

Transferability and fine-mapping of glucose and insulin quantitative trait loci across populations: CARE, the Candidate Gene Association Resource

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Abstract

Aims/hypothesis Hyperglycaemia disproportionately affects African-Americans (AfAs). We tested the transferability of 18 single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) associated with glycaemic traits identified in European ancestry (EuA) populations in 5,984 non-diabetic AfAs.

Methods We meta-analysed SNP associations with fasting glucose (FG) or insulin (FI) in AfAs from five cohorts in the Candidate Gene Association Resource. We: (1) calculated allele frequency differences, variations in linkage disequilibrium (LD), fixation indices (F_{st}) and integrated haplotype scores (iHSs); (2) tested EuA SNPs in AfAs; and (3)

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interrogated within ± 250 kb around each EuA SNP in AfAs.

Results Allele frequency differences ranged from 0.6% to 54%. F_{st} exceeded 0.15 at 6/16 loci, indicating modest population differentiation. All iHSs were < 2 , suggesting no recent positive selection. For 18 SNPs, all directions of effect were the same and 95% CIs of association overlapped when comparing EuA with AfA. For 17 of 18 loci, at least one SNP was nominally associated with FG in AfAs. Four loci were significantly associated with FG (*GCK*, $p=5.8 \times 10^{-8}$; *MTNR1B*, $p=8.5 \times 10^{-9}$; and *FADS1*, $p=2.2 \times 10^{-4}$) or FI (*GCKR*, $p=5.9 \times 10^{-4}$). At *GCK* and *MTNR1B* the EuA and AfA SNPs represented the same signal, while at *FADS1*, and *GCKR*, the EuA and best AfA SNPs were weakly correlated ($r^2 < 0.2$), suggesting allelic heterogeneity for association with FG at these loci.

Conclusions/interpretation Few glycaemic SNPs showed strict evidence of transferability from EuA to AfAs. Four loci were significantly associated in both AfAs and those with EuA after accounting for varying LD

across ancestral groups, with new signals emerging to aid fine-mapping.

Keywords African ancestry · Genetics · Genome-wide association · LD mapping · Minorities · Type 2 diabetes

Abbreviations

AfA	African-American
ARIC	Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities
CARDIA	Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults
CARE	Candidate Gene Association Resource
CEU	HapMap 2 reference panel of Utah residents of northern and western European ancestry
CFS	Cleveland Family Study
CVD	Cardiovascular disease
DIAGRAM	The Diabetes Genetics Replication And Meta-analysis Consortium
EuA	European ancestry
FG	Fasting glucose

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FI	Fasting insulin
F_{st}	Fixation index
HOMA-B	HOMA-beta cell function
HOMA-IR	HOMA- insulin resistance
iHS	Integrated haplotype score
JHS	Jackson Heart Study
LD	Linkage disequilibrium
MAGIC	The Meta-Analyses of Glucose and Insulin-related traits Consortium
MESA	Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis
MSA	Metropolitan statistical area
NHLBI	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
SNP	Single-nucleotide polymorphism
varLD	A program for quantifying variation in linkage disequilibrium patterns between populations
YRI	HapMap 2 reference panel of residents of Yoruba in Ibadan, Nigeria

Introduction

In the USA, over 23 million people have type 2 diabetes, but minority groups such as African-Americans (AfAs) are disproportionately affected. In 2005, the prevalence of type 2 diabetes was about 28% higher in AfAs than in individuals of European ancestry (EuA), and risk for diabetes (defined by either elevated fasting glucose or HbA_{1c}) was about twice as high. By 2050, this racial disparity is projected to increase even further [1]. Racial/ethnic variation in health-related behaviours and obesity accounts for much of this disparity [2, 3], but genetic factors could also contribute [4–6].

Until recently, the majority of genetic studies of type 2 diabetes and related quantitative traits (e.g. levels of fasting glucose [FG] and fasting insulin [FI]) have been conducted in EuA populations [7, 8]. There are strong scientific reasons to expand diabetes-related genetic analyses to AfA, quite apart from the disparity caused by their exclusion from this important research frontier. No single ancestral population is sufficient to fully uncover variants contributing to disease in humans, and of all continental ancestral groups, those of African ancestry contain the richest range of genetic variation. Trans-ethnic genetic analyses can elucidate ancestral differences in common risk-allele frequencies, linkage disequilibrium (LD) patterns and variant effect size differences, as well as guide locus fine-mapping to uncover functional variants identified in EuA genetic studies [4–6, 9, 10].

Study of AfA populations is likely to be especially important to identify diabetes-related genetic variants [4, 11]. Although one recent study examined whether type 2 diabetes associations found in EuA were also associated in about 2,500 AfA individuals [12], analyses of transferability of type-2-diabetes-

associated variants from EuA to AfA populations have not so far been especially instructive, probably because of limited sample sizes and testing of tagging variants rather than functional variants in the setting of reduced LD [13–16]. On the other hand, analyses of continuously distributed quantitative traits such as FG or FI, elevations of which herald type 2 diabetes [17], offer the advantage of increased power and reduced misclassification by disease status [18]. One recent study of 927 unrelated AfAs confirmed the association of six EuA-identified variants with FG [19]. Another study of 3,024 adults reported that allele frequencies of 16 novel FG-associated single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) varied across non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks and Mexican Americans [9]. In the present study, we investigated whether testing associations of EuA-identified variants in the large Candidate Gene Association Resource (CARE) study would confirm wide risk-allele frequency variation and LD differences in AfA vs EuA and show limited EuA-associated SNP associations in AfA, but when accounting for LD, would show that most FG- or FI-associated loci are associated with diabetes-related quantitative traits in AfAs at different, generally independent, variants.

Methods

Candidate Gene Association Resource study samples

The Candidate Gene Association Resource (CARE) is a National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) shared resource for genotype association analyses comprising five parent studies with AfA participants and traits of interest. All individuals provided written informed consent for DNA studies as part of their parent study. CARE study samples are described in greater detail in Lettre et al [15]. Briefly, the studies were as follows.

Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) study is an ongoing prospective cohort study originally designed to investigate risk factors of subclinical and clinical atherosclerosis. It includes measurement of cardiovascular and diabetes risk factors. ARIC enrolled 15,792 participants, aged 45–64 years, from four field centres, and has been described in detail elsewhere [20]. This study includes only self-reported AfA participants, and all participants provide written informed consent.

Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults The Coronary Artery Risk Development in young Adults (CARDIA) study is a prospective multicentre investigation of the development and determinants of clinical and subclinical cardiovascular disease (CVD) and its risk factors. The participants were recruited from four sites and appropriate informed consent was provided [21].

Cleveland Family Study The Cleveland Family Study (CFS) is a family-based longitudinal study originally designed to investigate genetic and non-genetic risk factors for sleep apnoea [22]. For this analysis, only data from AfAs participating in the most recent examination that included a morning fasting blood draw were analysed. All participants provided written informed consent.

Jackson Heart Study The Jackson Heart Study (JHS) is a prospective population-based study of CVD among non-institutionalised AfA adults aged 21–95 years and residing in the Jackson, MS metropolitan statistical area (MSA) [23]. The final JHS cohort included 5,301 participants, equivalent to 7% of all AfAs aged 21–95 residing in the Jackson MSA¹⁷. Details of the study design and recruitment protocol have been described elsewhere [23–26]. Appropriate informed consent was provided.

Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA) is a community-based cohort study designed to investigate characteristics and risk factors for subclinical CVD. Participants were recruited from six centres and appropriate informed consent was provided. From 2000 to 2002, 6,814 participants (38% non-Hispanic white, 28% black, 12% Chinese, 22% Hispanic; aged 45–84 years) without existing clinical CVD were enrolled [27]. Only data from AfA individuals were included in this analysis.

In all studies, FG was measured using hexokinase (in mmol/l) and FI was measured using RIA or ELISA methods in serum or plasma (in $\mu\text{U/ml}$, converted into pmol/l using a conversion factor of 6).

Genotyping, imputation and principal components analysis

All samples were genotyped at the Broad Institute using the Affymetrix Genome-Wide Human SNP Array 6.0 (Affy6.0, Santa Clara, CA, USA). Quality-control steps were performed centrally by the CARE analytical group at the Broad Institute [15]. Imputation was conducted centrally at the Broad Institute with MACH 1.0.16 using the HapMap 2 reference panel of Utah residents of northern and western European ancestry (CEU) and the Yoruba in Ibadan, Nigeria (YRI). The allelic concordance rate, defined as $1 - 1/2 * |\text{imputed_dosage} - \text{genotyped_dosage}|$ based on the CEU+YRI panel, was 95.6%, comparable with rates for individuals of African descent imputed with HapMap 2 YRI individuals [15]. Filters applied to the imputation data were based on the imputation quality measure RSQ_HAT with a threshold of >0.3 and a minor allele frequency threshold of >0.01 . Ancestry principal components (PCs) were generated using EIGENSTRAT (<http://genepath.med.harvard.edu/~reich/EIGENSTRAT.htm>).

Allele frequency differences and natural selection

We used several approaches to evaluate population differentiation and natural selection at index SNPs. First, we assessed index SNP allele-frequency differences in CARE comparing individuals of EuA vs AfA by calculating the absolute value of (index-risk-allele frequency in EuA – index-risk-allele frequency in AfA), using the trait-raising allele in EuA as the risk allele. Second, we calculated Wright's fixation index (F_{st}) to assess the degree of population differentiation as reflected by divergent allele frequencies. We calculated F_{st} using CARE risk-allele frequencies for AfAs, and the Meta-Analyses of Glucose and Insulin-related traits Consortium (MAGIC) [8] risk-allele frequencies for those of EuA, but because the EuA sample size (46,186) was about seven times the AfA sample size, potentially obscuring population differentiation at any locus, we also calculated the F_{st} using CEU and YRI HapMap 2 data for which the sample sizes are similar. Third, we calculated the integrated haplotype score (iHS) in HapMap 2 data to assess evidence for recent positive selection at the index SNP. F_{st} and iHS were calculated using Haplotter [28]. We used varLD (a program for quantifying variation in linkage disequilibrium patterns between populations) to compare EuA vs AfA regional LD patterns. The approach quantifies genomic regions carrying dissimilar patterns of LD, regions at which different haplotypes, structural variants and signs of positive selection may be particularly common [29].

Statistical analysis to generate SNP-trait-association results

We tested SNP associations with quantitative traits in each cohort according to a uniform protocol. The primary study traits were FG and FI; in secondary analyses we also tested associations with HOMA-insulin resistance (HOMA-IR) and HOMA-beta cell function (HOMA-B) [30]. FI and HOMA were analysed on the natural log scale. Ancestry PCs were created in each study; as just the first two PCs were associated with FG ($p < 0.005$) these were used as covariates in each study to control population stratification. Genomic control correction based on median χ^2 value was calculated across all loci in the genome-wide association study (GWAS) data within each study to adjust for inflation of test statistics. Traits were analysed using linear regression under an additive genetic model, adjusted for age, age², sex, study site (if applicable) and the first two PCs; relatedness was accounted for when necessary using linear mixed effect (LME) models. PLINK (<http://pngu.mgh.harvard.edu/~purcell/PLINK/>) and R (v2.9.0) were used for data management and statistical analyses. We performed fixed-effect meta-analyses on study-specific genome-wide association results to generate a combined association effect estimate for each SNP using the inverse-variance weighted approach in

METAL (a tool for meta-analysis of genome-wide association scans) [31]. Nominal significance was defined as a SNP association p value <0.05 . We estimated the power of the sample to detect additive SNP-FG (in mmol/l) associations, using the detectable effect size as the 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles of the distribution of β coefficients seen in Dupuis et al [8]. At $n \sim 6,000$ and $\alpha = 4.05 \times 10^{-5}$, we had low power to detect all but the largest effect sizes (electronic supplementary material [ESM] Fig. 1).

Interrogation of transferability

We defined SNP transferability as an EuA index SNP having the same direction of association with the quantitative trait and a p value <0.05 in AfA individuals, and locus transferability as a locus containing any SNPs significantly associated with the quantitative trait in AfAs, with significance defined as any SNP with a p value <0.05 after accounting for the effective number of tests at the locus. We took two approaches to investigate transferability of EuA quantitative trait-associated SNPs and loci in AfA. First, we tested index SNPs reported to be associated with FG or FI at genome-wide significance (5×10^{-8}) in EuA individuals in the MAGIC study [8]. We also tested replicated significant type 2 diabetes SNPs [32–36] that had consistent nominal associations with FG or FI in the Diabetes Genetics Replication and Meta-analysis Consortium (DIAGRAM) or MAGIC studies [7, 8]. Second, we searched for the best SNPs in AfAs accounting for differences in regional LD structure in AfAs vs those with EuA by interrogating the flanking 250 kb regions on each side of the index SNP, with the best SNP defined as the SNP with the smallest FG or FI association p value in the region in AfA individuals. Note that we treated each region independently in this follow-up study of regions that had a higher prior probability of association with the trait of interest than the genomic average, based on previously reported associations in Europeans. As the results for any one region had no inferential bearing on the results for any other region, we made region-wide (not genome-wide) corrections to adjust for multiple comparisons. For a locus, the significance of the identified best SNPs was evaluated using a Bonferroni correction adjusting for the effective number of tests within that locus, estimated using the Li and Ji algorithm [37].

Results

We analysed data from 5,984 (FG) to 5,969 (FI) non-diabetic AfA individuals from five CARE participating cohorts (Table 1). About 40% within each cohort were men and cohorts had a similar mean FG levels (range from 4.5 to 5.4 mmol/l). Mean age ranged more widely (from

24.4 to 61.7 years) across cohorts, as did mean FI (from 40.6 to 97.8 pmol/l).

Allele frequency differences and natural selection

As observed for quantitative glycaemic traits, index SNP allele-frequency differences between those of EuA and AfAs had a wide range (Table 2). F_{st} exceeded 0.15 at 1/18 loci in CARE but at 6/18 loci in HapMap 2, indicating modest population differentiation based on allele frequency differences at *ADRA2A*, *CRY2*, *PROX1*, *FADS1*, *IGF1* and *C2CD4B*. The absolute values of all iHSs were <2 , suggesting no recent strong positive selection at any locus. For the *FADS1* and *G6PC2* loci at which the index and best SNPs were weakly correlated, the varLD scores were elevated in AfAs, suggesting allelic heterogeneity of tag SNPs for causal variants or other forms of variation, such as copy number variations (Fig. 1).

