

# Biobank-scale Multi-organ Imaging Genetics and Beyond

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<https://www.med.unc.edu/big-s2>





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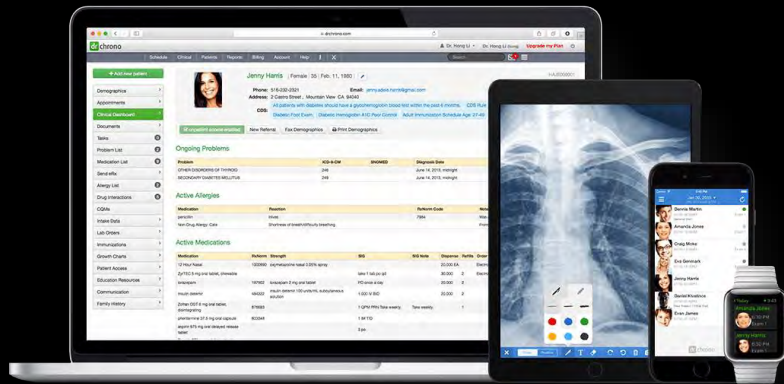


# Part I

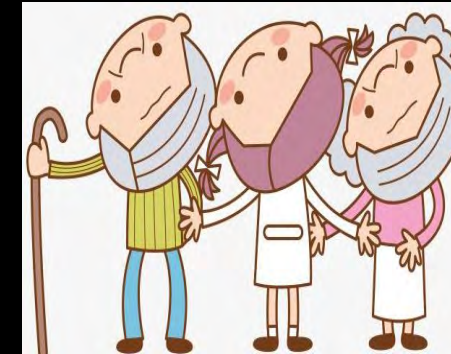
## Methodological Challenges

# EHR and PM

**EHR** is an information resource that takes residents' personal health as the core, runs through the entire life process, covers various health-related factors, realizes multi-channel information dynamic collection, and meets the needs of residents' self-care, health management and health decision-making.



**PM** : Personalization, precision (time and plan), and health management. High-level medical technology is formed on the basis of in-depth understanding of people, diseases, and medicines. Analyze the health status of the entire population and improve the health of the general public.



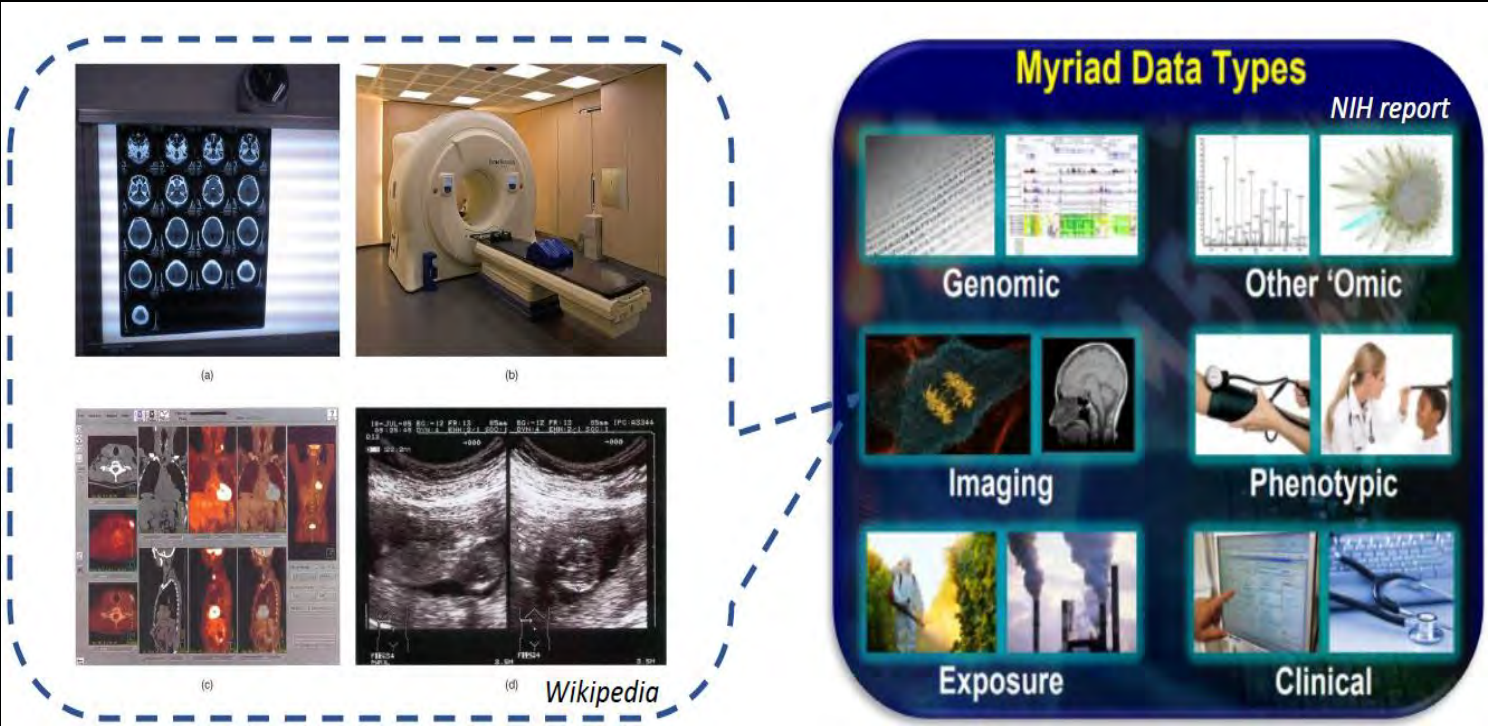
Record the changes of all vital signs of an individual from birth to death, including personal living habits, past medical history, diagnosis and treatment, family medical history, current medical history, previous diagnosis and treatment history, previous physical examination results and other information, and accurately record digitally, so as to construct an integrated health service of prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and health management.



