobank. The ARIC measure focuses more explicitly on leisure-time PA and
487 incorporates more detailed information about PA, such as the frequency of sweating and a comparison of
488 PA frequency with others of the same age. Both self-reported and accelerometer-based measures of PA
489 are subject to various biases. Since both the UK Biobank and ARIC cohorts are comprised of middle- to
490 late-middle-aged adults, the extent to which these results generalize to other age groups is not known. For
491 example, it has been shown that the heritability of PA changes with age, with a decreased heritability in
492 older ages⁷⁵. Thus our power to detect strong effects may have been compromised by the older age range
493 in both cohorts that we examined. Furthermore, our results may not generalize to other ethnic/racial
494 groups.

495 In conclusion, our study revealed several important new findings. Effect sizes were generally
496 very small, given the very large sample size, the common variants identified, and the modest p-values.
497 We identified over 20 variants, most of which were novel, and thus need further study. We identified a
498 variant in *CADM2*, a gene previously been found to be associated with obesity, as well as several
499 personality traits. We also identified a well-established major risk variant for Alzheimer's disease in
500 *APOE*, which was associated with higher levels of PA, suggesting the need for follow up studies to help
501 clarify the nature of this observed association and its implication for understanding gene-environment
502 interactions related to PA. We found genetic correlation of PA with obesity^{60,76}, psychiatric^{77,78},
503 educational⁷⁹, chronotype⁸⁰, and other traits. Genetic correlations with obesity may indicate extensive
504 pleiotropy involving genes associated with both PA and obesity. The identification of genetic factors that
505 predispose to high or low levels of PA will lead to a better understanding of the biological mechanisms
506 underlying these proclivities. It may also lead to the identification of individuals less likely to engage in

507 and/or adhere to PA, and consequently to the development of tailored behavioral strategies. Finally, the
508 integration of genetic characteristics with lifestyle and environmental information may point to how
509 lifestyle/environmental factors interact with genetic factors to influence levels of PA.

510

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520

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550

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763

764 **Figure Legends**

765 **Figure 1:** Manhattan plot of GWAS for self-reported MVPA and VPA, strenuous sports or other
766 exercises (abbreviated as SS or Other Exer.), and for accelerometer-based average accelerations and
767 fraction of accelerations > 425 mg. Negative log10-transformed p-value for each SNP is plotted by
768 chromosome and position (x-axis). The red horizontal line represents the threshold for genome-wide
769 significant associations ($p < 5 \times 10^{-9}$).

770

771 **Figure 2:** Genetic correlation of self-reported PA variables with other traits and diseases across the three
772 statistical models employed. Traits/diseases shown are those that are in the top 10 of genetically
773 correlated traits/diseases (according to p-value) for at least one of the 3 models. Traits/diseases are
774 ordered from top to bottom in order of increasing p-value for Model 1. Horizontal position of bars
775 corresponds to the genetic correlation (r_g) between PA and the respective trait/disease. Error bars
776 represent 95% confidence intervals for r_g estimates. Bright green bars represent traits that showed a
777 correlation with p-value $< 2.5 \times 10^{-4}$, and light green bars represent traits with genetic correlation $p < 0.05$.
778 We excluded highly redundant traits (e.g. obesity, overweight) after leaving higher ranked one in.

779

780 **Figure 3:** Genetic correlation of accelerometry-based PA variables with other traits and diseases across
781 the three statistical models employed. Traits/diseases shown are those that are in the top 10 of genetically
782 correlated traits/diseases (according to p-value) for at least one of the 3 models. Traits/diseases are
783 ordered from top to bottom in order of increasing p-value for Model 1. Horizontal position of bars
784 corresponds to the genetic correlation (r_g) between PA and the respective trait/disease. Error bars
785 represent 95% confidence intervals for r_g estimates. Bright green bars represent traits that showed a
786 correlation with p-value $< 2.5 \times 10^{-4}$, and light green bars represent traits with genetic correlation $p < 0.05$.
787 We excluded highly redundant traits (e.g. obesity, overweight) after leaving higher ranked one in.

788

789 **Figure 4:** Results of gene-based enrichment analysis for 30 general tissue types for PA-associated loci.

790 Dashed line represents the Bonferroni-corrected significance threshold.

Supplementary Table 1: Association of covariates with five measures of physical activity. Other covariates included in the model (PCs, center, and genotyping chip) are not shown here. The beta coefficient units for MVPA are standard deviations of MVPA (MET-minutes/week), after inverse normalization. Beta coefficients for VPA and Stren. Sports or other Exerc. are log-OR. The beta coefficient unit for acceleration average is milli-gravities. The beta coefficient for “Fraction Accel. > 425 mg” is fraction of time.

	MVPA		VPA		Stren. Sports or other Exerc.		Accel. Average		Fraction Accel. > 425 mg	
	Beta	p-value	Beta	p-value	Beta	p-value	Beta	p-value	Beta	p-value
Age	0.012	<2E-16	-0.025	<2E-16	-0.04	<2E-16	-0.25	<2E-16	-0.035	<2E-16
Sex	0.055	<2E-16	0.47	<2E-16	0.21	<2E-16	-0.28	1.68E-8	0.30	<2E-16
BMI	-0.028	<2E-16	-0.068	<2E-16	-0.066	<2E-16	-0.47	<2E-16	-0.047	<2E-16
Season	0.047	<2E-16	0.078	<2E-16	0.066	<2E-16	0.67	<2E-16	0.033	<2E-16
Work - Walk/Stand	7.69E-03	0.0002	-0.048	<2E-16	-0.058	<2E-16	0.49	<2E-16	0.031	4.80E-15
Work - Physical activity	0.400	<2E-16	0.499	<2E-16	-0.17	<2E-16	0.98	<2E-16	0.031	2.74E-07
TDI	-5.35E-03	<2E-16	-0.046	<2E-16	-0.086	<2E-16	-0.12	<2E-16	-0.019	<2E-16

BMI: body mass index, TDI: Townsend deprivation index

Supplementary Table 2: Phenotypic correlation (Pearson's product-moment correlation/Spearman's rho are shown for continuous variable correlations, phi coefficient is shown for correlation between two dichotomous variables, and point-biserial correlations are shown for correlations between a continuous and a dichotomous variable) among the five different PA measures. All correlations were highly significant.

	MVPA	VPA	Stren. Sports or Other Ex.	Accel. Average	Fract. Accel.>425mg
MVPA		0.65	0.28	0.19/0.22	0.15/0.20
VPA			0.73	0.29	0.32
Stren. Sports or Other Ex.				0.23	0.27
Accel. Average					0.68/0.71

Supplementary Table 3: ‘Chip Heritability’ and inflation estimates from LD score regression analysis. Ratio is $(\text{intercept}-1)/(\text{mean}(\chi^2)-1)$, which measures the proportion of the inflation in the mean χ^2 that the LD Score regression intercept ascribes to causes other than polygenic heritability.

	h^2	Lambda GC	Mean χ^2	Ratio (s.d.)	Intercept
<i>Self-reported measures</i>					
MVPA	0.046 (0.0023)	1.31	1.35	0.040 (0.009)	1.014
VPA	0.054 (0.0029)	1.25	1.30	0.099 (0.030)	1.030
Stren. Sports or Other Exerc.	0.056 (0.0025)	1.31	1.41	0.058 (0.022)	1.024
<i>Accelerometry</i>					
Average Acceleration	0.143 (0.0083)	1.20	1.26	0.030 (0.032)	1.008
Fraction Accelerations > 425 mg	0.110 (0.0067)	1.15	1.19	0.010 (0.037)	1.002

h^2 : heritability; GC: genomic control.

Supplementary Table 4: Summary of polymorphisms identified in the UK Biobank using a model additionally adjusted for Townsend Deprivation index, walk or standing at work, and physical activity at work (Model 2). The beta coefficient units for MVPA are standard deviations of MVPA (MET-minutes/week), after inverse normalization. The beta coefficient unit for acceleration average is milli-gravities. The beta coefficient unit for “Fraction Accel. > 425 mg” is fraction of time. The beta coefficient units for BMI correspond to residualized BMI after inverse normalization.

SNP ID	Chr.	Gene/Nearest Gene	Position	EA	EAF	Beta/OR	p-value	n	BMI association	
									Beta	p-value
<i>MVPA</i>										
rs429358	19	<i>APOE</i>	45,411,941	T	0.85	-0.022	2.4E-14	376,789	2.5E-02	2.4E-21
rs169504	6	<i>PBX2</i>	32,153,406	C	0.81	0.018	4.9E-11	376,789	-1.1E-02	1.8E-05
rs4129572	7	<i>EXOC4</i>	133,636,888	T	0.40	-0.14	2.9E-10	376,789	3.4E-03	8.0E-02
rs3094622	6	<i>RPP21</i>	30,327,952	A	0.86	0.019	3.1E-10	376,789	-9.9E-03	3.8E-04
rs181220614	3	<i>ARHGEF26-ASI</i>	153,806,914	C	0.99	-0.07	8.8E-10	376,789	-1.2E-02	2.6E-01
rs149943	6	<i>ZNF165</i>	28,002,388	G	0.85	0.018	9.9E-10	376,789	-1.2E-02	1.4E-05
rs2988004	9	<i>PAX5</i>	37,044,388	T	0.55	-0.013	2.8E-09	376,789	-1.1E-02	5.2E-08
<i>Vigorous PA: ≥ 3 vs. 0 days/week</i>										
rs1248860	3	<i>CADM2</i>	85,015,779	G	0.48	0.96	1.1E-13	260,738	-9.5E-03	6.8E-07
rs2764261	6	<i>FOXO3</i>	108,927,842	A	0.37	1.04	9.3E-11	260,738	-1.8E-02	8.7E-20
rs3781411	10	<i>CTBP2</i>	126,715,436	C	0.88	1.06	2.3E-10	260,738	1.7E-03	5.6E-01
rs12707131	7	<i>EXOC4</i>	133,620,982	A	0.61	1.04	4.6E-10	260,738	-3.9E-03	4.7E-02
rs328919	7	<i>DPY19L1</i>	35,033,983	A	0.69	0.96	9.3E-10	260,738	-6.2E-03	2.7E-03
<i>Strenuous sports or other exercises: ≥ 2-3 vs. 0 days/week</i>										
rs62253088	3	<i>CADM2</i>	85,400,801	T	0.33	1.05	1.5E-20	350,492	1.1E-02	1.2E-07
rs166840	17	<i>AKAP10</i>	19,799,698	G	0.59	1.03	3.0E-10	350,492	5.4E-03	5.8E-03
rs10946808	6	<i>HIST1H1D</i>	26,233,387	A	0.73	0.96	5.5E-10	350,492	1.2E-02	3.6E-08
rs75930676	14	<i>SIPA1L1</i>	71,826,547	T	0.95	0.93	8.5E-10	350,492	2.1E-03	6.4E-01
rs4865656	5	<i>LOC642366</i>	50,659,788	G	0.62	1.03	3.0E-09	350,492	-9.0E-03	4.6E-06
<i>Accelerometry – Average acceleration</i>										
rs55657917	17	<i>CRHR1</i>	43,844,560	T	0.78	-0.31	1.1E-12	90,986	-3.7E-03	1.1E-01
rs185829646	10	<i>ANKRD22</i>	90,583,705	A	0.998	-2.7	4.8E-09	90,986	-2.6E-02	3.0E-01
<i>Accelerometry – Fraction accelerations > 425 milli-gravities</i>										
rs743580	15	<i>PML</i>	74,328,116	A	0.51	0.024	2.5E-09	90,569	-1.2E-02	1.4E-09
rs6433478	2	<i>CIR1</i>	175,241,482	T	0.46	-0.024	4.9E-09	90,569	9.9E-03	2.8E-07

EA refers to effect allele that Beta/OR corresponds to. EAF: effect allele frequency

Supplementary Table 5: Summary of polymorphisms identified in the UK Biobank using a model additionally adjusted for Townsend Deprivation index, walk or standing at work, physical activity at work, and BMI. The beta coefficient units for MVPA are standard deviations of MVPA (MET-minutes/week), after inverse normalization. The beta coefficient unit for acceleration average is milli-gravities. The beta coefficient for “Fraction Accel. > 425 mg” is fraction of time. The beta coefficient units for BMI correspond to residualized BMI after inverse normalization. The collider bias quantification columns refer to estimates for the respective SNP, with (corrected) and without correction (uncorrected) for collider bias resulting from adjustment for BMI. The uncorrected and corrected estimates are from a linear model (for all PA measures) without incorporating the other SNP effects as is implemented in the GWAS analysis by the BOLT-LMM software.