Interrogation of EuA FG- and FI-associated loci in AfAs

Trait-raising allele frequencies of EuA index SNPs in AfAs varied widely, from a minimum of a 0.6% difference (*TCF7L2*) up to a 54% difference (*ADRA2*) between ancestry groups (Table 3). Of EuA index SNPs tested directly in AfAs, all 18 were directionally consistent; three of the 18 were nominally ($p < 0.05$) associated with FG and one with FI. In addition, all of the published 95% CIs around point estimates for association of index SNPs in those of EuA overlapped with those tested here in AfAs. We also performed formal heterogeneity tests comparing effects in EuAs with effects in AfAs. Heterogeneity tests yielded only one nominally significant result for rs10830963 (p value = 4.26×10^{-2} at *MTNR1B*), indicating that the effect sizes in those of EuA vs AfAs for at least 17 index SNPs were not statistically different.

Further, in the ± 250 kb flanking regions around index SNPs (Table 4), nearly all (17 of 18) had a best SNP nominally significant in AfAs, and four (at *GCK*, *MTNR1B* and *FADS1* for FG and *GCKR* for FI) had SNPs that remained significantly associated after adjusting for the effective number of SNPs tested within the regions. At 15 of 18 loci in AfAs, the index SNP and the best SNP were not in substantial LD (all $r^2 < 0.2$ in AfAs). At *GCK*, *MTNR1B* and *CRY2*, the index and best SNPs were in strong LD or were the same SNP. Of the best AfA SNPs, five of 18 (at *G6PC2*, *GCKR*, *GCK*, *MTNR1B* and *CRY2*) were also at least nominally associated ($p < 0.05$) with FG or FI in those of EuA in the MAGIC data (ESM Table 1).

Associations with HOMA-B (for FG loci) and with HOMA-IR (for FI loci) for both the index SNPs and the best FG or FI SNPs are shown in ESM Tables 2 and 3. Seven SNPs out of 16 EuA FG index SNPs showed nominally significant association with HOMA-B in AfAs, while

Table 1 Characteristics of five CARE cohorts

Cohort	ARIC (<i>n</i> =1,734)	CARDIA (<i>n</i> =930)	CFS (<i>n</i> =272)	JHS (<i>n</i> =1,707)	MESA (<i>n</i> =1,341)
Men, <i>n</i> (%)	649 (37.4)	362 (38.9)	104 (38.2)	682 (40.0)	596 (44.4)
Age (years)	53±5.8	24±3.9	36±17.7	49±12.1	62±10.3
FG (mmol/l)	5.4±0.5	4.5±0.48	5.1±0.54	5±0.5	5±0.6
FI (pmol/l) ^a	89.1±65.7	75.1±52.7	84.2±69.5	97.8±55.6	40.6±27.8
HOMA-B ^b	160.7±110.1	290.6±248.3	187.4±193.1	229.9±129.7	95.8±65.6
HOMA-IR ^b	3.6±2.9	2.6±1.9	3.3±2.8	3.7±2.4	1.6±1.2

Data are mean±SD unless otherwise specified

^a 1 pmol/l=6 µU/ml for insulin

^b Numbers of missing individuals for HOMA-B and HOMA-IR: ARIC, 9; CARDIA, 17; CFS, 1; JHS, 0; MESA, 4

three best AfA SNPs reached nominal significance. Neither of two EuA FI index SNPs were nominally significant, while the best AfA FI SNPs at both loci were nominally significant (at *GCKR* and *IGF1*).

Interrogation of FG or FI-associated type 2 diabetes loci in AfAs

Fourteen of the ~40 known type 2 diabetes loci have also been nominally associated with FG or FI in individuals of EuA [7, 8]. Of these 14, only *TP53INP1* was directionally consistent and nominally associated with FG in AfAs (Table 5). Overall, 8/14 index EuA SNPs had directionally consistent FG associations in AfAs, ten out of 13 best AfA SNPs (one SNP was monomorphic in AfA) showed 95% CIs that overlapped with EuA index SNPs in AfA and eight out of 13 best AfA SNPs did not reach nominal significance level in formal heterogeneity tests comparing those of EuA with AfAs. Note that the loci *MTNR1B* (*p* value=1.38×10⁻⁶ for index SNP rs1381753) is again among the loci (*THADA*, *ADAMTS9*, *HHEX* and *KCNQ1*) with heterogeneous effect (Table 5) and its allelic effect of 0.060 is remarkably larger in the sample of EuA compared with 0.008 in the sample of AfAs. After accounting for ancestral LD by querying SNPs flanking the index SNP, all 14 best SNPs around the 14 index SNPs showed nominally significant associations in AfAs, and four of these best SNPs (at *KCNQ1*, *MTNR1B*, *ADAMTS9* and *CDC123/CAMK1D*) remained significantly associated with FG after adjusting for multiple comparisons (Table 6 and ESM Fig. 2). At all 14 loci the best SNP was in low LD with the index SNP (all *r*²<0.2). The best SNPs at *ZBED3*, *TP53INP1*, *KCNQ1* and *MTNR1B* in AfAs were nominally associated with FG in EuA individuals in the MAGIC data (ESM Table 1).

Discussion

We found that among 18 index SNPs robustly associated with glycaemic quantitative traits in the MAGIC EuA

populations, just three SNPs (at *GCK*, *MTNR1B* and *G6PC2* for FG) were directly transferrable to the ~6,000 AfA individuals from five separate cohorts in CARE, but all 18 published 95% CIs around association-point estimates in MAGIC overlapped with the CIs based on associations in AfAs. However, after accounting for ancestral differences in LD by searching more broadly in regions flanking the EuA index SNP, 17 of 18 loci were nominally associated with FG or FI in AfAs, and SNPs at four of these loci (*GCK*, *MTNR1B* and *FADS1* for FG and *GCKR* for FI) remained significantly associated with FG or FI in AfAs after accounting for multiple comparisons. For FG-associated type 2 diabetes SNPs discovered in EuA populations, only one (*TP53INP1*) was directly transferable to AfAs, but ten of 13 published 95% CIs overlapped with the CIs based on associations in AfA. These overlapping intervals indicate that the trait-raising allelic effects for glycaemic loci are similar in individuals of EuA and AfAs. Four FG-associated type 2 diabetes loci (*ADAMTS9*, *CDC123/CAMK1D*, *KCNQ1* and *MTNR1B*) had a best AfA SNP significantly associated with FG in AfAs after adjusting for multiple comparisons. As expected, allele frequencies and regional LD varied widely: there was evidence of modest population differentiation for six index SNPs (including *FADS1*), but none showed evidence of recent positive selection. These results provide evidence that some genetic loci associated with glycaemic regulation are reproducibly shared across human populations, with a suggestion of potential transferability for most loci, at least for individuals of European or African ancestry. The data also provide evidence for allelic heterogeneity at many loci and evidence for shared haplotypes with proximity of an index SNP with a functional variant at several loci.

