



# Alzheimer's Disease Genetics Symposium

November 12-13, 2019 Philadelphia, PA

**Alzheimer's genetics in diversity populations :  
The Genome Research at Fundació ACE/Dementia Genetics Spanish Consortium project  
GR@ACE/DEGESCO**

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Universitat Internacional de Catalunya Barcelona.*  
CIBERNED, Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Ministerio de Salud. Spain.





1. A three year multicentric 2-stage research project focused on the etiology of Alzheimer's Dementia and related disorders.
2. The largest GWAS effort in Spain to disentangle any human disease to date.

## GR@ACE project Updated Plan

Sep 2016



STAGE 1: Case-control study using Dementia cases from **Fundació ACE**



Samples  
(n=7414)

Genotyping  
(Axiom)

Bioinformatics  
(Dry lab)

STAGE 2: Case-control study using Dementia cases from **DEGESCO**



Samples  
(n>13,469)

Genotyping  
(Axiom)

Bioinformatics  
Dry lab)



November 2019

## Why is the Project different?

**4124** dementia cases were evaluated following identical methodology. Each subject was assigned three diagnoses (syndromic, primary and secondary). AD cases were defined as probable or possible AD at every clinical evaluation, either as their primary or secondary label, and clinical comorbidities were identified as well.

| Phenotype | Primary Diagnostic                             | Secondary Diagnostic | N     | Mean Age $\pm$ (SD) | Women % | APOE $\epsilon$ 4 % |
|-----------|--|----------------------|-------|---------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Controls  | --   | --                   | 3.290 | 54.6 $\pm$ 14.8     | 48.9    | 21.4                |
| VaD++     | VaD  | Pss AD               | 373   | 80.1 $\pm$ 5.5      | 54.9    | 25.0                |
| VaD+      | VaD/ Pss AD                                    | VaD/ Pss AD          | 1.168 | 80.4 $\pm$ 6.3      | 65.0    | 32.8                |
| AD        | Pr/Pss AD in any moment of the medical history |                      | 4.124 | 79.1 $\pm$ 7.5      | 69.6    | 40.2                |
| AD+       | Pr/Pss AD                                      | Pr/Pss AD            | 3.797 | 79.2 $\pm$ 7.5      | 70.6    | 41.2                |
| AD++      | Pr AD  | Pr/Pss AD            | 2.611 | 78.8 $\pm$ 7.9      | 72.8    | 44.6                |
| AD+++     | Pr AD  | Pr AD                | 1.852 | 78.5 $\pm$ 7.9      | 74.6    | 46.4                |

Pr AD: Probable AD; Pss AD: Possible AD;

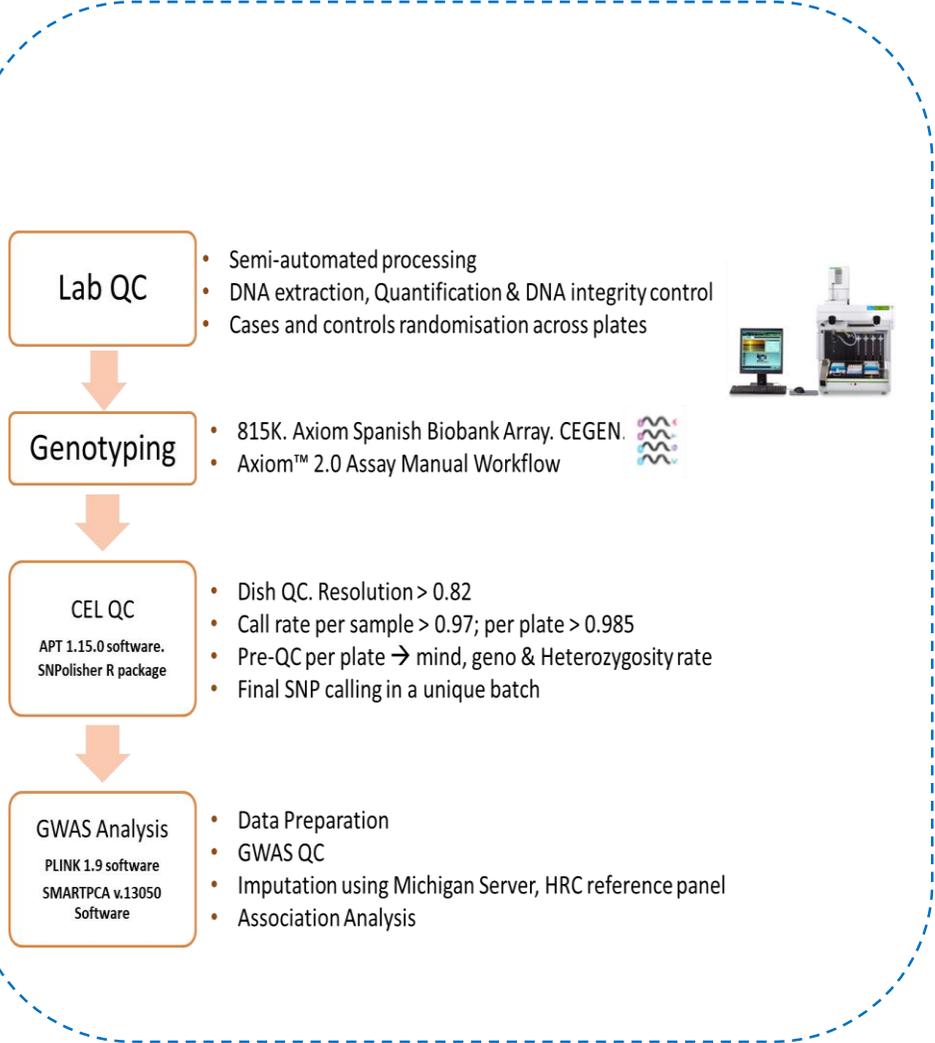
Each patient was assigned:

- A Syndromic diagnosis: Dementia vs MCI
- A Primary diagnosis: probable or possible AD, vascular dementia, DLB, FTLD...
- A Secondary diagnosis: probable or possible AD, vascular dementia, LBD, FTLD...
- The subject clinical chart is not static - diagnosis might change over time.
- The **level of certainty** for the clinical diagnosis of AD (probable vs possible) is available for all cases.

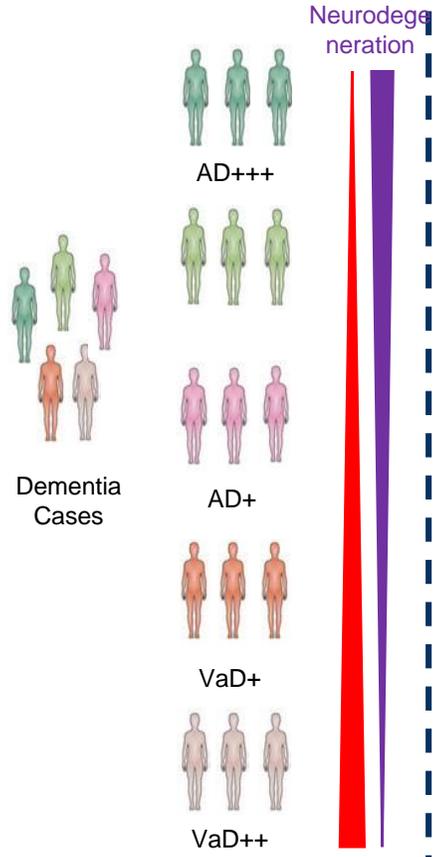


# Classification of known AD markers using sub-clinical categories of AD patients, defined according to level of certainty for AD diagnosis and vascular co-morbidity