SNP ID	Chr.	Gene/Nearest Gene	Position	EA	EAF	Beta/OR	p	n	Collider Bias Quantification						
									BMI association		Uncorrected		Corrected		
									Beta	p	Beta	p	Beta	p	
<i>MVPA</i>															
rs2988004	9	PAX5	37,044,388	T	0.56	-0.014	2.4E-11	375,862	-1.1E-02	5.2E-08	-0.013	1.1E-09	-0.012	2.6E-08	
rs429358	19	APOE	45,411,941	T	0.85	-0.019	7.3E-11	375,862	2.5E-02	2.4E-21	-0.019	1.2E-10	-0.022	7.1E-14	
rs181220614	3	ARHGEF26-AS1	153,806,914	C	0.99	-0.072	2.3E-10	375,862	-1.2E-02	2.6E-01	-0.076	7.9E-09	-0.073	3.8E-08	
rs7804463	7	EXOC4	133,447,651	T	0.53	0.013	4.1E-10	375,862	-2.9E-04	8.8E-01	0.013	7.6E-10	0.013	1.2E-09	
rs4576826	11	C11orf80	66,560,982	T	0.74	0.015	5.5E-10	375,862	6.3E-03	3.7E-03	0.015	2.3E-10	0.014	4.0E-09	
rs13081745	3	CADM2	85,063,983	G	0.33	-0.014	9.6E-10	375,862	-1.5E-02	1.0E-12	-0.014	8.9E-10	-0.012	4.3E-08	
rs11913445	22	CCDC188	20,142,513	C	0.83	0.017	2.1E-09	375,862	5.4E-03	3.6E-02	0.017	5.5E-09	0.016	6.1E-08	
rs169504	6	PBX2	32,153,406	C	0.81	0.017	1.4E-09	375,862	-1.1E-02	1.8E-05	0.016	2.2E-09	0.018	4.6E-11	
<i>Vigorous PA: ≥ 3 vs. 0 days/week</i>															
rs653481	3	CADM2	85,005,685	A	0.33	0.95	1.9E-15	259,991	-1.4E-02	1.5E-12	-0.011	9.3E-16	-0.010	8.3E-14	
rs3781411	10	CTBP2	126,715,436	C	0.88	1.06	1.0E-10	259,991	1.7E-03	5.6E-01	0.013	5.0E-11	0.013	5.6E-11	
rs328902	7	DPY19L1	35,020,843	C	0.69	0.96	1.3E-10	259,991	-6.2E-03	2.7E-03	-0.009	8.7E-11	-0.009	4.2E-10	
rs3101340	1	NEGR1	72,744,144	G	0.49	1.04	1.1E-09	259,991	1.7E-02	8.0E-20	0.008	1.7E-09	0.007	1.6E-07	
rs12707131	7	EXOC4	133,620,982	A	0.61	1.04	2.0E-09	259,991	-3.9E-03	4.7E-02	0.008	1.9E-09	0.008	3.3E-10	
rs6689056	1	MYOM3	24,364,531	G	0.67	1.04	4.9E-09	259,991	2.0E-03	3.3E-01	0.008	9.8E-09	0.008	8.2E-09	
<i>Strenuous sports or other exercises: ≥ 2-3 vs. 0 days/week</i>															
rs1691471	3	CADM2	85,011,013	C	0.62	0.95	6.5E-23	349,082	-1.3E-02	8.0E-12	-0.013	1.7E-22	-0.011	7.0E-20	
rs55872725	16	FTO	53,809,123	C	0.6	0.96	3.0E-13	349,082	-7.4E-02	3.4E-312	-0.008	7.0E-13	-0.003	3.0E-03	
rs166840	17	AKAP10	19,799,698	G	0.59	1.03	7.3E-11	349,082	5.4E-03	5.8E-03	0.007	2.0E-10	0.007	8.5E-10	
rs75930676	14	SIPA1L1	71,826,547	T	0.95	0.93	8.5E-10	349,082	2.1E-03	6.4E-01	-0.016	1.3E-10	-0.016	1.2E-09	
rs159544	5	CTC-436P18.1	60,489,247	A	0.61	0.97	2.7E-09	349,082	-5.5E-03	5.3E-03	-0.007	2.4E-09	-0.007	7.1E-09	
<i>Accelerometry – Average acceleration</i>															
rs55915917	17	CRHR1	43,892,784	T	0.78	-0.28	1.5E-11	90,845	-4.0E-03	8.4E-02	-0.28	5.0E-11	-0.31	6.7E-13	
rs62398709	5	LINC01470	152,055,235	A	0.65	0.24	7.1E-11	90,845	8.9E-03	1.1E-05	0.23	3.0E-10	0.21	1.6E-08	
rs185829646	10	ANKRD22	90,583,705	A	1	-2.69	1.5E-09	90,845	-2.6E-02	3.0E-01	-2.94	2.0E-09	2.97	1.4E-09	
rs17551090	5	MEF2C	88,037,209	T	0.89	0.34	3.0E-09	90,845	1.3E-02	2.0E-05	0.34	3.2E-09	0.32	2.6E-08	
<i>Accelerometry – Fraction accelerations > 425 milli-gravities</i>															
No significant associations															

EA refers to effect allele that Beta/OR corresponds to. EAF: effect allele frequency

Supplementary Table 6: Meta-analysis of UK Biobank MVPA top hits with ARIC PA. Beta coefficient units are standard deviations of MVPA MET-minutes/week, after inverse normalization.

SNP	Chr.	Gene/Nearest Gene	Position	EA	ARIC (n=8,556)		Meta-analysis (n=385,790)	
					Beta	p	Beta	p
rs429358	19	<i>APOE</i>	45,411,941	T	-0.035	0.22	-0.002	2.80E-13
rs7804463	7	<i>EXOC4</i>	133,447,651	T	0.003	0.87	0.015	1.30E-11
rs2854277	6	<i>HLA-DQB1</i>	32,628,084	C	0.009	0.72	0.031	5.00E-10
rs7791992	7	<i>C7orf72/SPATA48</i>	50,237,784	C	-0.005	0.73	-0.014	2.20E-10
rs3094622	6	<i>RPP21</i>	30,327,952	A	0.035*	0.17	0.020	1.84E-10
rs149943	6	<i>ZNF165</i>	28,002,388	G	0.031	0.20	0.019	4.25E-10
rs2035562	3	<i>CADM2</i>	85,056,521	A	-0.014	0.38	-0.014	3.68E-10
rs2988004	9	<i>PAX5</i>	37,044,388	T	-0.033	0.03	-0.013	1.46E-09
rs1043595	7	<i>CALU</i>	128,410,012	G	0.015	0.37	0.014	7.27E-09

*rs3094034-A allele used as a proxy for rs3094622-A

Supplementary Table 7: Association with PA in ARIC of SNPs identified in Model 1 of UK Biobank for PA phenotypes other than MVPA. Beta coefficients for ARIC correspond to standardized residualized units of the sport/exercise index. Meta-analysis using only p-values is only reported for SNPs that have consistent directions of effect in UK Biobank and ARIC.

SNP	Chr.	Gene/Nearest Gene	Position	EA	EAF	UK Biobank		ARIC (n=8,556)		Meta-analysis
						Beta/OR	p	Beta	p	p
<i>Vigorous PA: ≥ 3 vs. 0 days/week</i>										
rs1248860	3	CADM2	85,015,779	G	0.48	0.96	1.10E-13	0.008	0.614	NA
rs2764261	6	FOXO3	108,927,842	A	0.37	1.04	2.00E-11	0.010	0.500	0.16
rs3781411	10	CTBP2	126,715,436	C	0.88	1.06	3.00E-10	0.029	0.193	0.09
rs12707131	7	EXOC4	133,620,982	A	0.61	1.04	9.00E-11	-0.002	0.917	NA
rs328919	7	DPY19L1	35,033,983	A	0.69	0.96	5.50E-10	-0.011	0.503	0.16
<i>Strenuous sports or other exercises: ≥ 2-3 vs. 0 days/week</i>										
rs62253088	3	CADM2	85,400,801	T	0.33	1.05	1.00E-19	-0.007	0.660	NA
rs166840	17	AKAP10	19,799,698	G	0.59	1.03	3.10E-11	-0.011	0.500	NA
rs10946808	6	HIST1H1D	26,233,387	A	0.73	0.97	9.90E-10	-0.006	0.727	0.21
rs159544	5	CTC-436P18.1	60,489,247	A	0.61	0.97	1.30E-09	0.010	0.536	NA
rs75930676	14	SIPA1L1	71,826,547	T	0.95	0.93	2.00E-09	-0.077	0.059	0.04
rs111901094	19	GATAD2A	19,513,570	G	0.82	1.04	3.00E-09	0.001	0.972	0.31
<i>Accelerometry – Average acceleration</i>										
rs55657917	17	CRHR1	43,844,560	T	0.78	-0.3	5.00E-12	0.020	0.296	NA
rs59499656	18	RIT2/SYT4	40,768,309	A	0.66	-0.23	2.40E-09	0.015	0.343	NA
<i>Accelerometry – Fraction accelerations > 425 milli-gravities</i>										
rs743580	15	PML	74,328,116	A	0.51	0.025	1.30E-09	0.019	0.208	0.09

NA indicates not applicable since direction of effect is not consistent.

Supplementary Table 8: Loci consistently associated with PA across self-report and accelerometry measures (each $p < 5 \times 10^{-5}$ and in consistent direction) using Model 1. The beta coefficient units for MVPA are standard deviations of MVPA (MET-minutes/week), after inverse normalization. The beta coefficient unit for acceleration average is milli-gravities. The beta coefficient for “Fraction Accel. > 425 mg” is fraction of time.