# Multi-modal Data



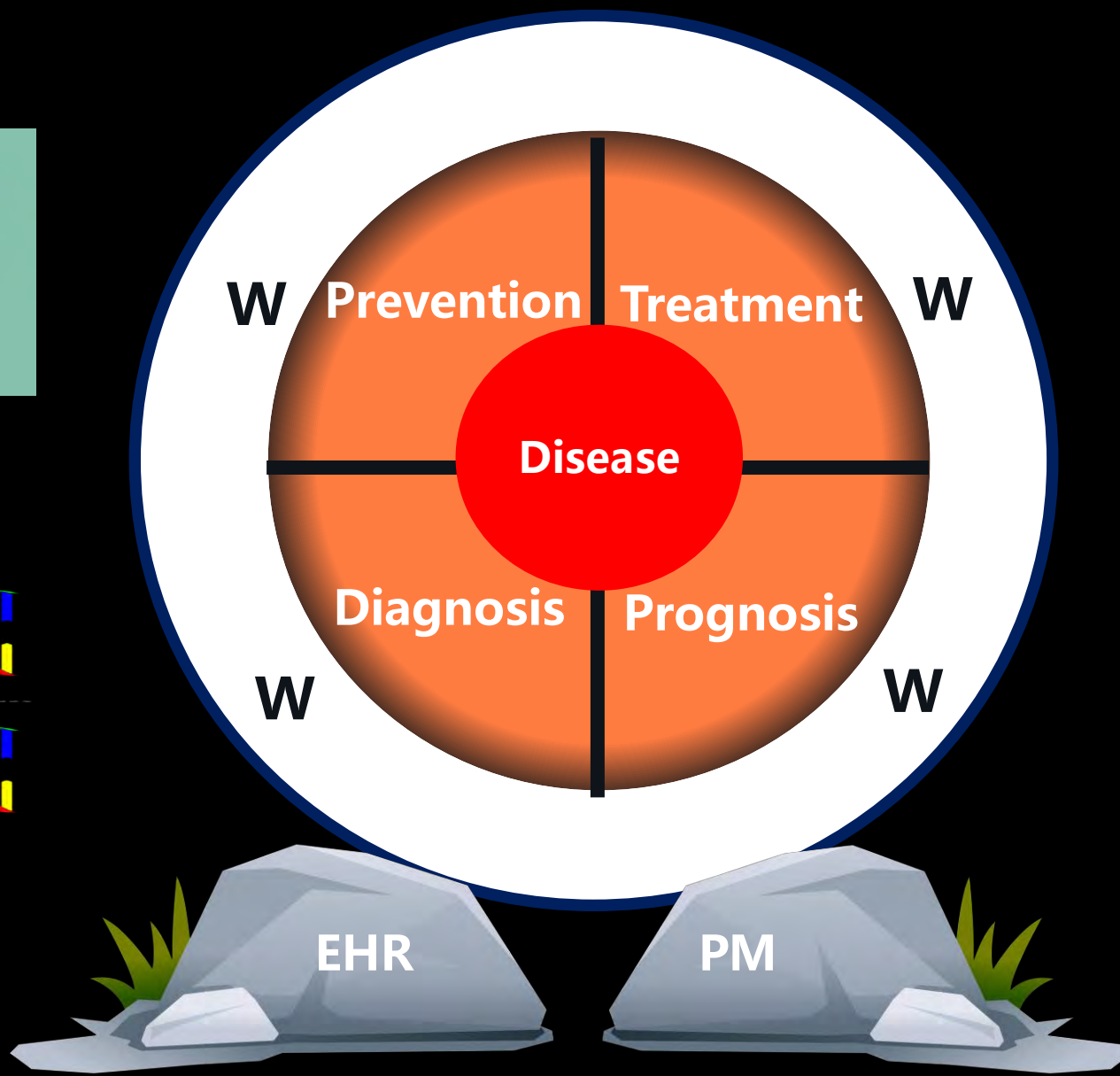
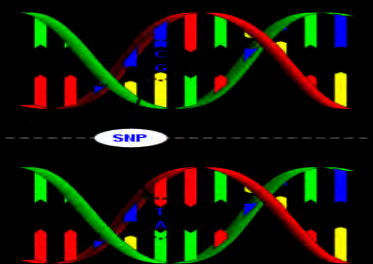
Clinical/Behavioral