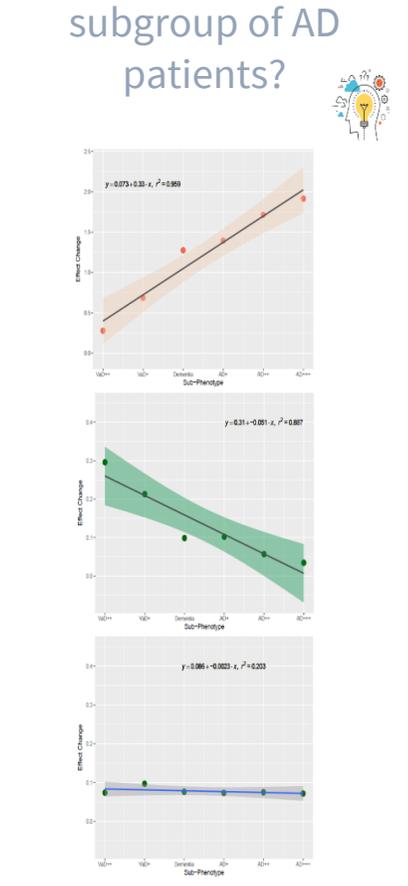
## Genotyping and GWAS QC



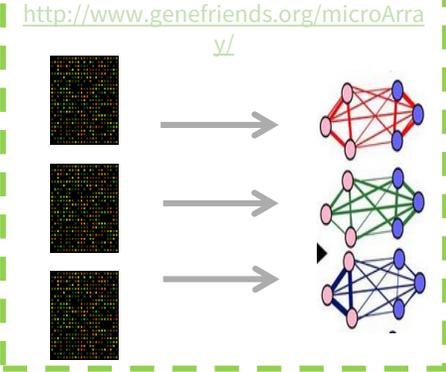
## 1. Clinical Subgroups of AD patients



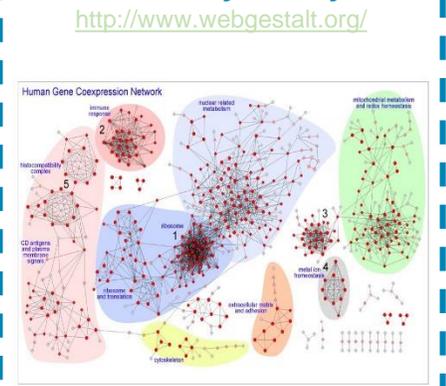
## 2. Are LOAD variants differently associated with a specific subgroup of AD patients?



## 3. Co-expression Network



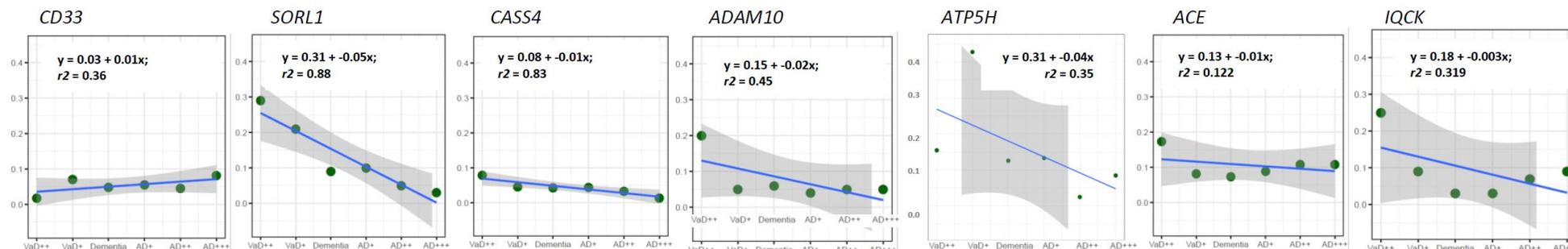
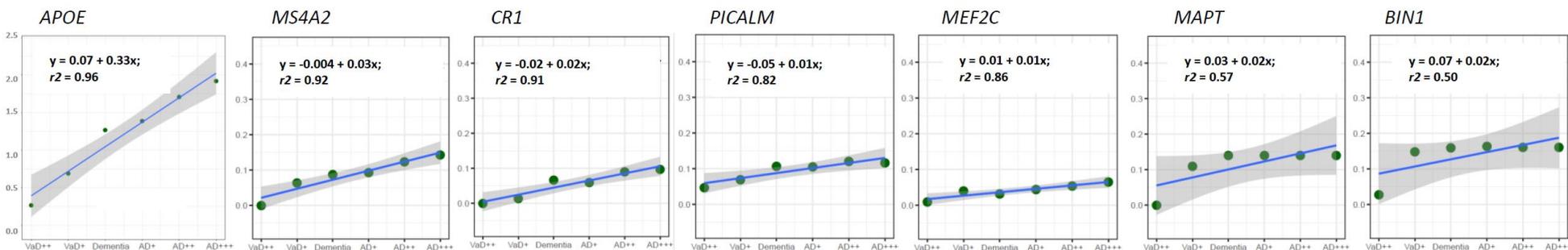
## 4. Pathway analysis





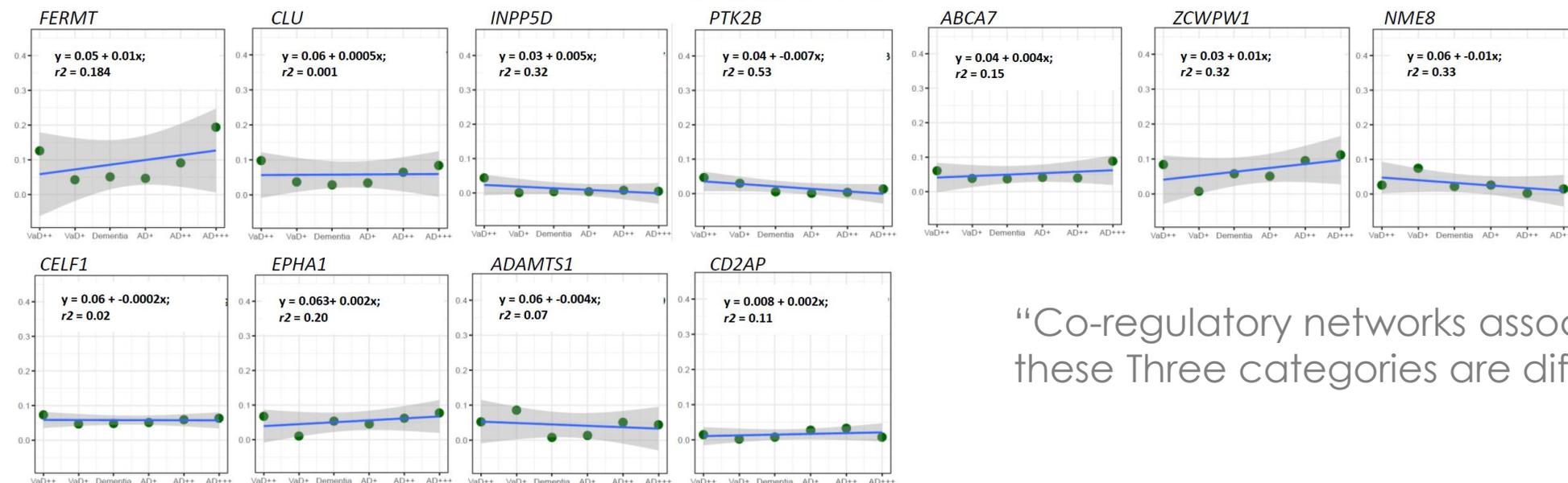
# Classification of known AD markers using sub-clinical categories of AD patients, defined according to level of certainty for AD diagnosis and vascular co-morbidity