SNP	Chr.	Nearest Gene	Position	Effect Allele	MVPA		VPA		SSOE		AA		AF>425		
					Beta	p	OR	p	OR	p	Beta	p	Beta	p	
<i>MVPA and AA</i>															
rs447801	5	<i>MEF2C</i>	88002653	T	-0.010	7.5E-06	0.98	5.0E-01	1.02	1.2E-01	-0.164	8.5E-06	-0.014	7.2E-04	
rs8013957*	14	<i>RCOR1</i>	103140254	C	0.010	1.4E-05	1.03	2.0E-04	1.02	2.4E-04	0.155	4.8E-05	0.015	5.6E-04	
rs7174985	15	<i>STOML1</i>	74274948	T	0.011	2.5E-06	1.03	7.0E-06	1.02	1.0E-05	0.175	6.4E-06	0.021	1.0E-06	
rs55915917*	17	<i>CRHRI</i>	43892784	T	-0.012	8.7E-06	0.98	1.2E-02	0.98	1.7E-04	-0.303	5.5E-12	-0.025	7.9E-07	
<i>VPA, SSOE, and AF>425</i>															
rs1248860*	3	<i>CADM2</i>	85015779	G	-0.011	2.0E-07	0.96	1.1E-13	0.96	7.8E-17	-0.113	1.8E-03	-0.018	8.9E-06	
rs5742915	15	<i>PML</i>	74336633	T	-0.011	6.2E-07	0.96	5.2E-07	0.97	3.4E-05	-0.191	1.7E-07	-0.024	2.9E-09	
rs17599450	19	<i>CCNE1</i>	30328753	C	0.008	1.0E-03	1.03	1.5E-05	1.02	1.4E-06	0.185	1.9E-06	0.019	1.5E-05	

SSOE: Strenuous sports or other exercises; AA: Average acceleration, AF>425: acceleration fraction greater than 425mg.

* indicates SNPs or loci that remain significant in Model 3.

Supplementary Table 9: Loci consistently associated with PA across self-report and accelerometry measures (each $p < 5 \times 10^{-5}$ and in consistent direction) using Models 2 and 3. The beta coefficient units for MVPA are standard deviations of MVPA (MET-minutes/week), after inverse normalization. The beta coefficient unit for acceleration average is milligravities. The beta coefficient for “Fraction Accel. > 425 mg” is fraction of time.

SNP	Chr.	Nearest Gene	Position	Effect Allele	MVPA		VPA		SSOE		AA		AF>425	
					Beta	p	OR	p	OR	p	Beta	p	Beta	p
Model 2														
<i>MVPA and average acceleration</i>														
rs55915917	17	CRHRI	43892784	T	-0.011	3.8E-05	0.97	8.9E-03	0.97	1.8E-05	-0.310	1.2E-12	-0.025	4.2E-07
rs5742915	15	PML	74336633	T	-0.010	2.5E-06	0.96	3.5E-06	0.97	6.1E-05	-0.187	2.2E-07	-0.024	4.4E-09
rs580241	11	TMEM151A	66066349	G	-0.013	3.9E-07	0.96	9.3E-05	0.98	9.3E-03	-0.189	1.3E-05	-0.014	5.4E-03
rs8013957	14	RCOR1	103140254	C	0.010	1.6E-05	1.02	2.9E-04	1.02	1.4E-04	0.162	1.8E-05	0.015	4.7E-04
<i>VPA, SSOE, and fraction acceleration > 425 mg</i>														
rs1248860	3	CADM2	85015779	G	-0.010	1.8E-06	0.96	1.1E-13	0.96	1.8E-17	-0.112	1.9E-03	-0.018	7.1E-06
rs7174985	15	STOML1	74274948	T	0.011	1.5E-06	1.02	2.3E-05	1.02	1.7E-05	0.172	7.0E-06	0.021	1.6E-06
rs17599450	19	CCNE1	30328753	C	0.008	7.4E-04	1.03	2.8E-05	1.03	1.8E-06	0.179	3.4E-06	0.019	2.4E-05
Model 3														
<i>MVPA and average acceleration</i>														
rs7559547	2	TMEM18	615627	C	-0.014	5.2E-07	0.96	9.5E-06	0.97	6.0E-07	-0.232	3.6E-07	-0.021	6.3E-05
rs580241	11	TMEM151A	66066349	G	-0.013	3.9E-07	0.97	9.8E-05	0.98	1.0E-02	-0.176	2.4E-05	-0.012	1.0E-02
rs8013957	14	RCOR1	103140254	C	0.010	1.3E-05	1.02	2.4E-04	1.02	9.7E-05	0.150	3.9E-05	0.014	9.0E-04
rs8044769	16	FTO	53839135	T	-0.009	6.6E-06	0.97	1.3E-06	0.96	1.1E-08	-0.187	4.5E-08	-0.015	1.8E-04
rs55915917	17	CRHRI	43892784	T	-0.011	1.1E-05	0.97	4.0E-03	0.97	6.1E-06	-0.284	1.5E-11	-0.022	3.2E-06
<i>VPA, SSOE, and fraction acceleration > 425 mg</i>														
rs7567570	2	TMEM18	615140	T	-0.014	1.0E-06	0.98	1.4E-05	0.97	1.0E-06	-0.236	2.5E-07	-0.021	4.2E-05
rs4856584	3	CADM2	85580328	A	0.012	3.1E-08	1.05	1.4E-14	1.06	6.0E-21	0.110	2.4E-03	0.021	5.3E-07

Supplementary Table 10: Top ten significant gene sets from MAGMA-based gene-set analysis using Model 1 for each of 5 PA phenotypes.

Gene Set	N genes	Beta	Beta STD	SE	P	P _{bon}
MVPA						
GO_bp:go_positive_regulation_of_histone_methylation	32	0.694	0.029	0.176	4.10E-05	0.4461
GO_cc:go_mhc_class_ii_protein_complex	14	1.33	0.0369	0.339	4.36E-05	0.4753
GO_mf:go_mhc_class_ii_receptor_activity	10	1.43	0.0335	0.368	4.99E-05	0.5430
GO_bp:go_neuron_migration	105	0.362	0.0274	0.1	1.42E-04	1
GO_bp:go_adaptive_immune_response_based_on_somatic_recombination_of_immune_receptors_built_from_immunoglobulin_superfamily_domains	113	0.326	0.0255	0.09	1.47E-04	1
GO_mf:go_pdz_domain_binding	88	0.377	0.0261	0.106	1.81E-04	1
GO_bp:go_cell_morphogenesis_involved_in_neuron_differentiation	354	0.185	0.0254	0.052	1.99E-04	1
GO_mf:go_nucleic_acid_binding_transcription_factor_activity	1134	0.107	0.0259	0.03	2.09E-04	1
GO_bp:go_neuron_projection_guidance	198	0.246	0.0255	0.07	2.10E-04	1
GO_cc:go_voltage_gated_calcium_channel_complex	39	0.569	0.0263	0.161	2.10E-04	1
VPA						
GO_bp:go_dendrite_development	72	0.473	0.0296	0.115	2.13E-05	0.2314
GO_bp:go_neurogenesis	1355	0.107	0.0281	0.027	2.92E-05	0.3182
GO_bp:go_neuron_projection_development	522	0.157	0.0262	0.042	7.83E-05	0.8523
GO_bp:go_dendrite_morphogenesis	39	0.601	0.0277	0.159	7.99E-05	0.8701
GO_bp:go_regulation_of_nervous_system_development	722	0.127	0.0248	0.036	1.76E-04	1
GO_bp:go_cell_morphogenesis_involved_in_neuron_differentiation	354	0.178	0.0245	0.05	1.91E-04	1
GO_bp:go_negative_regulation_of_neuron_differentiation	183	0.232	0.0231	0.066	2.07E-04	1
GO_bp:go_neuron_projection_morphogenesis	386	0.169	0.0243	0.048	2.11E-04	1
GO_bp:go_negative_regulation_of_nitric_oxide_metabolic_process	10	1.11	0.026	0.323	2.92E-04	1
GO_bp:go_negative_regulation_of_nitric_oxide_biosynthetic_process	10	1.11	0.026	0.323	2.92E-04	1
SSOE						
GO_cc:go_synapse	718	0.188	0.0364	0.039	5.90E-07	0.0064
GO_cc:go_synapse_part	580	0.181	0.0318	0.043	1.13E-05	0.1227
Curated_gene_sets:mylykangas_amplification_hot_spot_3	4	1.84	0.0272	0.504	1.30E-04	1
GO_bp:go_t_cell_mediated_immunity	26	0.675	0.0255	0.186	1.45E-04	1
GO_cc:go_postsynapse	355	0.195	0.027	0.054	1.60E-04	1
Curated_gene_sets:cheok_response_to_mercaptopurine_and_ld_mtx_up	8	1.26	0.0263	0.349	1.63E-04	1
GO_bp:go_presynaptic_process_involved_in_synaptic_transmission	109	0.335	0.0258	0.096	2.51E-04	1
GO_cc:go_protein_phosphatase_type_2a_complex	19	0.821	0.0264	0.236	2.55E-04	1
Curated_gene_sets:dacosta_uv_response_via_erc3_dn	834	0.128	0.0268	0.037	2.77E-04	1
GO_bp:go_glutamate_receptor_signaling_pathway	40	0.527	0.0246	0.153	2.84E-04	1
AA						
GO_bp:go_regulation_of_transporter_activity	191	0.303	0.0308	0.071	9.85E-06	0.1073
GO_cc:go_synapse	718	0.15	0.0292	0.036	1.31E-05	0.1426
Curated_gene_sets:basso_hairy_cell_leukemia_dn	77	0.421	0.0273	0.11	6.46E-05	0.7031
GO_bp:go_sterol_catabolic_process	11	1.15	0.0283	0.303	6.76E-05	0.7356
GO_bp:go_cholesterol_catabolic_process	11	1.15	0.0283	0.303	6.76E-05	0.7356
GO_cc:go_synapse_part	580	0.15	0.0262	0.04	8.13E-05	0.8847
Curated_gene_sets:schaeffer_sox9_targets_in_prostate_development_dn	44	0.545	0.0267	0.145	8.26E-05	0.8986
GO_mf:go_transition_metal_ion_binding	1313	0.097	0.025	0.026	1.15E-04	1
Curated_gene_sets:sesto_response_to_uv_c7	66	0.413	0.0247	0.113	1.39E-04	1
GO_bp:go_phenol_containing_compound_biosynthetic_process	31	0.596	0.0245	0.166	1.63E-04	1
AF						
GO_mf:go_transcriptional_activator_activity_ma_polymerase_ii_core_promoter_proximal_region_sequence_specific_binding	218	0.258	0.028	0.065	3.13E-05	0.3406
Curated_gene_sets:nikolsky_breast_cancer_20q11_amplicon	31	1.31	0.0541	0.331	3.68E-05	0.4009
GO_bp:go_cell_fate_determination	43	0.532	0.0258	0.137	5.47E-05	0.5961
GO_mf:go_transcription_factor_activity_ma_polymerase_ii_core_promoter_proximal_region_sequence_specific_binding	320	0.197	0.0258	0.052	7.45E-05	0.8110
Curated_gene_sets:cui_tcf21_targets_2_dn	789	0.125	0.0253	0.034	1.14E-04	1
GO_bp:go_homophilic_cell_adhesion_via_plasma_membrane_adhesion_molecules	145	0.342	0.0303	0.093	1.24E-04	1
GO_bp:go_zinc_ii_ion_transport	26	0.645	0.0243	0.176	1.25E-04	1
Curated_gene_sets:reactome_adherens_junctions_interactions	27	0.665	0.0255	0.182	1.30E-04	1
GO_bp:go_neuron_projection_morphogenesis	386	0.165	0.0237	0.046	1.75E-04	1
GO_bp:go_cell_junction_organization	179	0.234	0.023	0.065	1.79E-04	1

Supplementary Table 11: Gene expression and previous GWAS associations for each of the genes (nearest genes) confirmed across Models 1 & 3.