These results illustrate the value of examining AfA cohorts for fine-mapping. Where there is strong LD between the index SNP and the best SNP, association with FG in an ancestral group with reduced LD increases confidence that the index signal is on the same haplotype or is otherwise close to a functional mutation (*GCK*, *MTNR1B* and *CRY2*). For instance, at *MTNR1B*, the FG–type 2 diabetes signal is

Table 2 Allele frequency differences, F_{st} s and iHSs in AFA and EuA populations

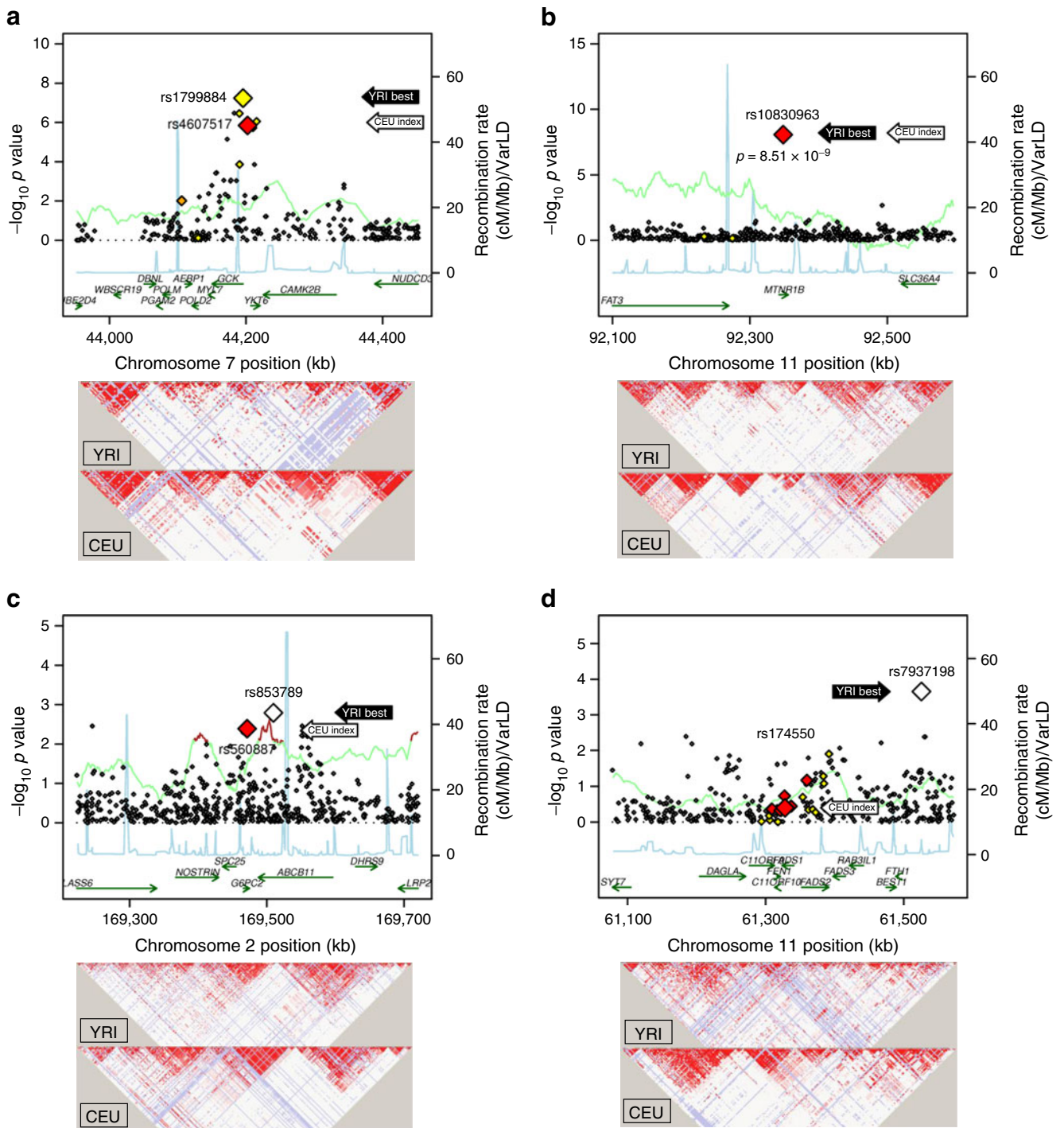
Nearest gene(s)	SNP	Alleles ^a	EUA EAF ^b	AFA EAF ^b	CARe (EAF EuA–AFA)	<i>p</i> value for EAF difference ^c	F_{st} CARe	EAF HapMap 2 CEU	EAF HapMap 2 YRI	F_{st} HapMap 2 CEU vs YRI	iHS HapMap 2 CEU	iHS HapMap 2 YRI
FG-associated loci												
<i>PROX1</i>	rs340874	C/T	0.520	0.169	0.351	$<1 \times 10^{-384}$	0.051	0.508	0.092	0.207	-0.06	-0.09
<i>G6PC2</i>	rs560887	C/T	0.700	0.943	0.243	$<1 \times 10^{-384}$	0.031	0.700	1.000	–	-0.26	–
<i>GCKR</i>	rs780094	C/T	0.620	0.817	0.197	8.78×10^{-196}	0.017	0.617	0.883	0.095	-0.39	0.14
<i>ADCY5</i>	rs11708067	A/G	0.780	0.843	0.063	3.68×10^{-29}	0.002	0.783	0.917	0.035	-0.36	-0.79
<i>SLC2A2</i>	rs11920090	T/A	0.870	0.645	0.225	$<1 \times 10^{-384}$	0.040	0.853	0.667	0.051	1.17	0.60
<i>GCK</i>	rs4607517	A/G	0.160	0.101	0.059	6.49×10^{-33}	0.003	0.200	0.059	0.045	-0.26	-0.20
<i>DGKB</i>	rs2191349	T/G	0.520	0.593	0.073	1.60×10^{-26}	0.002	0.467	0.593	0.016	-0.13	-0.07
<i>TMEM195</i>												
<i>SLC30A8</i>	rs13266634	C/T	0.680	0.908	0.228	2.96×10^{-290}	0.026	0.750	0.942	0.070	-1.87	-0.55
<i>GLIS3</i>	rs7034200	A/C	0.490	0.630	0.140	3.79×10^{-92}	0.008	0.525	0.585	0.003	0.47	-0.24
<i>ADRA2A</i>	rs10885122	G/T	0.870	0.334	0.537	$<1 \times 10^{-384}$	0.191	0.900	0.217	0.484	-0.23	-0.25
<i>TCF7L2</i>	rs7903146	T/C	0.290	0.284	0.006	3.20×10^{-1}	0.000	0.250	0.292	0.002	0.09	-0.27
<i>MTNR1B</i>	rs10830963	G/C	0.300	0.073	0.227	$<1 \times 10^{-384}$	0.027	0.300	0.050	0.108	-0.05	-0.55
<i>MADD</i>	rs7944584	A/T	0.750	0.950	0.200	2.27×10^{-254}	0.024	0.692	1.000	–	-0.31	–
<i>FADS1</i>	rs174550	T/C	0.640	0.916	0.276	$<1 \times 10^{-384}$	0.036	0.633	0.983	0.198	-0.62	–
<i>CRY2</i>	rs11605924	A/C	0.490	0.867	0.377	$<1 \times 10^{-384}$	0.059	0.542	0.941	0.209	-1.50	-1.02
<i>C2CD4B</i>	rs11071657	A/G	0.630	0.868	0.238	4.61×10^{-292}	0.026	0.592	0.942	0.171	1.07	-1.65
FI-associated loci												
<i>GCKR</i>	rs780094	C/T	0.620	0.817	0.197	2.70×10^{-192}	0.020	0.617	0.883	0.095	-0.39	0.14
<i>IGF1</i>	rs35767	G/A	0.850	0.570	0.280	$<1 \times 10^{-384}$	0.061	0.900	0.525	0.172	-1.290	0.374