A



B

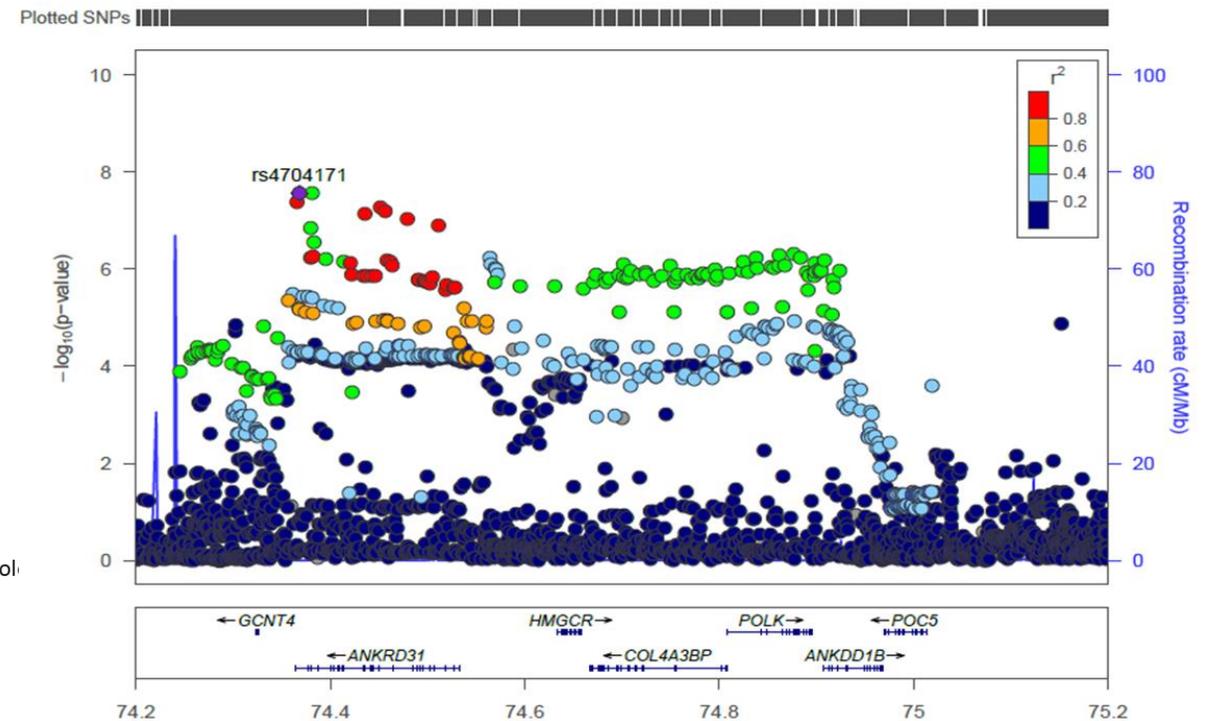
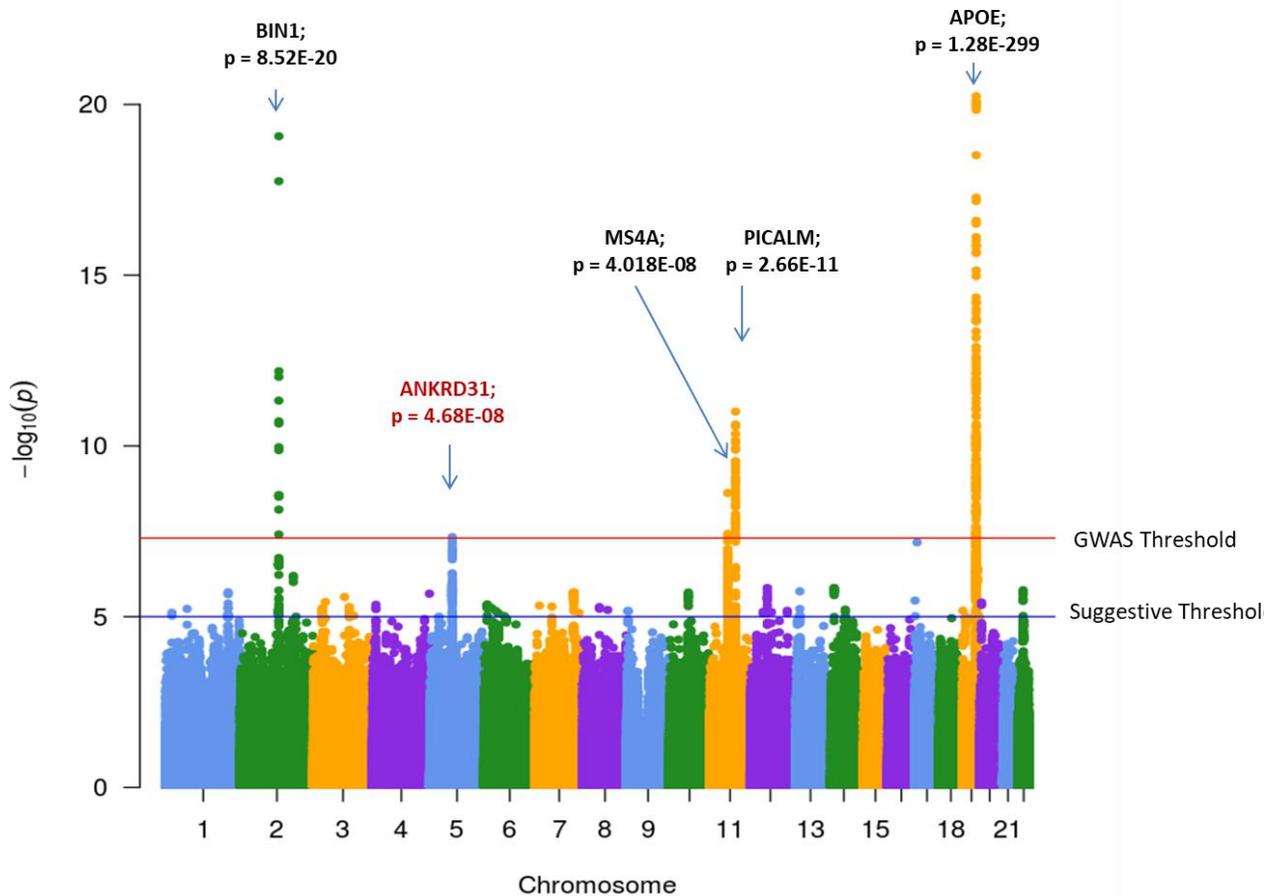
C



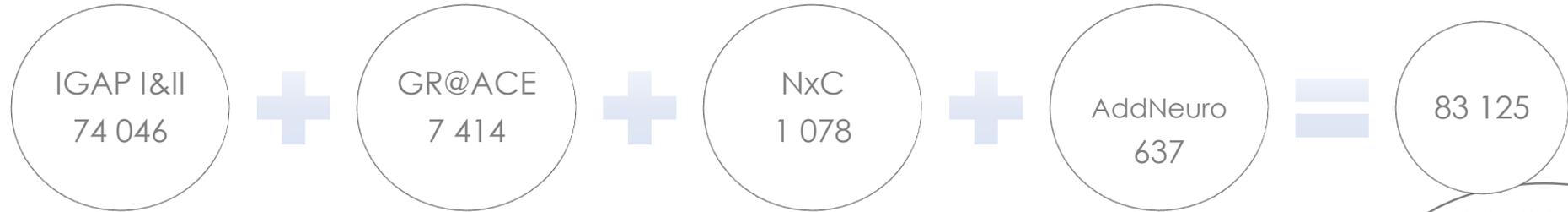
“Co-regulatory networks associated to these Three categories are different”



A novel genome-wide significant signal was detected in chromosome 5. This signal is close to the **HMGR** locus, which has been previously associated to cardiovascular risk-related phenotypes.



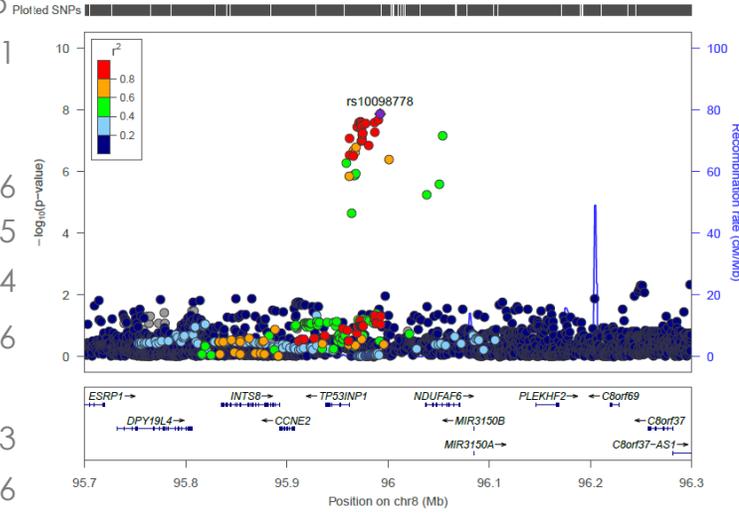
Moreno-Grau et al. Alzheimer's & Dementia 2019.