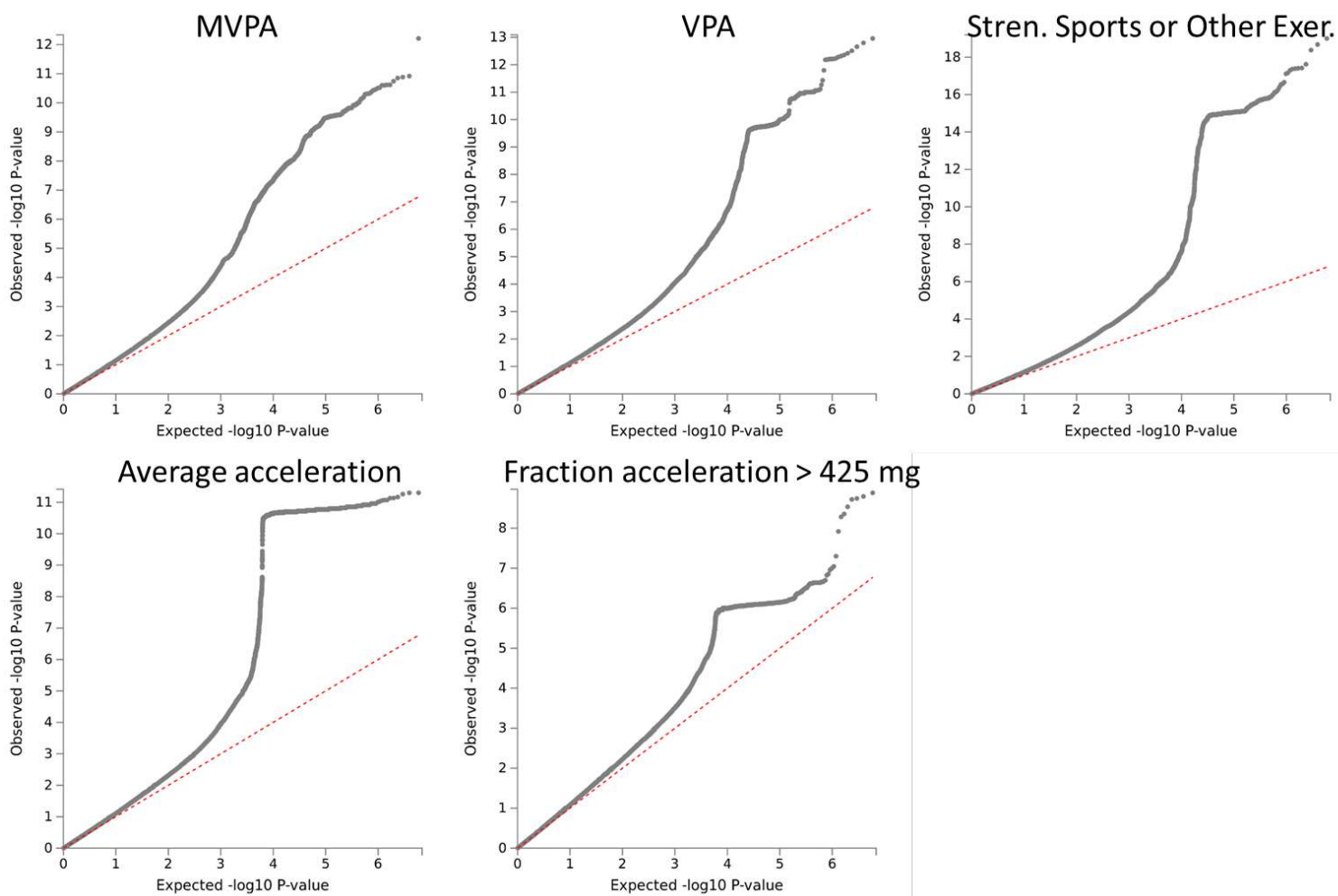
Gene	Tissue with highest median expression (from GTeX v6)	Previous GWAS associations (from NHGRI-EBI GWAS catalog)
<i>APOE</i>	adrenal gland	Alzheimer's disease; cognitive decline; longevity; coronary artery disease; lipid levels
<i>EXO4</i>	transformed fibroblasts	educational attainment; intelligence; cognitive decline; blood pressure; schizophrenia
<i>PAX5</i>	EBV-transformed lymphocytes	HIV-1 susceptibility; response to tocilizumab; intelligence; obesity related traits
<i>CADM2</i>	brain	obesity; alcohol consumption; risk taking; rubella; longevity; information processing speed; temperament; educational attainment; executive function; Alzheimer's disease; cognitive function; blood toxins; age at menarche; photic sneeze reflex; FEV1
<i>CTBP2</i>	cervix	prostate cancer; height; body mass index
<i>DPY19L1</i>	testis	FEV1
<i>AKAP10</i>	spleen	schizophrenia; blood cell traits
<i>CTC-436P18.1</i>	EBV-transformed lymphocytes	schizophrenia
<i>SIPA1L1</i>	brain	response to alcohol consumption; obesity; heart rate variability traits; FEV1
<i>CRHR1</i>	brain	Parkinson's disease; blood cell traits; bone mineral density; neuroticism; Alzheimer's disease; neurodegeneration
<i>RCOR1</i>	esophagus-mucosa	allergic disease; blood cell traits

FEV1: forced expiratory volume in first second of forced breath

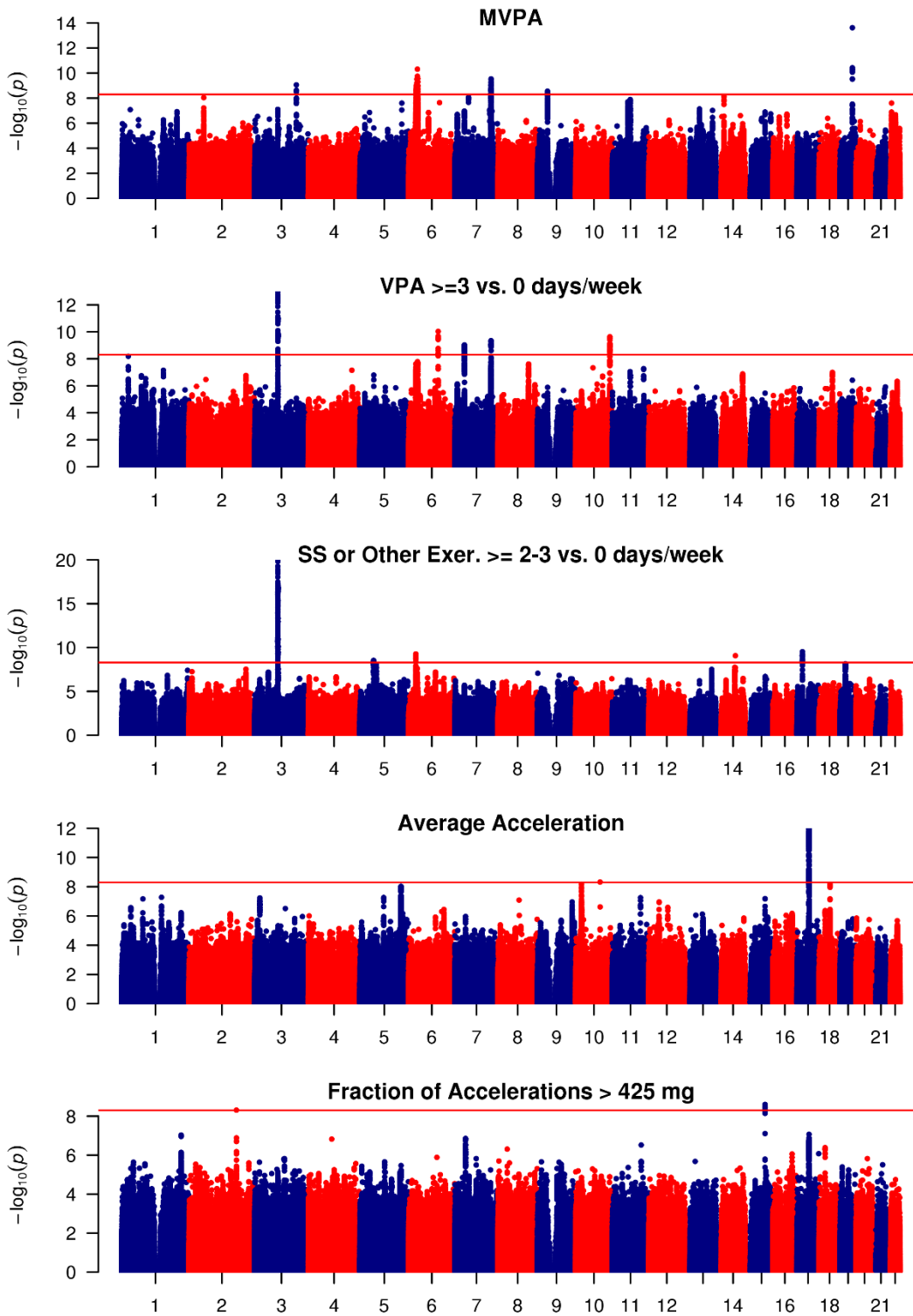
Supplementary Table 12: Expression quantitative trait locus analysis using GTEx v7 data and GTEx Portal online server, for each of the top 10 PA-associated SNPs identified across the five PA phenotypes. Only top five eQTLs are listed here in cases where there are more than five.

SNP	Nearest gene	Expressed Gene	Tissue	P-value
rs429358	APOE	No significant eQTLs found		
rs7804463	EXOC4	No significant eQTLs found		
rs62253088	CADM2	CADM2	Lung	7.40E-07
		CADM2	Adipose-Subcutaneous	4.20E-06
		CADM2	Adipose-Visceral	6.50E-05
rs2988004	PAX5	RP11-22011.1	Muscle - Skeletal	3.90E-10
		RP11-22011.1	Adrenal gland	1.80E-08
		RP11-22011.1	Testis	1.30E-06
rs3781411	CTBP2	No significant eQTLs found		
rs328902	DPY19L1	DPY19L1	Brain - Frontal cortex (BA9)	4.80E-08
		DPY19L1	Brain - Cortex	1.60E-07
		DPY19L1	Muscle - Skeletal	7.60E-07
		DPY19L1P1	Brain - Cerebellum	1.60E-06
		DPY19L1P1	Thyroid	8.80E-06
rs166840	AKAP10	AKAP10	Whole Blood	3.30E-17
		RP11-209D14.2	Testis	6.00E-14
		KRT16P3	Esophagus - Mucosa	4.50E-13
		LGALS9B	Esophagus - Mucosa	3.50E-10
		RP11-78O7.2	Esophagus - Muscularis	2.60E-09
rs159544	CTC-436P18.1	ERCC8	Cells - Transformed fibroblasts	4.00E-06
		NDUFAF2	Brain - Nucleus Accumbens	4.10E+06
		ERCC8	Muscle - Skeletal	6.50E-06
		ELOVL7	Stomach	7.40E-06
		CTC-436P18.1	Testis	9.50E-06
rs75930676	SIPA1L1	No significant eQTLs found		
rs55657917	CRHR1	CRHR1-IT1	Skin - Sun Exposed	2.30E-137
		CRHR1-IT1	Adipose - Subcutaneous	3.80E-130
		CRHR1-IT1	Artery - Tibial	6.20E-122
		CRHR1-IT1	Nerve - Tibial	1.00E-121
		LRRC37A4P	Thyroid	1.10E-120