The loci in this table were obtained from Dupuis et al (2010) [8]

^a Effect (trait-raising)/other allele

^b EAF, effect allele frequency

^c *P* value for testing whether the effect allele frequency EAF in AfAs is the same as the effect allele frequency in EuA populations



the same for both those of EuA and AfAs (rs10830963). Where there is weak LD between the index SNP and the best SNP (all other loci in AfAs), there are two alternative explanations: (1) these SNPs represent independent signals where the index and best SNPs were significant in only one population (population-specific allelic heterogeneity); or (2) they share LD with a tagged untyped functional SNP in the region where the differential LD pattern between those of EuA and AfAs can focus fine-mapping of the association

signal. For instance, at *G6PC2* in EuA the FG index SNP (rs560887) and best SNP (rs853789) are in strong LD with a known functional SNP (rs13431652; r^2 with rs560887 in CEU=0.923, r^2 with rs853789 in CEU=0.595) [38], but AfA rs853789 is not correlated with rs13431652 (r^2 in YRI=0.004). *KCNQ1* also demonstrates multiple independent signals identified in different ancestry groups [7, 39, 40]. Variation in LD structure across these ancestral groups has focused regions of interest and identified new signals

Fig. 1 500 kb regional association plots centred at the index SNPs identified from EuA samples at *GCK*, *MTNR1B*, *FADS1* and *G6PC2*. The x-axis denotes genomic position and the y-axis denotes the $-\log(p)$ value for each SNP. The two larger-sized data points represent the best SNPs within the region in the AfA CARE sample (black arrows) and the index SNPs (white arrows, locating the centre of the region) previously reported from EuA population samples. The colour of each data point indicates its LD value (r^2) with the index SNP based on HapMap 2 YRI: white, $r^2=0.0-0.2$; yellow, $r^2=0.2-0.5$; orange, $r^2=0.5-0.8$; red, $r^2=0.8-1.0$. The blue line represents the recombination rate. The green line shows the varLD score at each SNP and is highlighted with dark brown if the varLD score is ≥ 95 th percentile of the genome-wide varLD score, comparing LD information between YRI and CEU HapMap 2 samples [29]. **(a)** *GCK* region: the index SNP rs4607517 has a p value of 1.42×10^{-6} in AfA CARE individuals, while the best SNP rs1799884 has a p value of 5.79×10^{-8} . Their r^2 values are 0.469 in HapMap 2 YRI and 1.0 in HapMap 2 CEU. **(b)** *MTNR1B* region: rs10830963 is the index SNP and the best SNP within the region in AfA CARE individuals, with a p value of 8.51×10^{-9} . **(c)** *G6PC2* region: the index SNP rs560887 has a p value of 4.08×10^{-3} in AfA CARE individuals and the best SNP rs853789 has a p value of 1.62×10^{-3} . The r^2 value is not known in HapMap 2 YRI and is 0.692 in HapMap 2 CEU. A known functional SNP in the region, rs13431652 [38], has $r^2=0.923$ with rs560887 and $r^2=0.595$ with rs853789 in HapMap 2 CEU, but in HapMap 2 YRI the r^2 of rs13431652 with rs853789 is 0.004. **(d)** *FADS1* region: the index SNP rs174550 has a p value of 0.399 in AfA CARE individuals and the best SNP rs7937198 has a p value of 2.22×10^{-4} . Their r^2 values are 0.00 in HapMap 2 YRI and 0.24 in HapMap 2 CEU

that may aid future fine-mapping to identify functional variants involved in FG and FI regulation.

Just one paper has investigated the transferability of EuA diabetes-related quantitative trait loci in AfAs. Ramos et al examined the index and correlated SNPs ($r^2 \geq 0.3$ in CEU) for 16 fasting glucose loci reported by MAGIC in 927 AfAs [19], demonstrating associations of index and/or correlated SNPs at *TMEM195* (also known as *AGMO*), *SLC30A8*, *TCF7L2*, *G6PC2*, *GCKR* and *MTNR1B*. This is consistent with our index SNP association results at *G6PC2* and *MTNR1B* and regional association at *GCKR*. In addition, the direction and magnitude of effect of the T allele in rs2191349 at *TMEM195* were comparable ($\beta=0.014$ [Ramos] vs 0.016 [this study]), despite not reaching significance in this study. Taken together with the significant association of AfA best SNPs at *GCKR*, *GCK* and *MTNR1B* with FG or FI in EuA populations in MAGIC, the loci *GCKR*, *GCK* and *MTNR1B* appear likely to share the same causal variant(s) in populations with EuA and AfAs. Differences in LD such as those found at *GCK* and *GCKR* between those with EuA and AfAs also facilitate the fine-mapping of causal variants in these loci. The associations of independent SNPs at *G6PC2* and *FADS1* in EuA populations and AfAs probably point to distinct signals requiring further study.

Our data add to the list of glycaemic loci confirmed and informatively fine-mapped by cross-ancestry analyses [41–43]. For instance, at *KCNQ1*, studies in South and East Asian populations identified the type-2-diabetes-associated

SNPs rs2237892, rs2237895 and rs2237897 [39, 40], weakly correlated with the signal seen in EuA populations (rs231362) [7]. Here, we add an FG-associated signal in AfAs (rs2011766), bringing to five the total number of apparently independent signals at *KCNQ1* associated with glycaemia in humans. SNP rs2011766 is intronic and is in very weak LD with the other SNPs in the 1,000 Genomes Pilot 1 reference panel: rs231362 vs rs2011766, $r^2=0.06$; rs2011766 vs rs2237895 $r^2=0.03$; and rs2011766 vs rs2237892 $r^2=0.02$. However, rs2011766 does not appear to be a type-2-diabetes-risk locus, with an odds ratio for type 2 diabetes in the DIAGRAM discovery meta-analysis of 1.04 ($p=0.19$) [7]. Multi-ethnic allelic heterogeneity in association with FG or type 2 diabetes has also been reported for the *C2CD4A/B* locus [44]. Other loci at which cross-ancestry fine-mapping has confirmed the index SNP to be the same in EuA populations and AfAs are *TCF7L2* [10, 13, 45, 46], *PPARG*, *IGF2BP2*, *JAZF1* [12] and *FTO* [47].