13 GWAS signals in NDUFAF6 region

A novel GWAS significant signal was detected in **chromosome 8**. The new locus is close to the *TP53INP1* signal, previously detected by gene-wide analysis (Escott-Price 2014)

| Suggestive signal IGAP* |          |                   |    | IGAP Stage1&2 + 4db |                 |             |          |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------------|----|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------|
| GENE                    | CHR      | SNP               | A1 | OR                  | P               | Q           | I        |
| -----                   | 1        | rs6678275         | C  | 1.07                | 6.87E-06        | 0.13        | 43.98    |
| HS3ST1                  | 4        | rs6448799         | T  | 1.07                | 1.37E-06        | 0.13        | 44.11    |
| SQSTM1                  | 5        | rs72807343        | T  | 1.29                | 3.32E-06        | 0.40        | 2.25     |
| TREML2                  | 6        | rs9381040         | T  | 0.95                | 5.70E-05        | 0.02        | 66.91    |
| NDUFAF6                 | 8        | rs7818382         | T  | 1.06                | 7.26E-08        | 0.76        | 0        |
| <b>NDUFAF6</b>          | <b>8</b> | <b>rs10098778</b> |    | <b>0.93</b>         | <b>1.37E-08</b> | <b>0.97</b> | <b>0</b> |
| ECHDC3                  | 10       | rs7920721         | G  | 1.06                | 2.86E-06        | 0.11        | 47.36    |
| AP2A2                   | 11       | rs10751667        | A  | 0.95                | 1.37E-05        | 0.01        | 70.65    |
| ADAMTS20                | 12       | rs7295246         | G  | 1.06                | 2.44E-06        | 0.30        | 18.24    |
| IGH@                    | 14       | rs10134526        | T  | 1.07                | 1.04E-06        | 0.26        | 26.16    |
| SPPL2A                  | 15       | rs8035452         | C  | NA                  | NA              | NA          | NA       |
| TRIP4                   | 15       | rs74615166        | C  | 1.23                | 3.02E-06        | 0.03        | 63.23    |
| SCIMP                   | 17       | rs7225151         | A  | 1.09                | 3.56E-07        | 0.12        | 44.96    |
| ACE                     | 17       | rs138190086       | A  | 1.25                | 1.37E-05        | 0.06        | 55.8     |



\*Suggestive signals published in Lambert et al. Nat. Genet 2013

## GR@ACE Stage II

| Samples GR@ACE/DEGESCO Stage II                             |             |                 |              |              |               |
|---|-------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| <i>Center name</i>  | <i>AD</i>   | <i>Controls</i> | <i>Other</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Status</i> |
| Fundació ACE  | 2624        | 501             | 242          | 3367         | Processed     |
| Banco Nacional de ADN                                       | 262         | 2908            | 0            | 3170         | Processed     |
| Centro Alzheimer Fundación Reina Sofía (FCIEN)              | 290         | 1169            | 0            | 1459         | Ongoing       |
| Instituto de Biomedicina de Sevilla (IBiS)                  | 230         | 1034            | 0            | 1264         | Ongoing       |
| IANEC/UMA   | 109         | 350             | 0            | 459          | Ongoing       |
| Hospital Universitario Central de Asturias                  | 78          | 285             | 0            | 363          | Ongoing       |
| Biobanco Vasco  | 350         | 0               | 0            | 350          | Tramited      |
| Biobanc Institut Recerca Biomèdica Lleida                   | 333         | 0               | 0            | 333          | Processed     |
| Neurology Service Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital | 71          | 41              | 204          | 316          | Processed     |
| Fundació de Recerca i Docència Mútua de Terrassa            | 197         | 118             | 0            | 315          | Processed     |
| Hospital Universitario de Valme                             | 0           | 193             | 0            | 193          | Processed     |
| Hospital Ramón y Cajal                                      | 41          | 0               | 0            | 41           | Processed     |
| Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa (CBM-CSIC)        | 18          | 10              | 0            | 28           | Processed     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>4603</b> | <b>6609</b>     | <b>446</b>   | <b>11658</b> |               |

| <i>Other projects</i>  | <i>AD</i>   | <i>Controls</i> | <i>Other</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|--|-------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Biomedica Research group (Chile)   | 197         | 735             | 0            | 932          | Ongoing       |
| Higher Institute of Biotechnology Monastir, University of Monastir (Tunisia) | 71          | 232             | 0            | 303          | Processed     |
| Biobanco HUP - Down Syndrome (Madrid)  | 0           | 0               | 576          | 576          | Ongoing       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>5042</b> | <b>7810</b>     | <b>576</b>   | <b>13469</b> |               |



# Interim Meta-analysis with IGAP (Kunkle 2019) and UKBiobank proxy-AD



## Meta-GWAS analysis

### Discovery. Meta-analysis Case-control + AD-by-proxy

GR@ACE<sup>a</sup>  
N=12,386

IGAP<sup>b</sup>  
N=81,771

UKB<sup>c</sup>  
N=548,955

Global N= 644,112 (78,709 Cases and 565,403 Controls)

### Sensitivity analysis Case-control AD status

GR@ACE<sup>a</sup>  
N= 12,386

IGAP<sup>b</sup>  
N=81,771

### Follow-up. Analysis of genome-wide significant loci

EADB  
N=33,495  
7 cohorts

PGC  
N=17,537  
3 cohorts

Gothenburg  
N=3,981

GR@ACE  
N=1,204

NxC  
N=1,078

ADDN  
N=637  
2 cohorts

MAS  
N=258

Global N= 58,190 (19,089 Cases and 39,101 Controls)