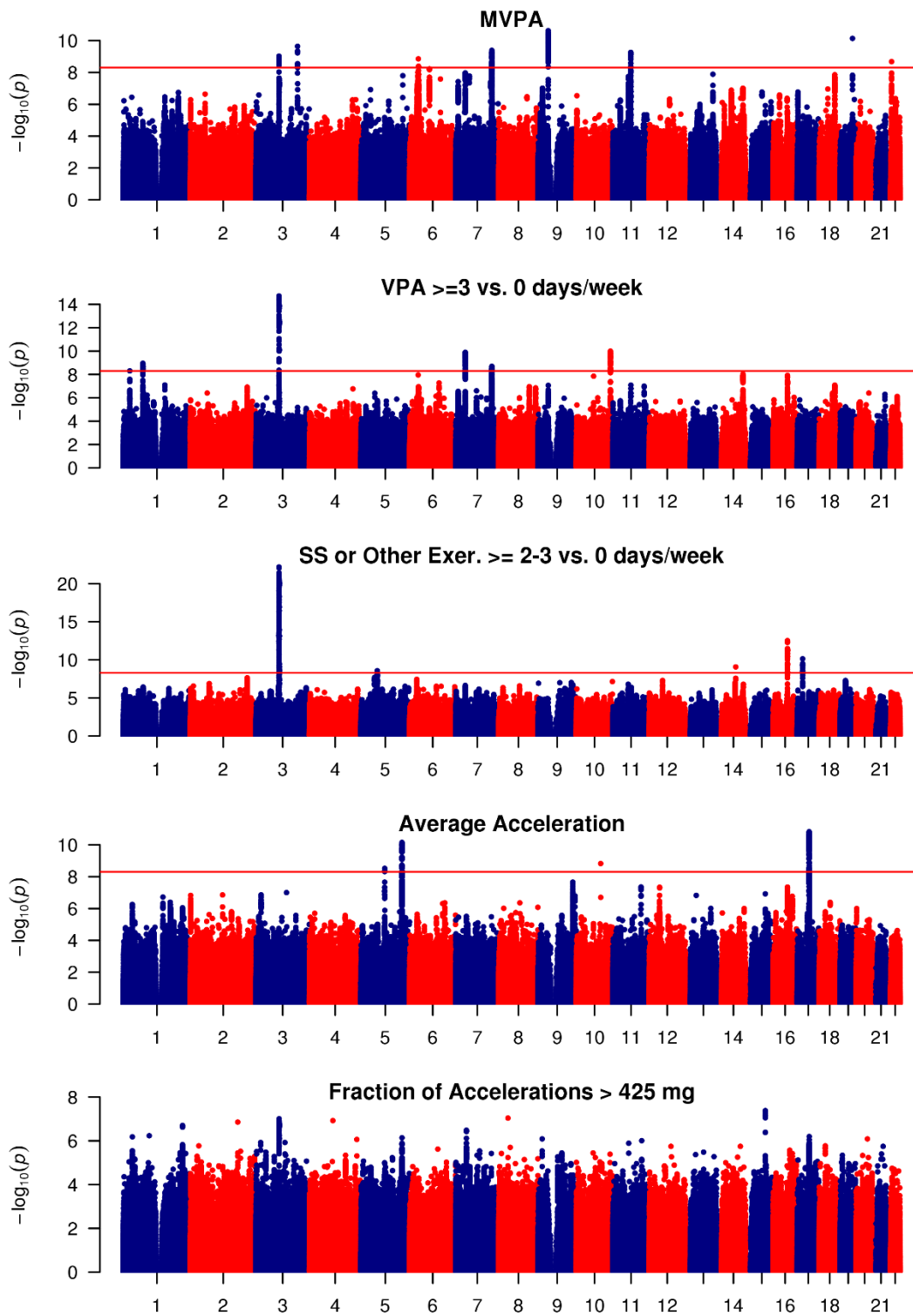
Supplementary Figure 1: Q-Q plots of Model 1 GWAS of all 5 PA phenotypes in the UK Biobank. Plots were drawn after uploading summary statistics into the FUMA GWAS online tool. Overlapping data points are not drawn (filtering was performed only for SNPs with P-value $\geq 1e-5$)



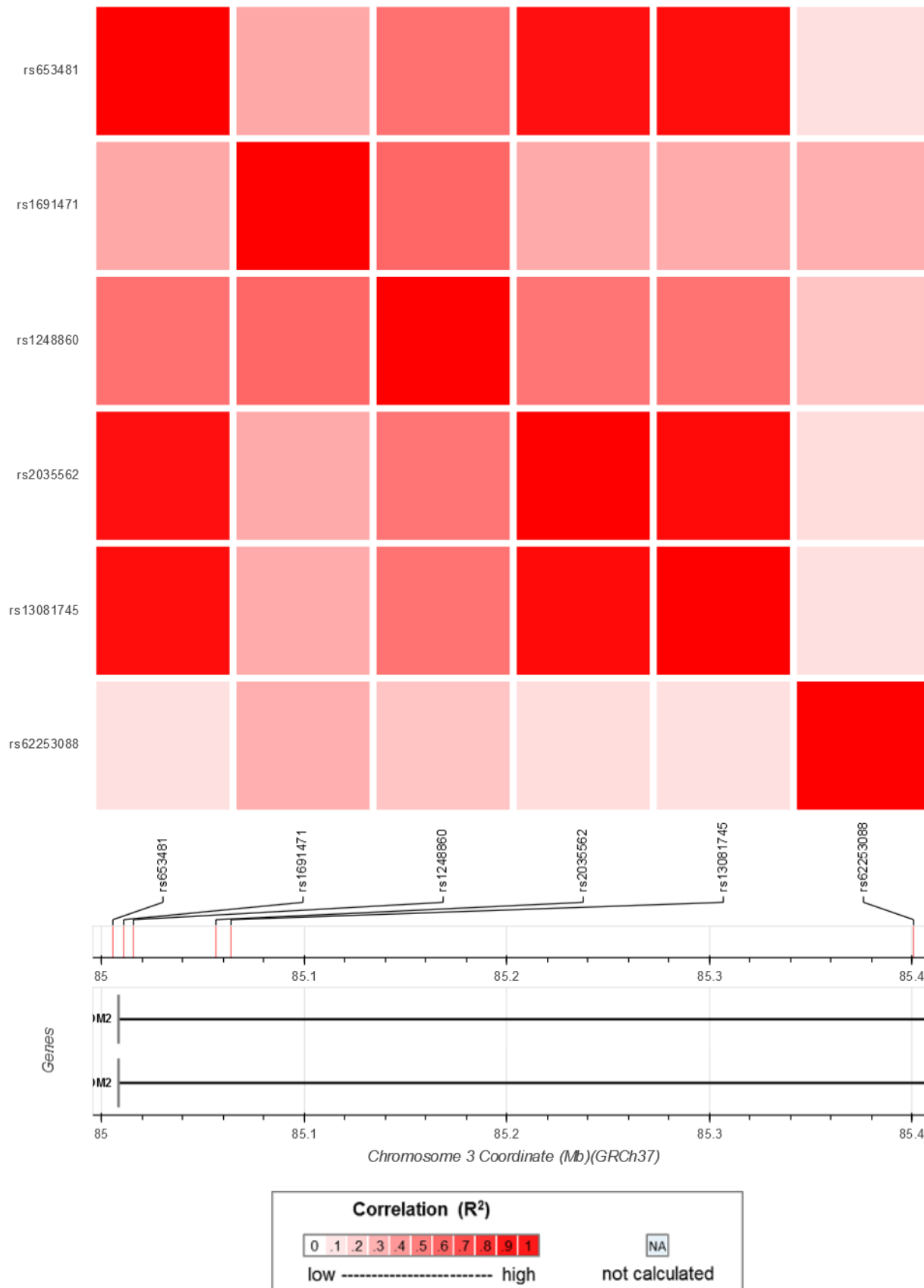
Supplementary Figure 2: Manhattan plot for PA phenotypes using a model additionally adjusted for Townsend Deprivation index, walk or standing at work, and physical activity at work.