Type 2 diabetes disproportionately affects AfAs. This differential risk may be due partly to genetic factors [5]. Most AfAs have differential mixed ancestry from Western Africa and Europe [48]. AfA genetic architectures are substantially different and generally have lower LD compared with other US populations [5], which is theoretically able to assist fine-mapping of causal variants. Our observation of large differences in risk-allele frequency and high F_{st} between AfAs and EuA populations at some SNPs is consistent with studies of other complex-disease-associated SNPs [4, 49]. Differences in risk-allele frequencies or in ability to increase FG (ancestral vs derived allele) did not seem to have strong impact on the association as supported by many of the loci showing transferability with similar effect sizes in AfAs [16]; of 18 glycaemic loci, only SNPs at *FADS1* had evidence of population differentiation and significant association with FG at weakly correlated EuA and AfA signals. A limitation of our study is that lower risk-allele frequencies at some loci may be due to insufficient study power. In addition, lack of transferability may arise from the confounding effects of social and environmental risk exposures that vary across populations and that have not been considered here [50–52].

Conclusions

Cross-ancestry studies can show new population-specific risk variants and confirm shared risk variants. Allele frequencies and LD variation influence power and the ability to resolve the signal to a smaller region containing possible functional variants. In the AfA CARE cohort of ~6,000 person, there was substantial allele frequency variation but modest EuA index SNP transferability. However, most glycaemia-associated loci showed at least nominal evidence

Table 3 Transferability to AfAs of FG- and FI-related loci previously reported in EuA populations

Nearest gene(s)	Index SNP	Chr.	Position	Alleles ^b	EuA association			AfA association for index SNP			Heterogeneity ^a	
					EAF	Effect (mmol/l per effect allele)	95% CI	EAF	Effect (mmol/l per effect allele)	95% CI	p value	p value
FG-associated loci												
<i>PROXI</i>	rs340874	1	212225879	C/T	0.520	0.013	0.007, 0.019	0.169	0.006	-0.020, 0.031	6.63×10^{-1}	6.00×10^{-1}
<i>G6PC2</i>	rs560887	2	169471394	C/T	0.700	0.075	0.069, 0.081	0.943	0.060	0.019, 0.100	4.08×10^{-3}	4.80×10^{-1}
<i>GCKR</i>	rs780094	2	27594741	C/T	0.620	0.029	0.023, 0.035	0.817	0.022	-0.002, 0.046	7.05×10^{-2}	5.72×10^{-1}
<i>ADCY5</i>	rs11708067	3	124548468	A/G	0.780	0.027	0.021, 0.033	0.843	0.015	-0.010, 0.041	2.31×10^{-1}	3.68×10^{-1}
<i>SLC2A2</i>	rs11920090	3	172200215	T/A	0.870	0.020	0.012, 0.028	0.645	0.005	-0.014, 0.025	5.81×10^{-1}	1.64×10^{-1}
<i>GCK</i>	rs4607517	7	44202193	A/G	0.160	0.062	0.054, 0.070	0.101	0.084	0.050, 0.118	1.42×10^{-6}	2.09×10^{-1}
<i>DGKB-TMEM195</i>	rs2191349	7	15030834	T/G	0.520	0.030	0.024, 0.036	0.593	0.016	-0.003, 0.036	1.02×10^{-1}	1.80×10^{-1}
<i>SLC30A8</i>	rs13266634	8	118253964	C/T	0.680	0.027	0.019, 0.035	0.908	0.004	-0.030, 0.038	8.16×10^{-1}	1.88×10^{-1}
<i>GLIS3</i>	rs7034200	9	4279050	A/C	0.490	0.018	0.012, 0.024	0.630	0.018	-0.001, 0.037	6.15×10^{-2}	1.00×10^{-0}
<i>ADRA2A</i>	rs10885122	10	113032083	G/T	0.870	0.022	0.014, 0.030	0.334	0.006	-0.014, 0.026	5.68×10^{-1}	1.37×10^{-1}
<i>TCF7L2</i>	rs7903146	10	114748339	T/C	0.290	0.023	0.015, 0.031	0.284	0.013	-0.010, 0.035	2.63×10^{-1}	3.93×10^{-1}
<i>MTNR1B</i>	rs10830963	11	92348358	G/C	0.300	0.067	0.061, 0.073	0.073	0.104	0.069, 0.139	8.51×10^{-9}	4.26×10^{-2}
<i>MADD</i>	rs7944584	11	47292896	A/T	0.750	0.021	0.015, 0.027	0.950	0.017	-0.024, 0.059	4.18×10^{-1}	8.50×10^{-1}
<i>FADS1</i>	rs174550	11	61328054	T/C	0.640	0.017	0.011, 0.023	0.916	0.014	-0.019, 0.048	3.99×10^{-1}	8.62×10^{-1}
<i>CRY2</i>	rs11605924	11	45829667	A/C	0.490	0.015	0.009, 0.021	0.867	0.016	-0.012, 0.043	2.71×10^{-1}	9.44×10^{-1}
<i>C2CD4B</i>	rs11071657	15	60221254	A/G	0.630	0.008	0.002, 0.014	0.868	0.006	-0.027, 0.038	7.37×10^{-1}	9.08×10^{-1}
FI-associated loci												
<i>GCKR</i>	rs780094	2	27594741	C/T	0.620	0.032	0.024, 0.040	0.817	0.025	-0.00, 0.053	7.67×10^{-2}	6.31×10^{-1}
<i>IGF1</i>	rs35767	12	101399699	G/A	0.850	0.010	-0.002, 0.022	0.570	0.001	-0.022, 0.023	9.49×10^{-1}	5.02×10^{-1}

The loci in this table were all obtained from Dupuis et al (2010) [8]

^a Heterogeneity test of the β coefficients for EuA populations and AfAs

^b Effect (trait-raising)/other allele

Chr chromosome; EAF effect allele frequency

Table 4 Regional interrogation in AfAs for FG- and FI-related loci previously reported in EuA populations