## Polygenic Risk Score

Pathological  
dataset  
N=2,062

Concomitant pathologies

Age at onset

Gender effect

GR@ACE<sup>a</sup>  
N=12,386

APOE stratification

Age at Onset

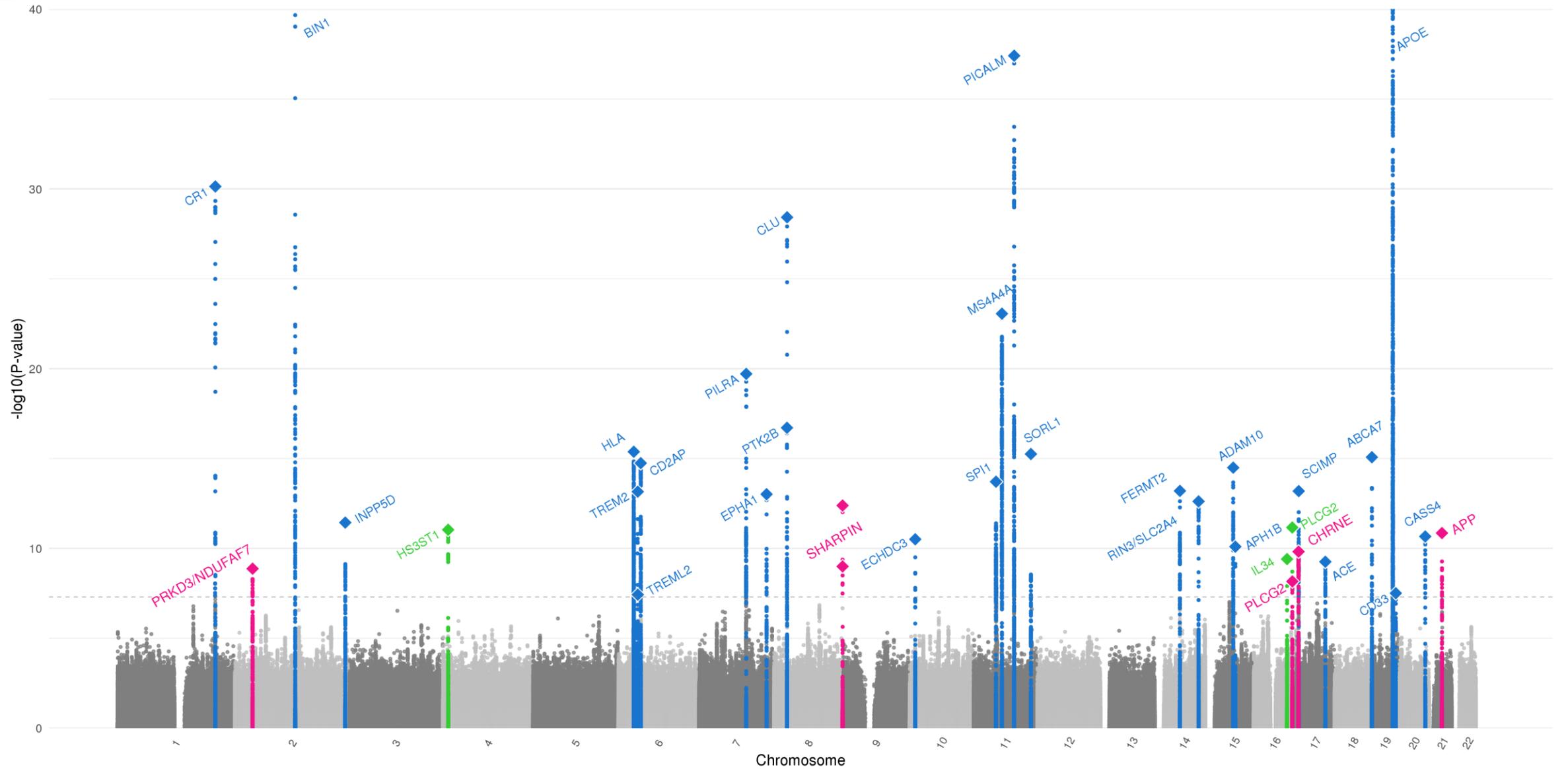
<sup>a</sup> Extended dataset (S.Moreno-Grau et al. 2019)

<sup>b</sup> Stage1 + StageII (Kunkle et al. 2019)

<sup>c</sup> By proxy AD: Meta-analysis of maternal and paternal history of dementia (Marioni et al. 2018)



# New Meta-GWAS (GR@ACE-IGAP-UKbiobank)





# New Meta-GWAS (GR@ACE-IGAP-UKbiobank)

**Table 1. Results for the AD loci selected for follow-up**

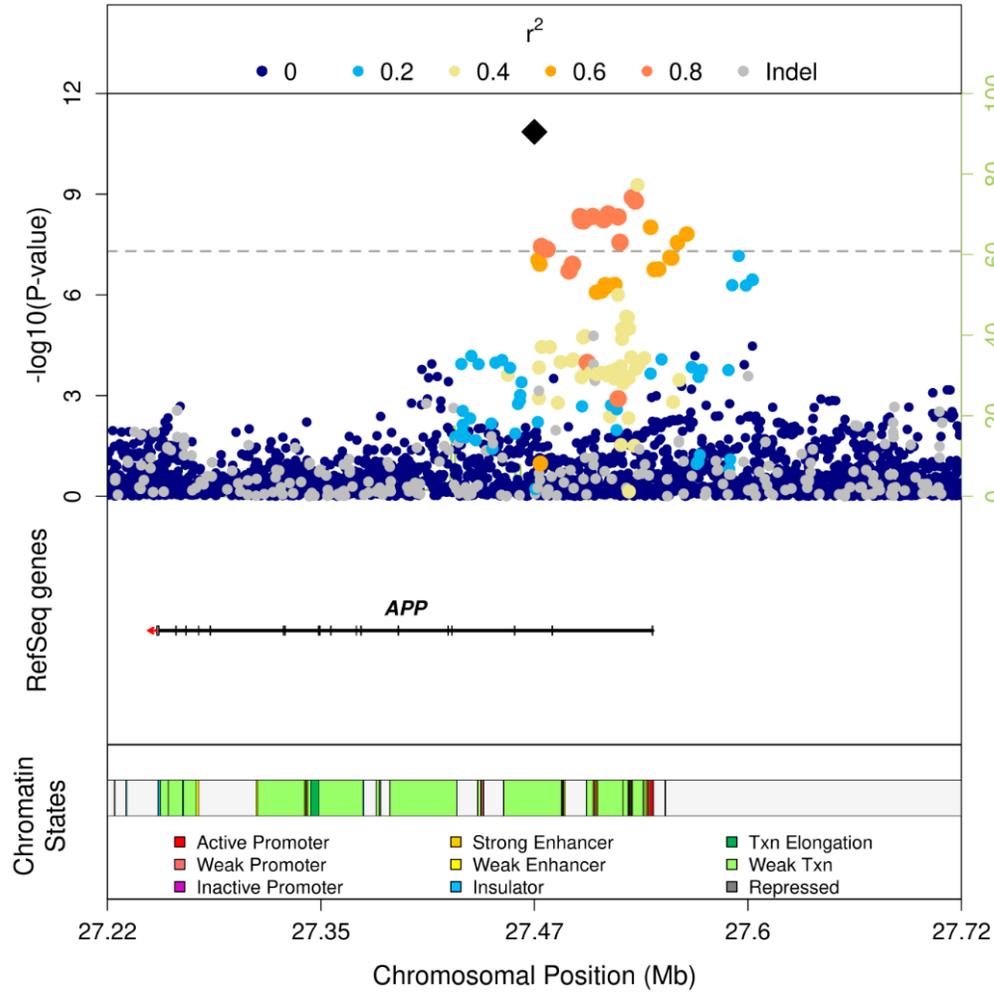
Note: *FreqA1* is from GR@ACE discovery dataset. *P*-value for significance  $< 5 \times 10^{-8}$ . Effect allele: Allele 1.