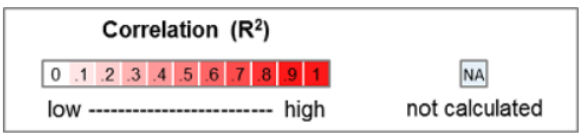
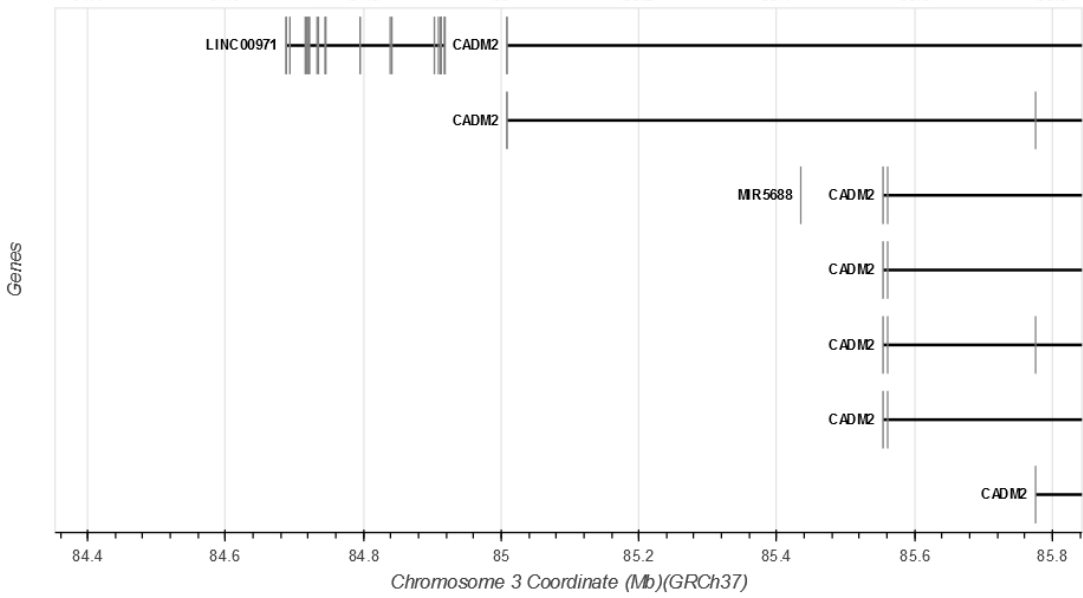
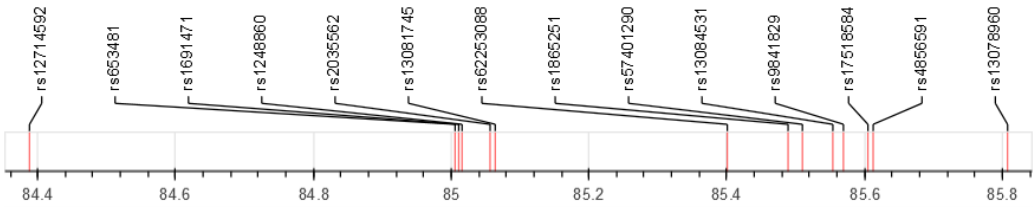
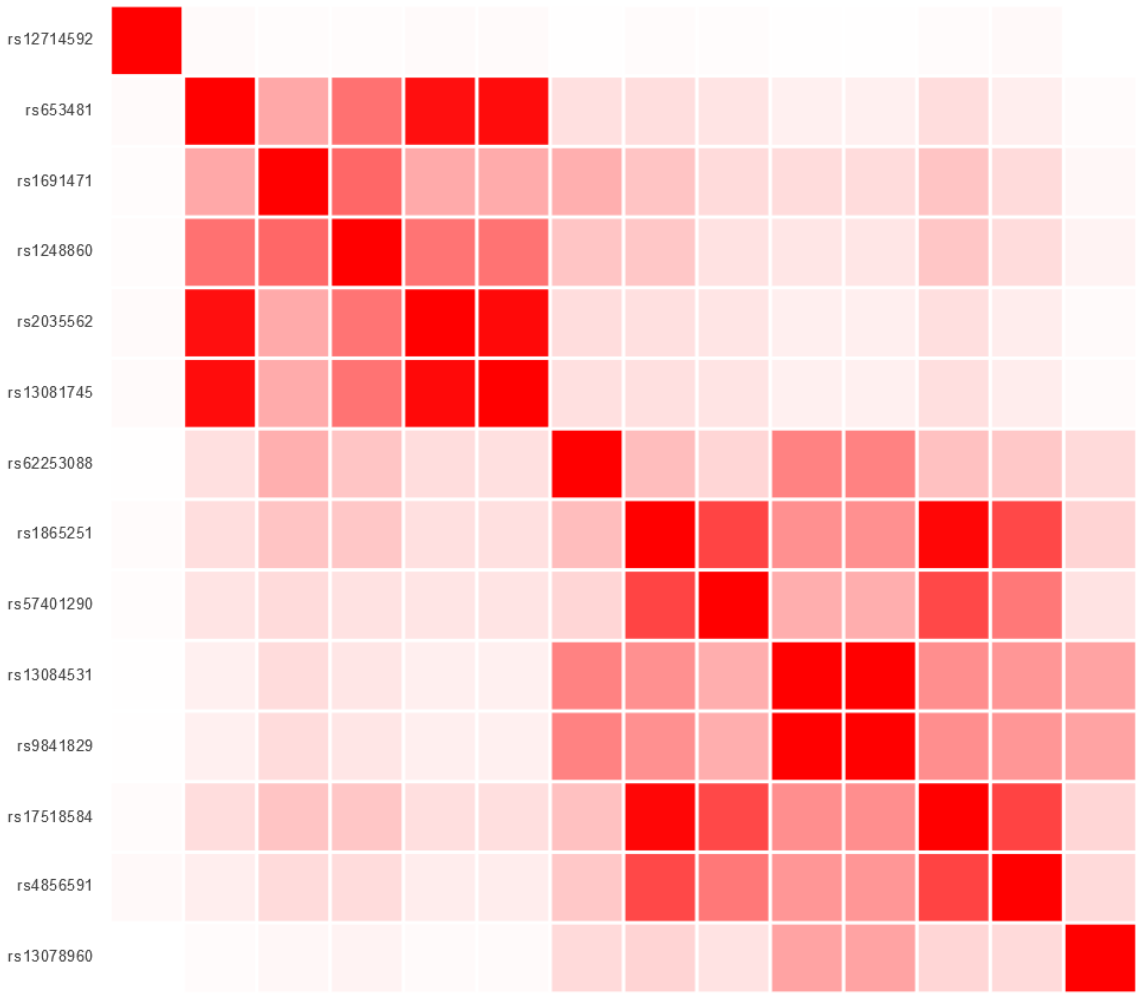
Supplementary Figure 3: Manhattan plot for PA phenotypes using a model additionally adjusted for Townsend Deprivation index, walk or standing at work, physical activity at work, and BMI.



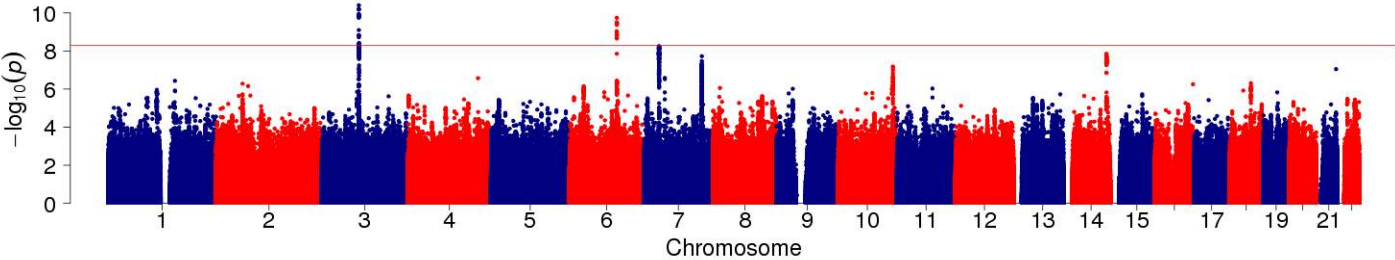
Supplementary Figure 4: Linkage Disequilibrium of PA-associated SNPs at the *CADM2* locus (from data on CEU and GBR from 1,000 Genomes data, phase 3. rs2035562, rs1248860, and rs62253088 were associated with MVPA, VPA and SSOE, respectively in Model 1 and/or Model 2. rs1308175, rs653481, and rs1691471 were associated with MVPA, VPA, and SSOE, respectively, in Model 3.



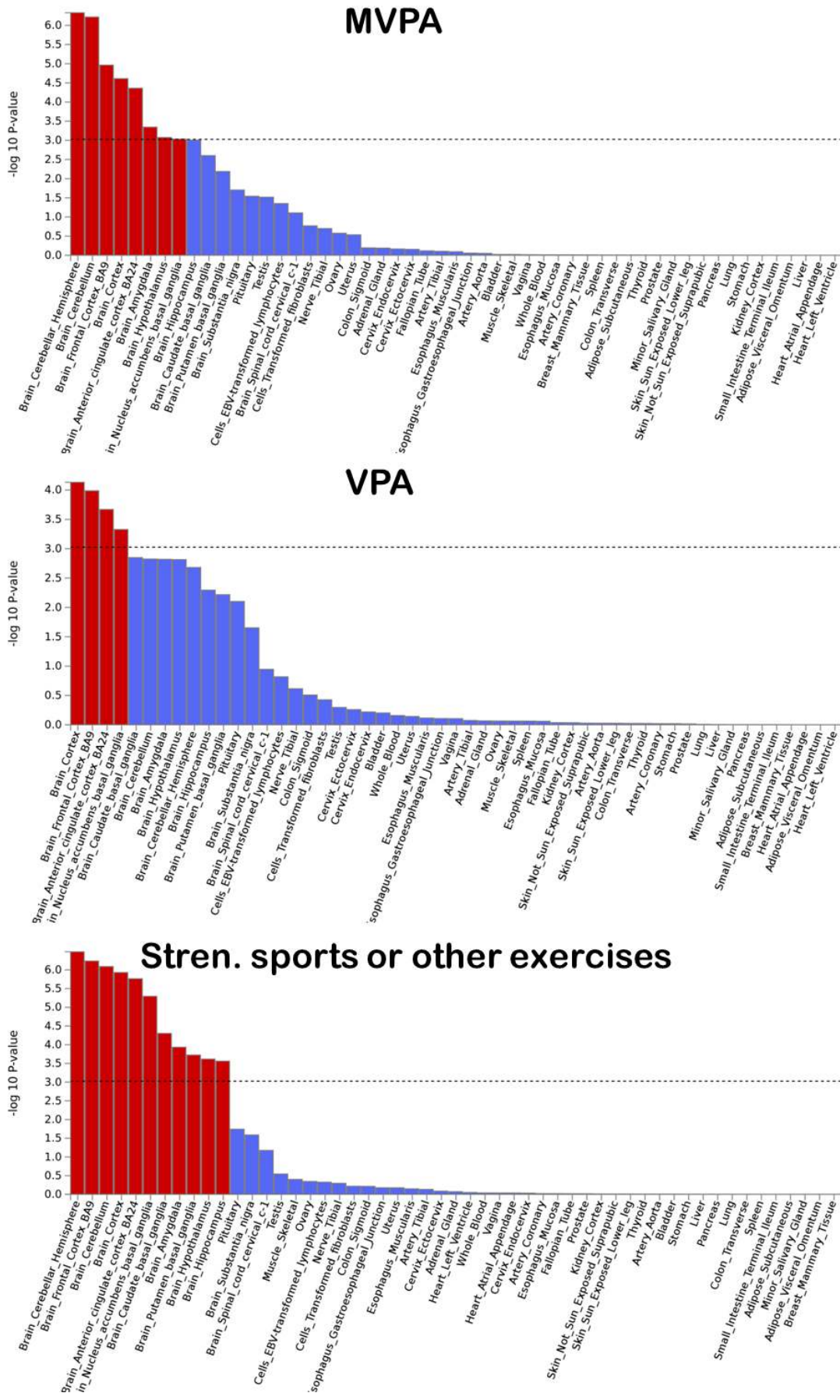
Supplementary Figure 5 (next page): Linkage disequilibrium among PA-associated SNPs and previously identified *CADM2* SNPs for BMI, and behavioral traits (from 1,000 Genomes data, phase 3 data on CEU and GBR). rs2035562, rs1248860, rs62253088, rs1308175, rs653481, and rs1691471 were associated with PA measures in the present study. rs13078960 was previously associated with BMI (Locke et al., 2015). rs12714592 and rs57401290 were previously associated with age at first sexual intercourse (Day et al. 2016), rs1865251 was associated with risk-taking behavior (Boutwell et al., 2017), rs9841829 with alcohol consumption (Clarke et al., 2017). rs17518584 was associated with cognitive processing speed (Ibrahim-Verbaas et al, 2016). Rs4856591 was associated with risk taking propensity (Day et al., 2016).