Nearest gene(s)	Interrogation in AfA within 500 kb region of index SNP												
	Index SNP in EuA	Best SNP in AfA	Position	LD ^a in YRI (<i>r</i> ² (D'))	LD ^b in CEU (<i>r</i> ² (D'))	Alleles ^c	EAF	Effect (mmol/l) per effect allele)	SE	95% CI	<i>p</i> value	Eff. N ^d	Adjusted <i>p</i> value
FG-associated loci													
<i>PROX1</i>	rs340874	rs7519597	212261507	0.004 (1.000)	N/A	T/C	0.038	-0.0879	0.0276	-0.142, -0.034	1.42 × 10 ⁻³	90	1.28 × 10 ⁻¹
<i>G6PC2</i>	rs560887	rs853789	169509734	N/A	0.692 (0.916)	A/G	0.105	-0.0494	0.0157	-0.080, -0.019	1.62 × 10 ⁻³	105	1.70 × 10 ⁻¹
<i>GCKR</i>	rs780094	rs7586601	27438170	0.169 (0.491)	0.549 (0.956)	A/G	0.239	-0.0303	0.0111	-0.052, -0.009	6.64 × 10 ⁻³	22	1.46 × 10 ⁻¹
<i>ADCY5</i>	rs11708067	rs10934645	124552510	0.009 (1.000)	0.022 (1.000)	A/G	0.091	0.0573	0.0184	0.021, 0.093	1.86 × 10 ⁻³	66	1.23 × 10 ⁻¹
<i>SLC2A2</i>	rs11920090	rs9827202	172296993	0.005 (0.105)	0.000 (0.118)	T/C	0.443	0.0274	0.0100	0.008, 0.047	5.86 × 10 ⁻³	65	3.81 × 10 ⁻¹
<i>GCK</i>	rs4607517	rs1799884	44195593	0.469 (1.000)	0.003 (0.196)	T/C	0.177	0.0659	0.0121	0.042, 0.090	5.79 × 10 ⁻⁸	34	1.97 × 10 ⁻⁶
<i>DGKB-TMEM195</i>	rs2191349	rs17327498	15111235	0.001 (0.184)	0.003 (0.196)	A/G	0.972	0.1132	0.0343	0.046, 0.180	9.66 × 10 ⁻⁴	90	8.69 × 10 ⁻²
<i>SLC30A8</i>	rs13266634	rs2649098	118304453	0.008 (1.000)	0.004 (0.088)	T/C	0.106	0.0477	0.0153	0.018, 0.078	1.83 × 10 ⁻³	82	1.50 × 10 ⁻¹
<i>GLIS3</i>	rs7034200	rs3895473	4319209	0.003 (0.098)	0.006 (0.158)	A/G	0.800	-0.0417	0.0117	-0.065, -0.019	3.70 × 10 ⁻⁴	169	6.25 × 10 ⁻²
<i>ADR42A</i>	rs10885122	rs7908674	112913361	0.070 (0.426)	0.028 (0.500)	A/G	0.159	0.0345	0.0141	0.007, 0.062	1.42 × 10 ⁻²	83	1.00 × 10 ⁻⁰
<i>TCF7L2</i>	rs7903146	rs7909517	114852926	0.006 (0.255)	0.003 (1.000)	C/G	0.103	0.0606	0.0182	0.025, 0.096	8.42 × 10 ⁻⁴	72	6.06 × 10 ⁻²
<i>MTNR1B</i>	rs10830963	rs10830963	92348358	Same SNP	Same SNP	C/G	0.927	-0.1038	0.018	-0.139, -0.069	8.51 × 10 ⁻⁹	86	7.32 × 10 ⁻⁷
<i>MADD</i>	rs7944584	rs1685404	47200241	N/A	0.258 (1.000)	C/G	0.241	-0.032	0.0109	-0.053, -0.011	3.35 × 10 ⁻³	27	9.03 × 10 ⁻²
<i>FADS1</i>	rs174550	rs7937198	61525549	0.000 (0.016)	0.003 (0.055)	A/G	0.491	-0.0341	0.0092	-0.052, -0.016	2.22 × 10 ⁻⁴	65	1.44 × 10 ⁻²
<i>CRY2</i>	rs11605924	rs11605924	45829667	Same SNP	Same SNP	A/C	0.867	0.0155	0.0141	-0.012, 0.043	2.71 × 10 ⁻¹	58	1.00 × 10 ⁻⁰
<i>C2CD4B</i>	rs11071657	rs893157	60165933	0.019 (0.488)	0.174 (0.527)	T/C	0.584	-0.0264	0.0097	-0.045, -0.007	6.30 × 10 ⁻³	60	3.78 × 10 ⁻¹
FI-associated loci													
<i>GCKR</i>	rs780094	rs7586601	27438170	0.169 (0.491)	0.549 (0.956)	A/G	0.239	-0.0452	0.0131	-0.071, -0.020	5.87 × 10 ⁻⁴	22	1.29 × 10 ⁻²
<i>IGF1</i>	rs35767	rs7970320	101508605	0.011 (0.126)	0.001 (0.067)	T/C	0.557	-0.0300	0.011	-0.052, -0.008	6.60 × 10 ⁻³	59	3.89 × 10 ⁻¹

The loci in this table were all obtained from Dupuis et al (2010) [8]

^a LD in YRI between the best SNP in AfAs and top SNP in EuA populations

^b LD in CEU between the best SNP in AfAs and top SNP in EuA populations

^c Effect (trait-raising)/other allele

^d Effective number of independent (typed) SNPs interrogated in CARE samples of AfAs

N/A, not available

Table 5 Association with FG in AfAs of FG-associated type 2 diabetes risk SNPs previously reported in EuA populations

Nearest gene(s)	Index SNP ^d	Chr.	Position	Alleles ^b	EuA FG result for index SNP			AfA FG result for index SNP			Heterogeneity ^a		
					EAF	Effect (mmol/l) per effect allele)	95% CI	p value	EAF	Effect (mmol/l) per effect allele)	95% CI	p value	p value
<i>THADA</i>	rs7578597	2	43586327	C/T	0.9	0.026	0.014, 0.037	2.40 × 10 ⁻⁵	0.72	-0.003	-0.023, 0.017	7.81 × 10 ⁻¹	1.29 × 10 ⁻²
<i>ADAMTS9</i>	rs4607103	3	64686944	T/C	0.76	-0.010	-0.018, -0.001	2.64 × 10 ⁻²	0.71	0.028	0.008, 0.048	6.85 × 10 ⁻³	4.18 × 10 ⁻⁴
<i>IGF2BP2</i>	rs4402960	3	186994381	T/G	0.29	0.011	0.003, 0.018	8.34 × 10 ⁻³	0.51	-0.003	-0.021, 0.015	7.63 × 10 ⁻¹	1.55 × 10 ⁻¹
<i>ZBED3</i>	rs4457053	5	76460705	G/A	0.26	0.018	0.009, 0.026	9.15 × 10 ⁻⁵	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>CDKALI</i>	rs7754840	6	20769229	C/G	0.31	0.010	0.002, 0.017	1.41 × 10 ⁻²	0.57	0.008	-0.010, 0.027	3.74 × 10 ⁻¹	8.39 × 10 ⁻¹
<i>TP53INP1</i>	rs896854	8	96029687	T/C	0.48	0.012	0.005, 0.019	8.79 × 10 ⁻⁴	0.69	0.022	0.002, 0.042	3.40 × 10 ⁻²	3.53 × 10 ⁻¹
<i>SLC30A8</i>	rs13266634	8	118253964	C/T	0.75	0.027	0.018, 0.036	5.46 × 10 ⁻¹⁰	0.91	0.004	-0.030, 0.038	8.16 × 10 ⁻¹	1.88 × 10 ⁻¹
<i>CDKN2A/B</i>	rs10811661	9	22124094	T/C	0.79	0.019	0.009, 0.028	9.99 × 10 ⁻⁵	0.93	0.026	-0.011, 0.063	1.68 × 10 ⁻¹	7.22 × 10 ⁻¹
<i>CDC123/CAMK1D</i>	rs12779790	10	12368016	A/G	0.18	-0.016	-0.025, -0.006	1.20 × 10 ⁻³	0.87	-0.014	-0.044, 0.015	3.40 × 10 ⁻¹	8.99 × 10 ⁻¹
<i>HHEX</i>	rs1111875	10	94452862	C/T	0.56	0.009	0.002, 0.016	1.41 × 10 ⁻²	0.77	-0.017	-0.039, 0.004	1.16 × 10 ⁻¹	2.63 × 10 ⁻²
<i>KCNQ1</i>	rs231362	11	2648047	G/A	0.52	0.019	0.011, 0.027	5.29 × 10 ⁻⁶	0.78	-0.019	-0.044, 0.006	1.46 × 10 ⁻¹	5.21 × 10 ⁻³
<i>CENTD2^c</i>	rs1552224	11	72110746	A/C	0.88	0.019	0.010, 0.029	1.20 × 10 ⁻⁴	0.97	-0.005	-0.065, 0.055	8.73 × 10 ⁻¹	4.45 × 10 ⁻¹
<i>MTNR1B</i>	rs1387153	11	92313476	T/C	0.28	0.060	0.052, 0.069	6.59 × 10 ⁻⁴⁵	0.38	0.008	-0.012, 0.028	4.38 × 10 ⁻¹	1.38 × 10 ⁻⁶
<i>PRCI</i>	rs8042680	15	89322341	A/C	0.22	0.010	0.002, 0.017	1.30 × 10 ⁻²	0.84	0.019	-0.007, 0.045	1.50 × 10 ⁻¹	5.08 × 10 ⁻¹