| Chr   | Closest gene         | SNP        | BP        | Discovery meta-analysis |          |        |                 | Follow-up datasets |                 |          | Overall         |          |
|---|----------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------|--------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
|   |                      |            |           | Allele 1                | Allele 2 | FreqA1 | OR[CI95%]       | P                  | OR[CI95%]       | P        | OR[CI95%]       | P        |
| Variants showing novel genome-wide significant association with AD            |                      |            |           |                         |          |        |                 |                    |                 |          |                 |          |
| 2   | <i>PRKD3/NDUFAF7</i> | rs876461   | 37515958  | A                       | G        | 0.143  | 1.07[1.04-1.09] | 9.14E-07           | 1.08[1.04-1.13] | 3.07E-04 | 1.07[1.05-1.09] | 1.34E-09 |
| 8   | <i>SHARPIN</i>       | rs34674752 | 145154222 | A                       | G        | 0.052  | 1.11[1.06-1.16] | 4.02E-06           | 1.20[1.10-1.31] | 1.65E-05 | 1.13[1.09-1.18] | 1.00E-09 |
| 8   | <i>SHARPIN</i>       | rs34173062 | 145158607 | A                       | G        | 0.085  | 1.16[1.11-1.21] | 1.33E-11           | 1.09[1.02-1.17] | 7.35E-03 | 1.14[1.10-1.18] | 9.62E-13 |
| 16  | <i>PLCG2</i>         | rs3935877  | 81900853  | C                       | T        | 0.868  | 0.92[0.90-0.95] | 1.12E-07           | 0.92[0.85-0.99] | 1.96E-02 | 0.92[0.90-0.95] | 6.85E-09 |
| 17  | <i>CHRNE</i>         | rs72835061 | 4805437   | A                       | C        | 0.085  | 1.09[1.06-1.12] | 3.92E-09           | 1.07[1.02-1.12] | 7.83E-03 | 1.09[1.06-1.11] | 1.51E-10 |
| 21  | <i>APP</i>           | rs2154481  | 27473875  | C                       | T        | 0.483  | 0.95[0.93-0.96] | 9.26E-10           | 0.96[0.93-0.99] | 3.31E-03 | 0.95[0.94-0.96] | 1.39E-11 |
| Previously reported genome-wide significant hits replicating in the follow-up |                      |            |           |                         |          |        |                 |                    |                 |          |                 |          |
| 4   | <i>HS3ST1</i>        | rs4351014  | 11027619  | C                       | T        | 0.684  | 0.94[0.92-0.96] | 5.37E-10           | 0.93[0.88-0.98] | 4.54E-03 | 0.94[0.92-0.95] | 9.16E-12 |
| 16  | <i>IL34</i>          | rs4985556  | 70694000  | A                       | C        | 0.111  | 1.08[1.05-1.11] | 2.28E-08           | 1.09[1.03-1.16] | 4.59E-03 | 1.08[1.06-1.11] | 3.91E-10 |
| 16  | <i>PLCG2</i>         | rs12444183 | 81773209  | A                       | G        | 0.407  | 0.95[0.93-0.97] | 1.48E-08           | 0.92[0.88-0.96] | 3.23E-05 | 0.95[0.93-0.96] | 6.81E-12 |
| Suggestive signals (not replicating)  |                      |            |           |                         |          |        |                 |                    |                 |          |                 |          |
| 14  | <i>ELK2AP</i>        | rs7153315  | 106195719 | C                       | G        | 0.750  | 0.94[0.92-0.96] | 9.80E-08           | 1.16[1.01-1.33] | 0.0412   | 0.94[0.92-0.97] | 9.04E-07 |
| 15  | <i>SPPL2A</i>        | rs76523702 | 51002342  | C                       | T        | 0.802  | 1.06[1.04-1.08] | 6.86E-08           | 1.02[0.97-1.07] | 0.3501   | 1.05[1.03-1.08] | 1.08E-07 |