Imaging

Genetics

# Data Challenges





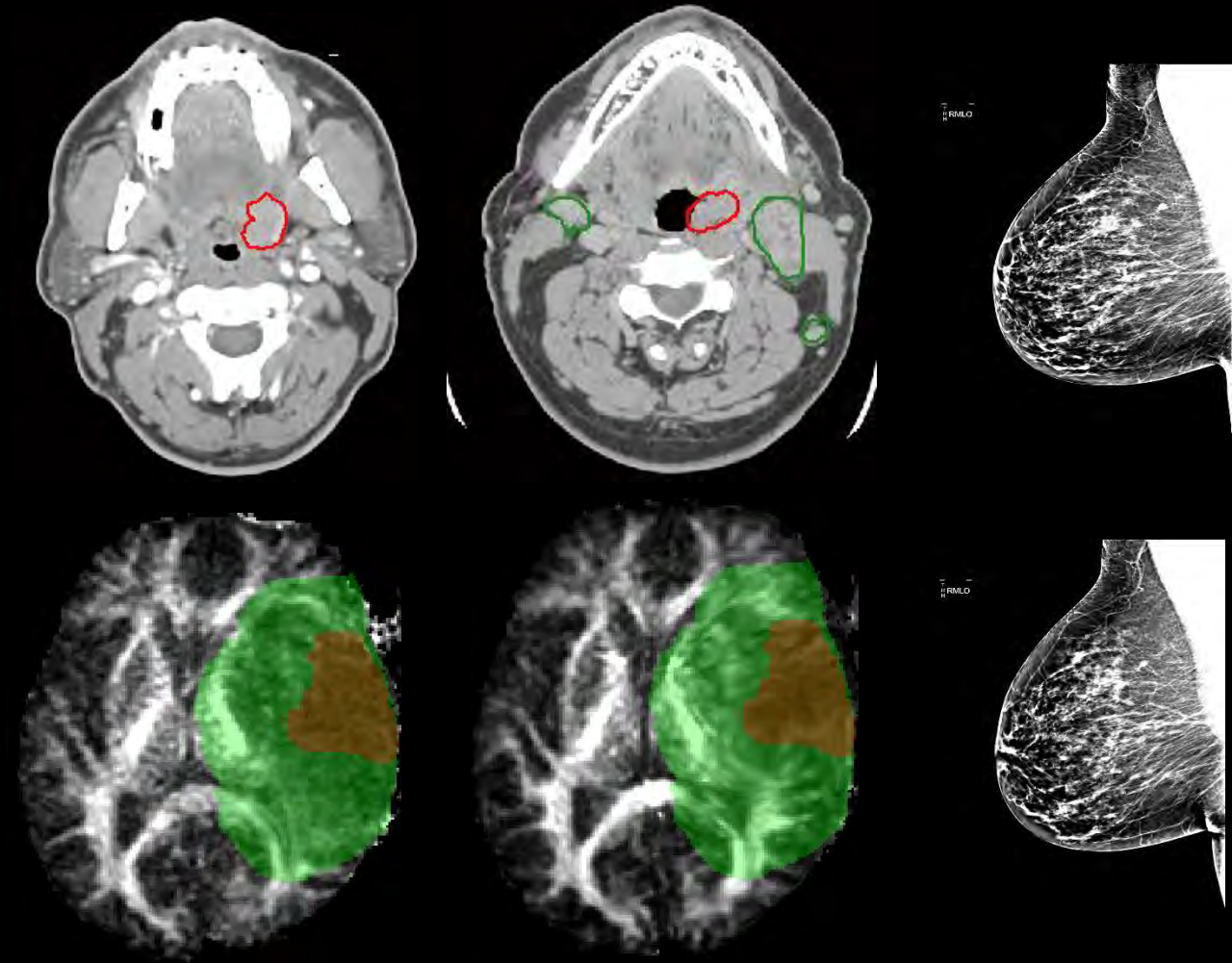
# Data Challenges



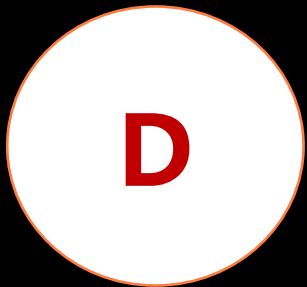
- Over 15M labeled high resolution images
- Roughly 80K categories
- Collected from web and labeled by Amazon Mechanical Turk