FG results in EuA are from MAGIC, Dupuis et al (2010) [8], as reported in Voight et al (2010) [7]

^a Heterogeneity test of the β coefficients for EuA populations and AfAs

^b Effect/other allele

^c Also known as *ARAP1*

^d Voight et al (2010) [7]; Zeggini et al (2008) [32]; Rung et al (2009) [53]; Altshuler (2000) [54]; Zeggini et al (2007) [33]; Scott et al (2007) [34]; Diabetes Genetics Initiative of Broad Institute et al (2007) [55]; Sladek (2007) [36]; Gloyn (2003) [56]; Winckler et al (2007) [57]; Gudmundsson (2007) [58]

Chr., chromosome; N/A, not available

Table 6 Regional interrogation in AfAs for FG-associated type 2 diabetes loci previously reported in EuA populations

Nearest gene(s)	Interrogation for FG in AFA within 500 kb region of type 2 diabetes index SNP											
	Index SNP	Best SNP	Position	LD ^a in YRI r^2 (D')	LD ^b in CEU r^2 (D')	Alleles ^c	EAF	Effect (mmol/l) per effect allele	95% CI	<i>p</i> value	Eff. N ^d	Adjusted <i>p</i> value
<i>THADA</i>	rs7578597	rs6724325	43529402	0.066 (0.322)	N/A	T/C	0.189	0.036	0.012, 0.059	2.80×10^{-3}	62	1.74×10^{-1}
<i>ADAMTS9</i>	rs4607103	rs4688504	64659981	0.020 (0.394)	0.003 (0.080)	T/C	0.319	0.040	0.018, 0.062	3.82×10^{-4}	125	4.78×10^{-2}
<i>IGFBP2</i>	rs4402960	rs7627308	186919528	0.031 (1.000)	N/A	A/G	0.013	0.166	0.052, 0.279	4.19×10^{-3}	55	2.30×10^{-1}
<i>ZBED3</i>	rs4457053	rs12517269	76454133	0.001 (0.029)	0.003 (0.080)	A/G	0.883	-0.049	-0.077, -0.021	6.06×10^{-4}	85	5.15×10^{-2}
<i>CDKALI</i>	rs7754840	rs9368255	21008207	0.002 (0.250)	0.019 (1.000)	T/C	0.949	0.057	0.015, 0.099	7.88×10^{-3}	72	5.67×10^{-1}
<i>TP53INP1</i>	rs896854	rs509594	96036332	0.069 (1.000)	0.737 (1.000)	C/G	0.795	-0.035	-0.058, -0.012	2.54×10^{-3}	61	1.55×10^{-1}
<i>SLC30A8</i>	rs13266634	rs2649098	118304453	0.008 (1.000)	0.004 (0.088)	T/C	0.106	0.048	0.018, 0.078	1.83×10^{-3}	82	1.50×10^{-1}
<i>CDKN2A/B</i>	rs10811661	rs10965319	22293465	0.092 (1.000)	0.008 (0.216)	A/T	0.840	-0.041	-0.068, -0.014	2.86×10^{-3}	72	2.06×10^{-1}
<i>CDC123/CAMK1D</i>	rs12779790	rs7074893	12446905	0.000 (1.000)	0.001 (0.068)	T/G	0.977	-0.209	-0.312, -0.105	8.29×10^{-5}	89	7.38×10^{-3}
<i>HHEX</i>	rs1111875	rs11187186	94576008	0.000 (0.017)	0.000 (0.017)	T/C	0.457	-0.029	-0.048, -0.010	2.24×10^{-3}	42	9.41×10^{-2}
<i>KCNQ1</i>	rs231362	rs2011766	2490838	0.000 (0.033)	0.001 (0.085)	T/C	0.332	-0.044	-0.068, -0.021	2.02×10^{-4}	91	1.84×10^{-2}
<i>CENTD2^e</i>	rs1552224	rs6592481	72067275	N/A	0.001 (0.273)	T/C	0.220	0.038	0.012, 0.064	4.79×10^{-3}	51	2.44×10^{-1}
<i>MTNR1B</i>	rs1387153	rs10830963	92348358	0.036 (0.710)	0.705 (0.874)	C/G	0.927	-0.104	-0.139, -0.069	8.51×10^{-9}	87	7.40×10^{-7}
<i>PRCI</i>	rs8042680	rs10083635	89195519	0.006 (1.000)	N/A	A/G	0.145	0.060	0.025, 0.094	6.53×10^{-4}	98	6.40×10^{-2}

Index SNP data are from Voight et al (2010) [7]; Zeggini et al (2008) [32]; Rung et al (2009) [53]; Alshuler (2000) [54]; Zeggini et al (2007) [33]; Scott et al (2007) [34]; Diabetes Genetics Initiative of Broad Institute et al (2007) [55]; Sladek (2007) [36]; Gloyn (2003) [56]; Winckler et al (2007) [57]; Gudmundsson (2007) [58]

^a LD in YRI between the best SNP in AfAs and top SNP in EuA populations

^b LD in CEU between the best SNP in AfAs and top SNP in EuA populations

^c Effect/other allele

^d Effective number of independent (typed) SNPs interrogated in CARE samples of AFA

^e Also known as *ARAP1*

N/A, not available

of similar association in AfA and EuA groups after accounting for LD differences. Four FG loci (*G6PC2*, *GCK*, *MTNR1B* and *FADS1*) and three type 2 diabetes-FG loci (*KCNQ1*, *ADAMTS9* and *CDC123/CAMK1D*) were convincingly transferable from EuA populations to AfAs. Cross-ancestry analyses that leverage varying LD across ancestral groups can identify signals that may aid fine-mapping. In the near future one can expect that new or confirmatory variants associated with type 2 diabetes and diabetes-related quantitative traits are likely to be revealed by more extensive sequencing and genome-wide analysis ongoing in other ancestral population groups, further illuminating the genetic architecture of type 2 diabetes risk and glycaemic regulation in all humans.

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JBM and C-TL are the guarantors of this work, had full access to all the data and take full responsibility for the integrity of data and the accuracy of data analysis. All authors have approved the final version of manuscript.

Duality of interest The authors declare that there is no duality of interest associated with this manuscript.

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