# APP locus confirmed for non-mendelian or Sporadic AD

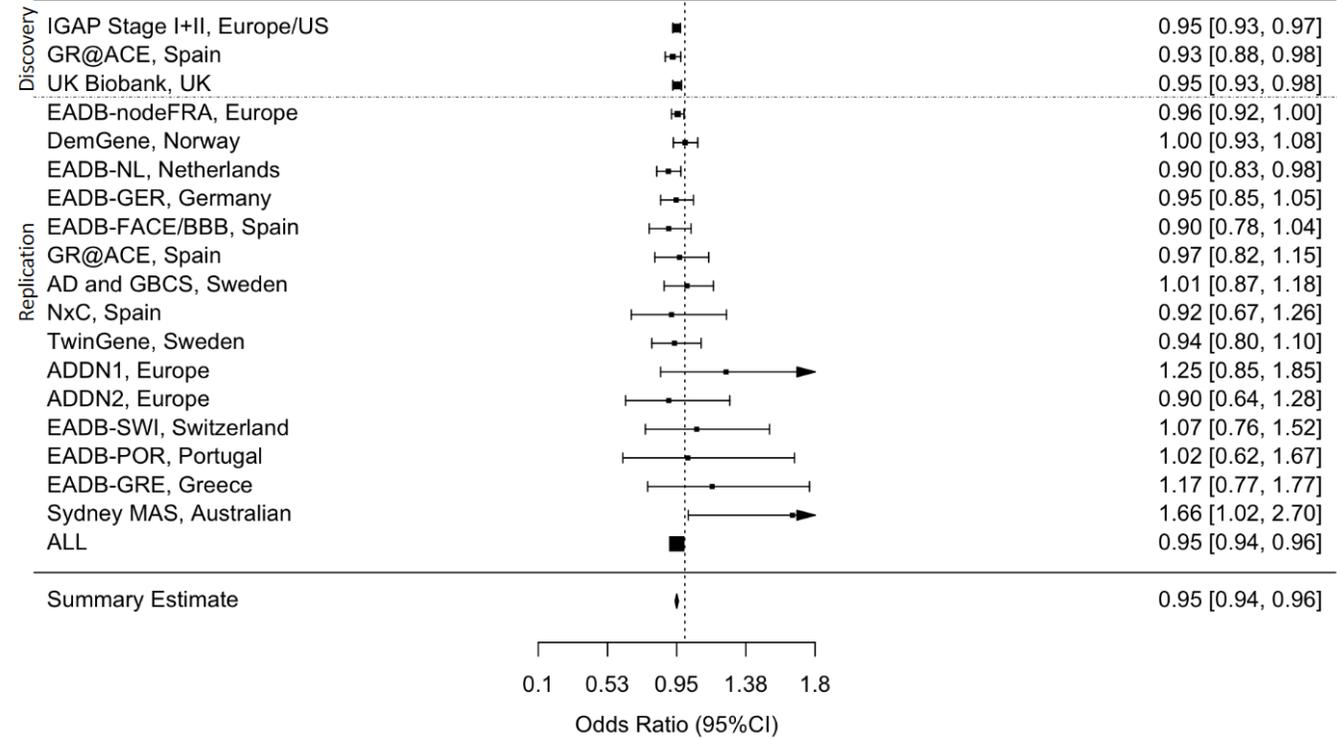


21:27473875:C:T



rs2154481 - APP

Association p-value=1.39e-11  
Heterogeneity p-value= 0.679

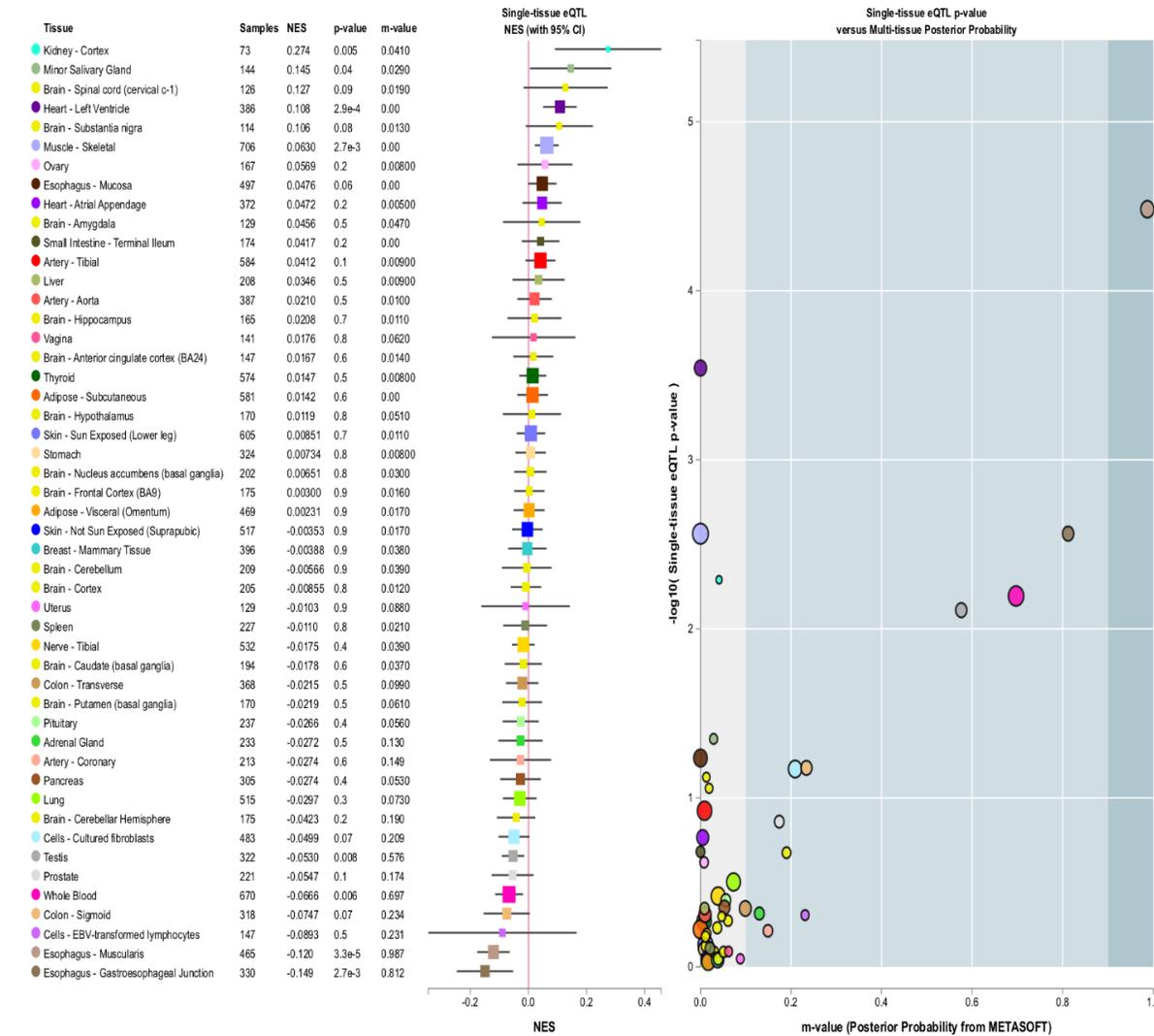


De Rojas et al. ms in preparation

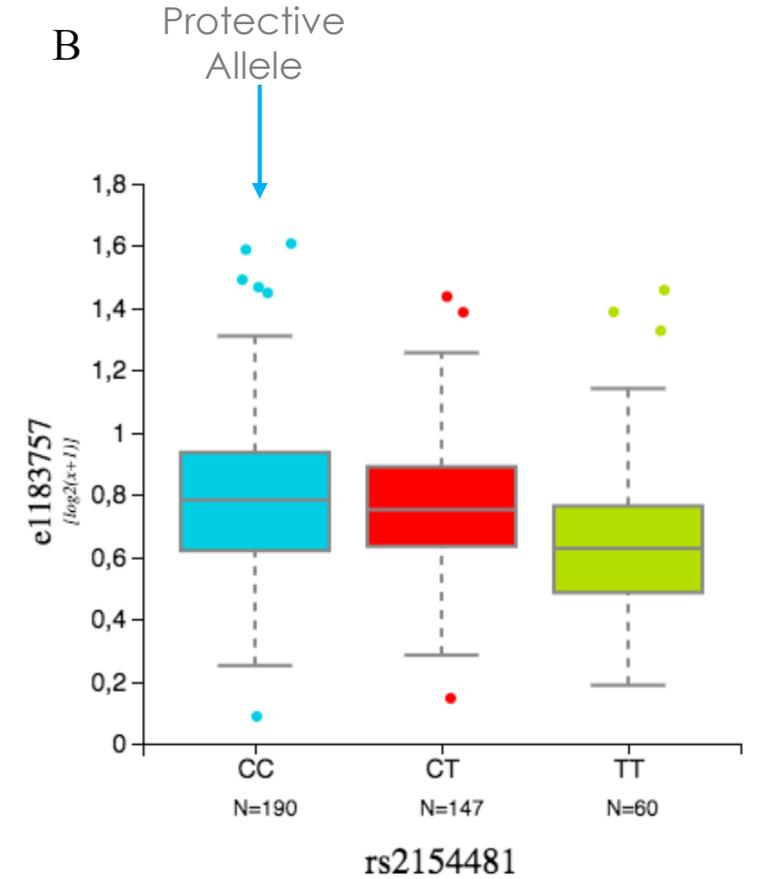


# Identified *APP* variant is modulating mRNA expression levels

A



B

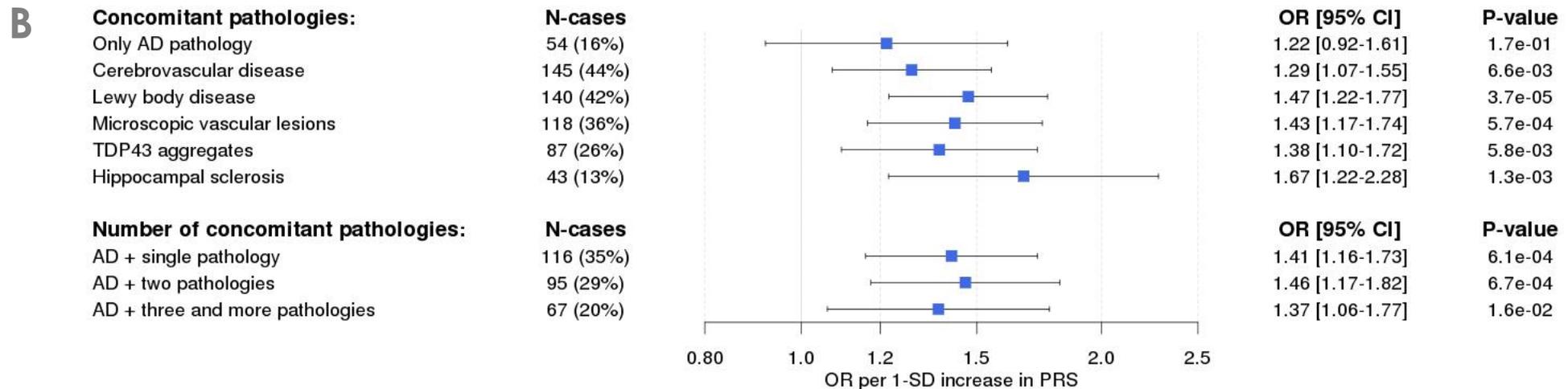
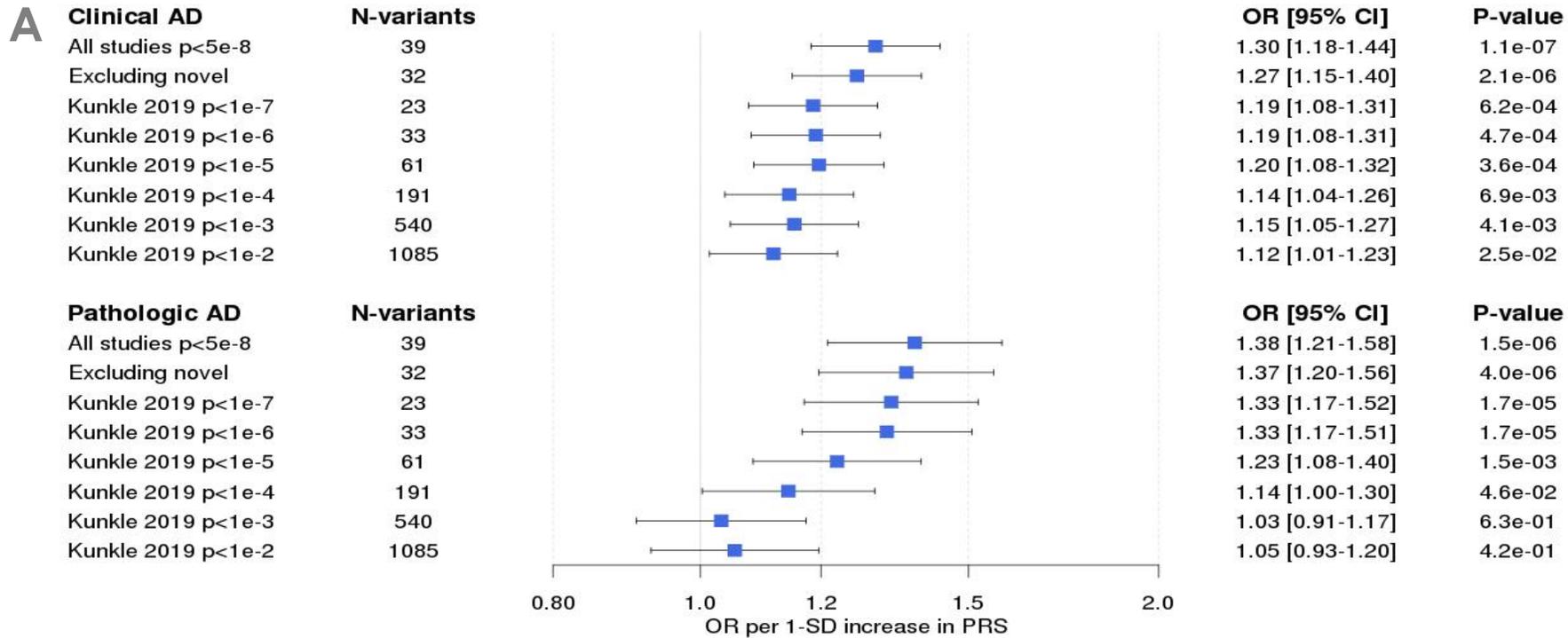