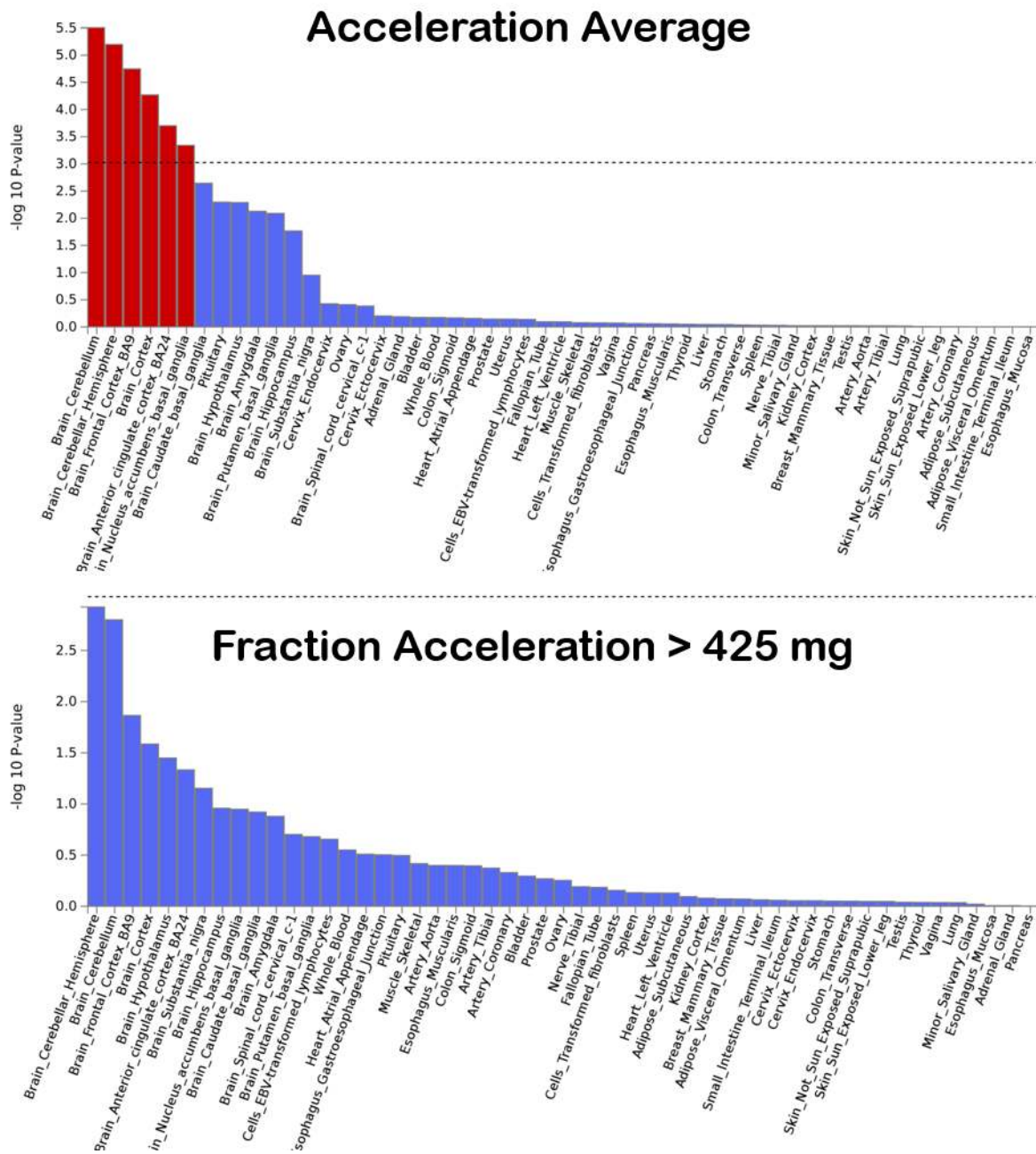
Supplementary Figure 6: Manhattan plot for VPA phenotype, using Model 1, not excluding individuals with intermediate levels of VPA.



Supplementary Figure 7: Results of gene-based tissue enrichment analysis for 53 tissue types, using Model 1 for self-reported PA phenotypes.

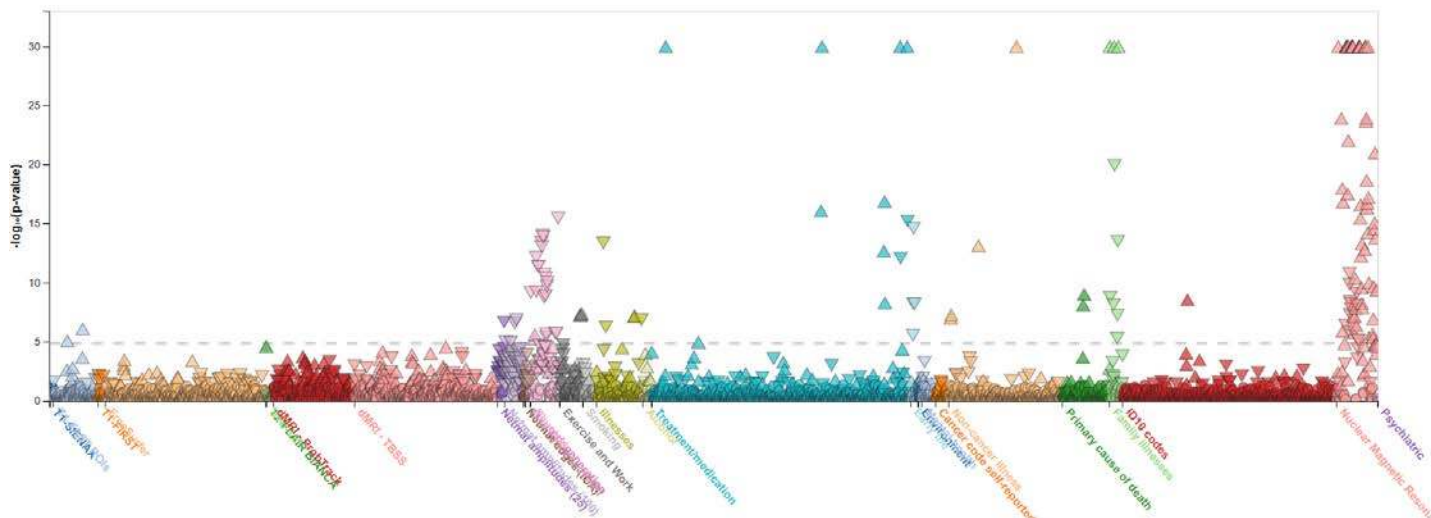


Supplementary Figure 8: Results of gene-based tissue enrichment analysis for 53 tissue types, using Model 1 for accelerometry-based PA phenotypes.

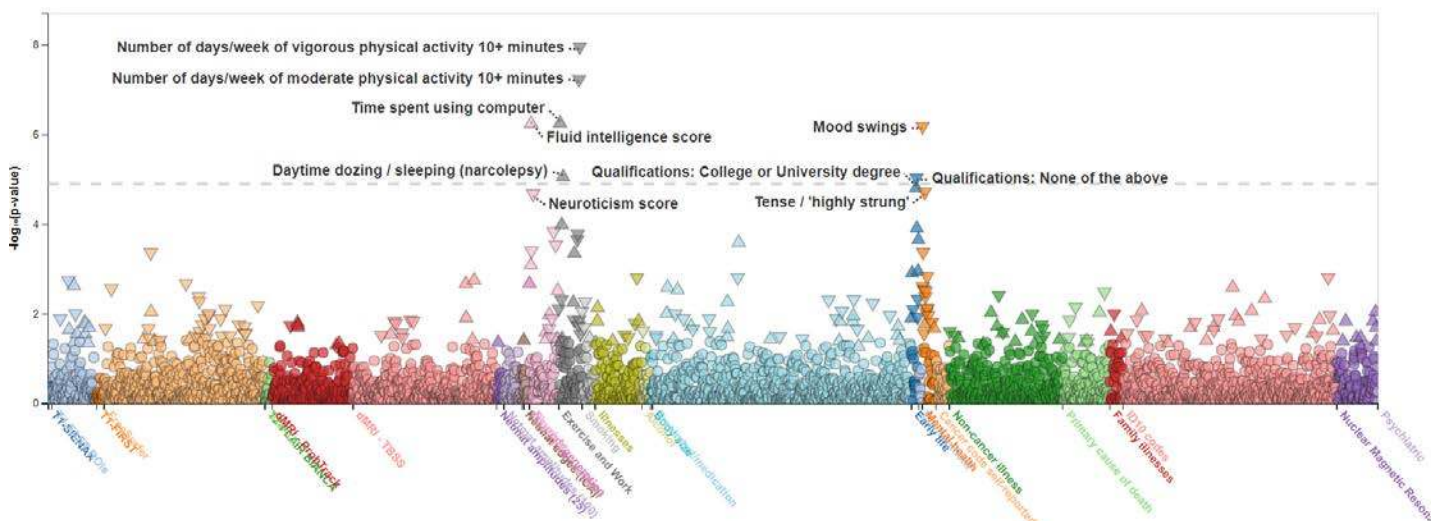


Supplementary Figure 9: Association of top PA-associated SNPs with other phenotypes in the UK Biobank (Images from the Oxford Brain Imaging Genetics (BIG) Server - version 2.0; <http://big.stats.ox.ac.uk/>)

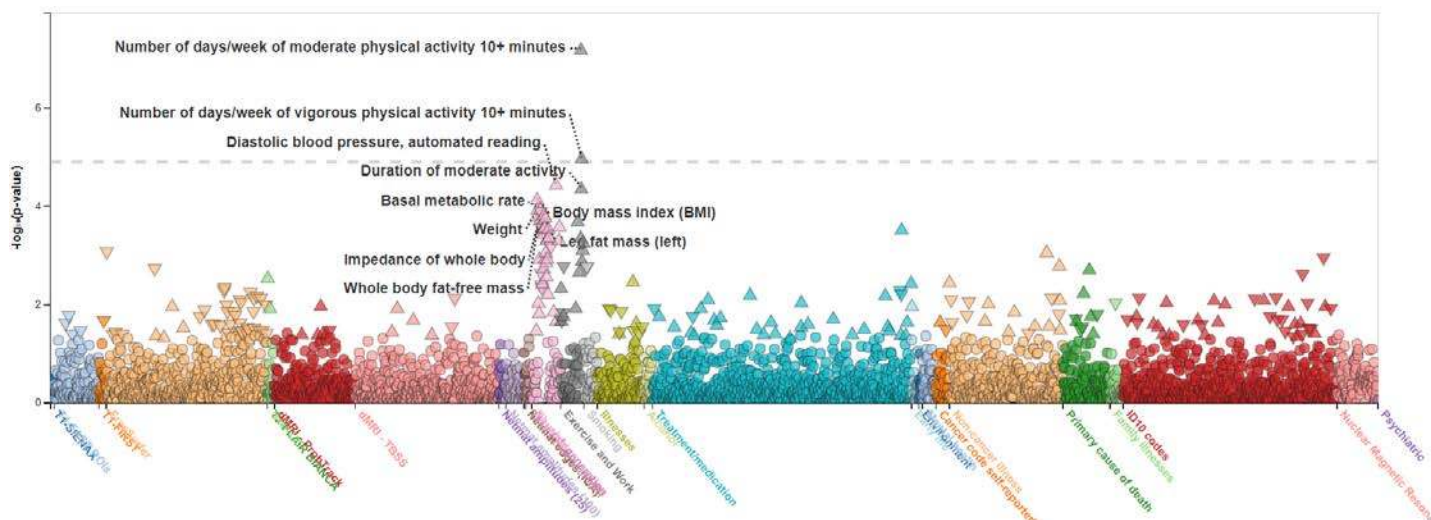
rs429358-C (*APOE*)