Lack of a large number of annotated data with high-quality



# Method Challenges



Healthcare

Genetics

Imaging

Clinical

Shallow  
Information

Speech  
Recognition

NLP

Computer Vision

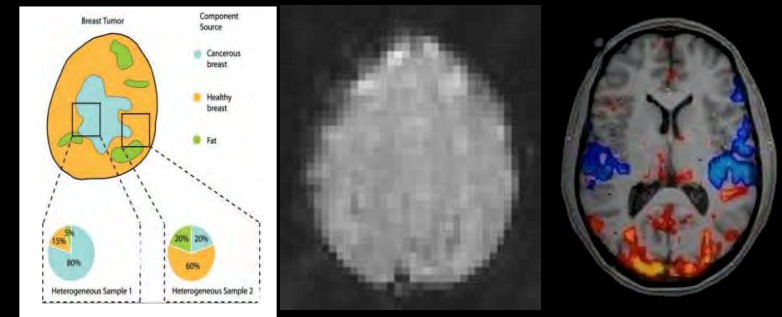
Prediction and  
Decision

IOT

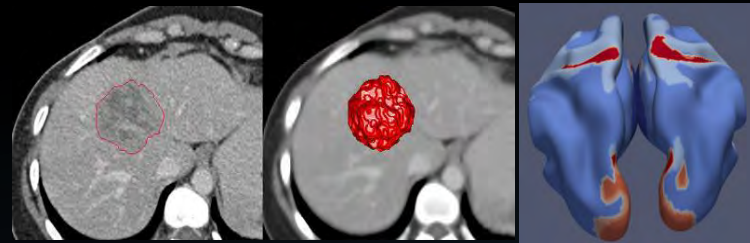




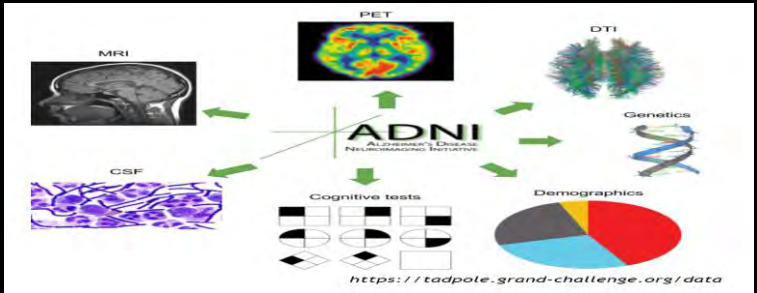
# Ecological Layout



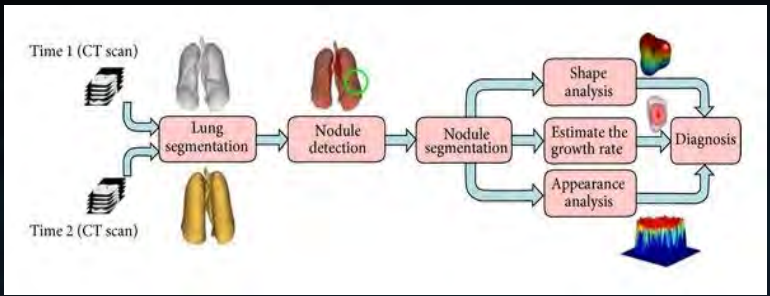
Deconvolution



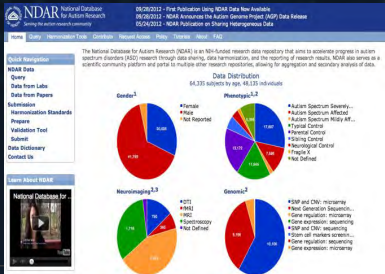
Learning