De Rojas et al. ms in preparation

Expression for *APP* eQTL. A) Differential tissue expression for *APP* eQTL according to GTEx. B) Expression of the *APP* transcript in the brain according to BrainSeq



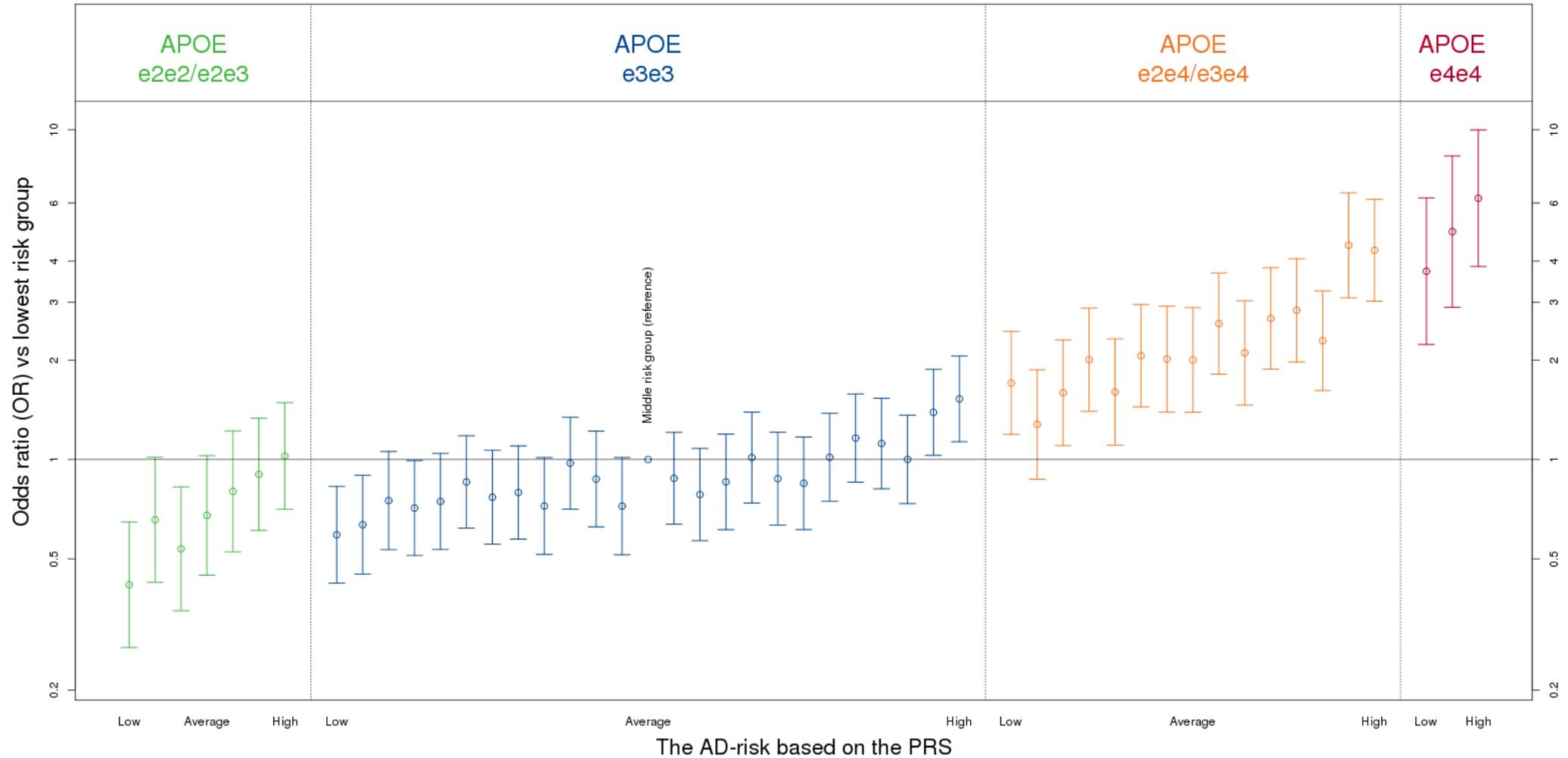
# PRS using the 39 common variants validated to date





# PRS-39 effect on risk in GR@ACE/DEGESCO dataset stratified by APOE

n = 12,386



De Rojas et al. ms in preparation

- EADB collaboration
  - JC Lambert: AD GWAS (case-Control study)
  - A. Ramírez: MCI progression analysis (longitudinal study)
  - P. Kehoe: Vascular Dementia (case-control study)
- Collaboration with Dr. Cruchaga/Dr. Fernández/Dr. Harari (Washington University)
  - arAD loci detection
  - pQTL analyses of CSF proteins & multiomics
- Hispanic meta-GWAS ongoing- Collaboration with Dr. Tosto (Columbia University)
- APOE-stratified studies are underway
  - Collaboration with Dr. Jun and Farrer (Boston University)
  - Collaboration with IMI2-ADAPTED (EU Project)
- AD+P phenotype collaboration with Dr. Robert Sweet (U. Pittsburgh)
- Collaboration with Dr. Seshadri for WGS (Glenn Biggs Institute. Tx. UTHSA)

- GR@ACE Stage I GWAS identified at least three **different groups of AD loci**. This discovery when confirmed may have an impact on GWAS analysis interpretation, patient classification and drug development.
- dbGAP meta-GWAS detected a new locus close to **HMGCR**. It needs independent replication.
- Exploration of IGAP grey zone confirmed **TP53INP1/NDUFAF6 locus** associated with AD.
- **Seven GWAS-significant hits** for AD have been confirmed combining GR@ACE, IGAP, UK Biobank estimates and replication in EADB-PGC cohorts (ms in preparation).
- **PRS** with 39 common SNPs, permitted patient stratification.
- More genotyping (**Stage II still underway**) to increase gene discoveries.
- Multiple collaborations are underway to explore data generated.
- GR@ACE Stage I dataset released to the public domain via **European Genome Phenome Archive (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ega/home>)**

## Anonymous and altruistic patients & families



## GR@ACE team. People involved

### 1) Phenome research

- Mercè Boada MD PhD
- Isabel Hernandez MD PhD
- Marta Marquíé MD PhD
- Memory Clinic team
- Sergi Valero PhD & PMP team
- Emilio Alarcón M.S.

### 2) Sample collection & storage

- Nuria Aguilera
- F.ACE Nurse Station

### 3) Wet Lab & Sample QC

- Adelina Orellana PhD
- Laura Montreal Tech

### 4) Genome analysis

- Sven van der Lee MD PhD
- Itziar de Rojas M.S.
- Sonia Moreno-Grau M.S.
- Pablo García M.S.
- Victor Andrade M.S.

### 5) IT support

- Oscar Sotolongo-Grau PhD
- Robert Villaroig



Hospital universitario  
Nuestra Señora de Valme



**bancó adn**  
Plataforma en Red  
Banco Nacional de ADN Carlos III

**CAEBi. centro andaluz de estudios bioinformáticos**



Hi colabora:



Obra Social "la Caixa"

**GRIFOLS**