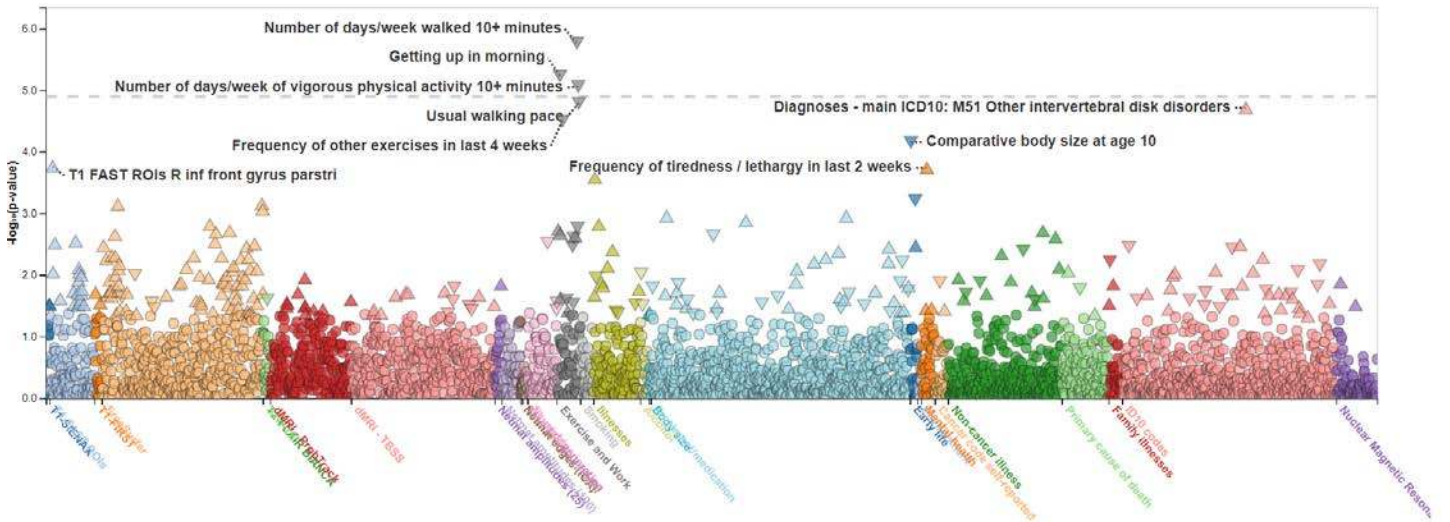
rs7804463-C (*EXOC4*)



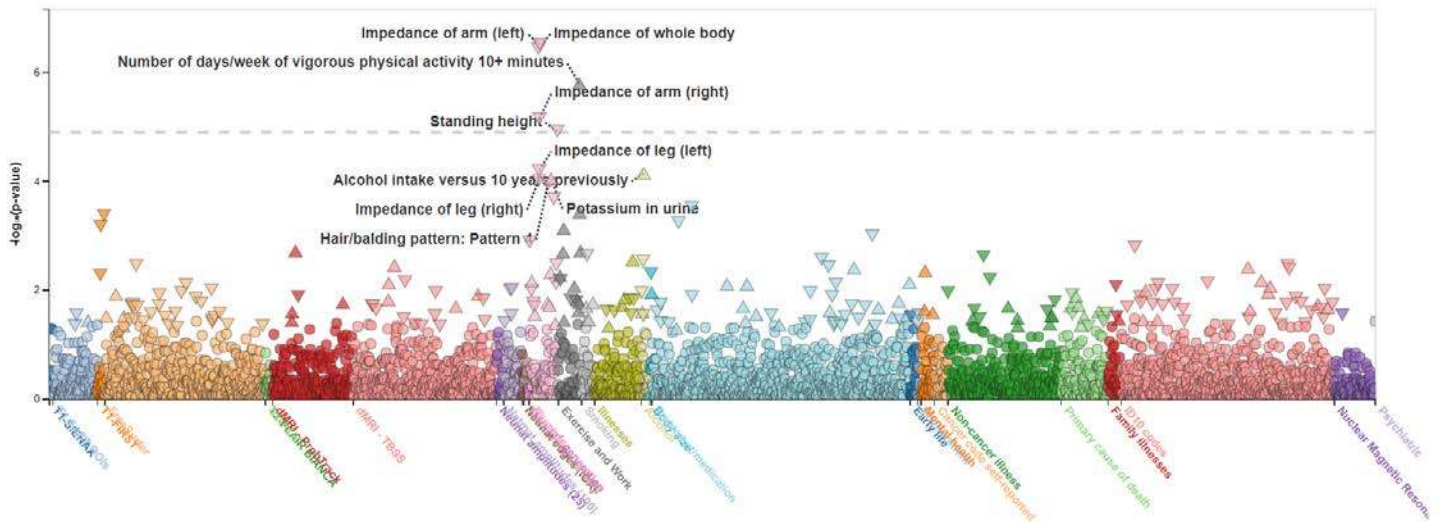
rs2988004-G (*PAX5*)



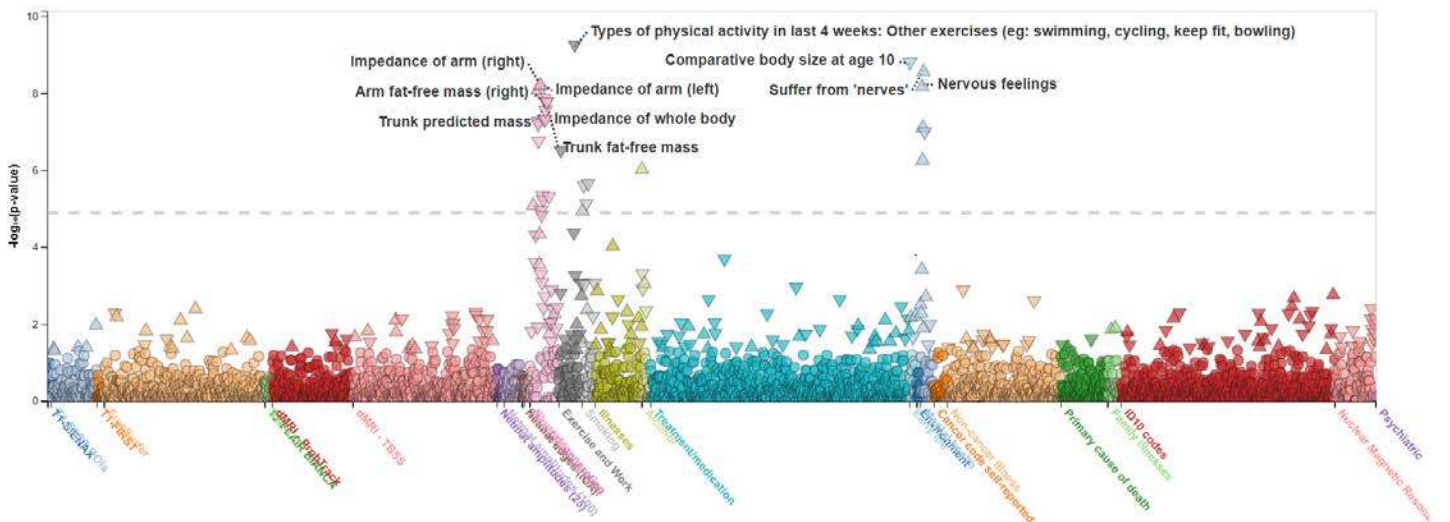
rs3781411-T (*CTBP2*)



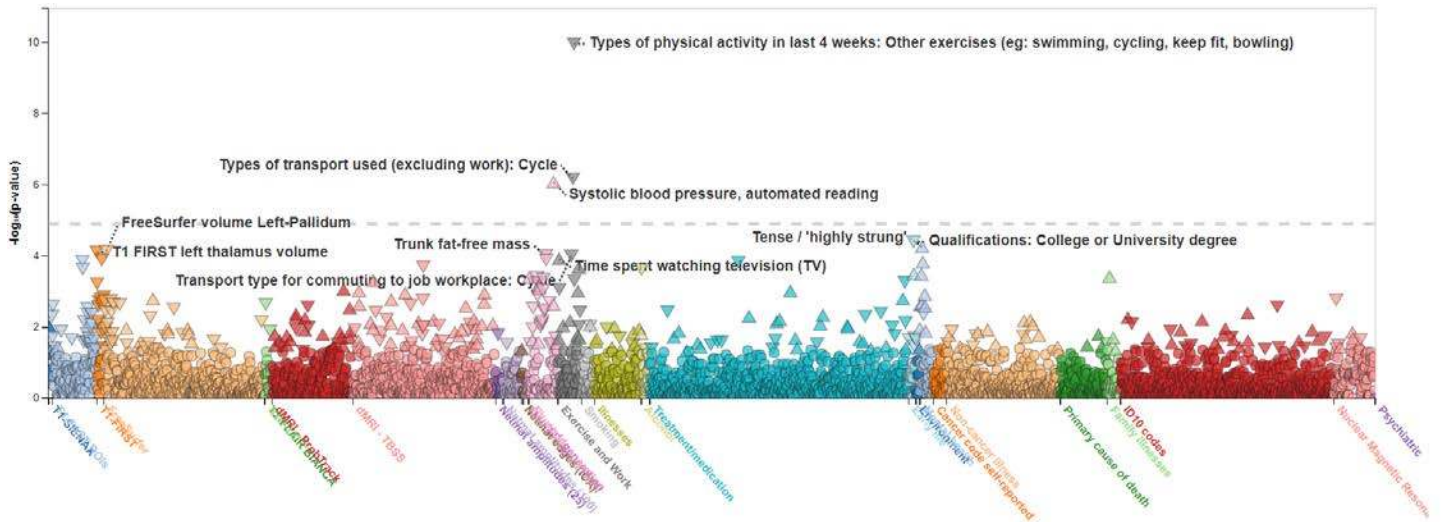
rs328902-T (*DPY19L1*)



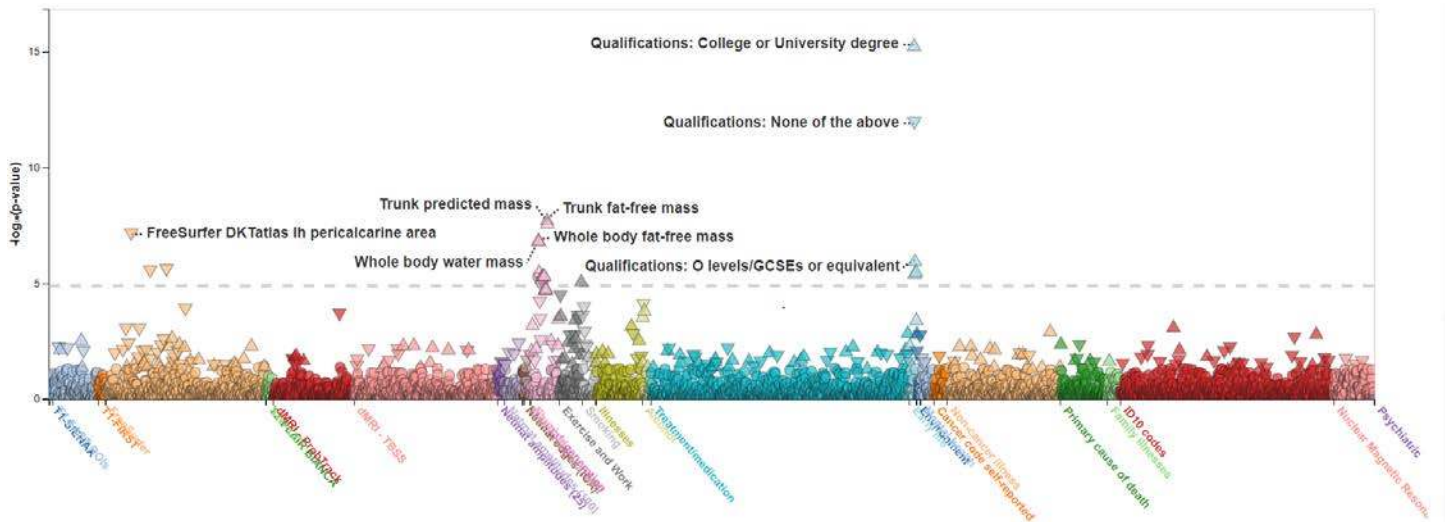
rs62253088-C (*CADM2*)



rs166840-A (*AKAP10*)



rs159544-G (*CTC-436P18.1*)



rs75930676-C (*SIPA1L1*)