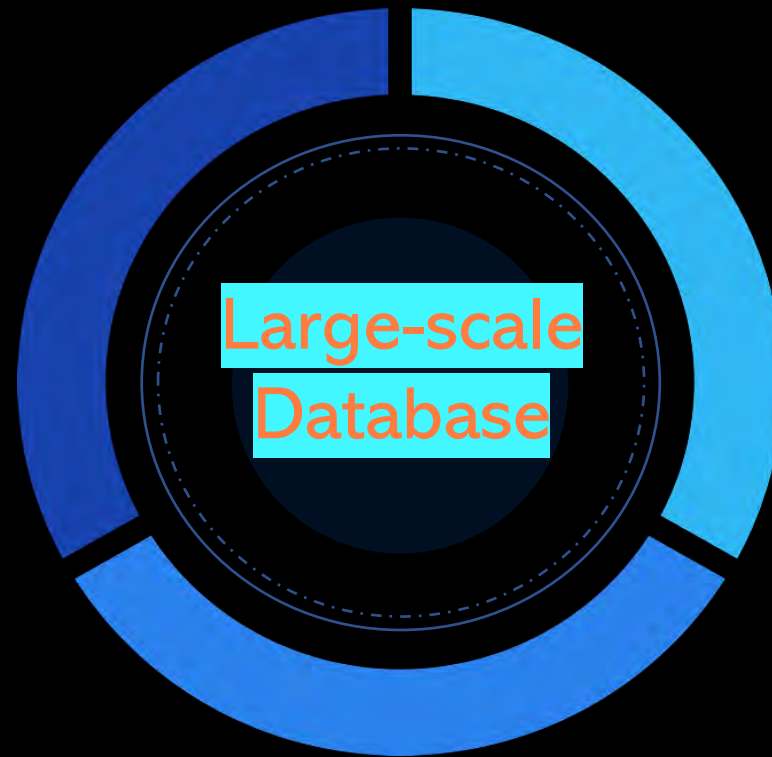
Integration



Prediction



# Ecological Layout



# Large-scale Medical Studies

**PING - 900 Pediatric Imaging, Neurocognition, and Genetics**

**BCP - 300 Baby Connectome Project**

**ADNI - 2000 Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative**

**PNC - 1400 Philadelphia Neurodevelopmental Cohort**

**HCP - 1200 Human Connectome Project**

**ABCD - 10000 Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development**

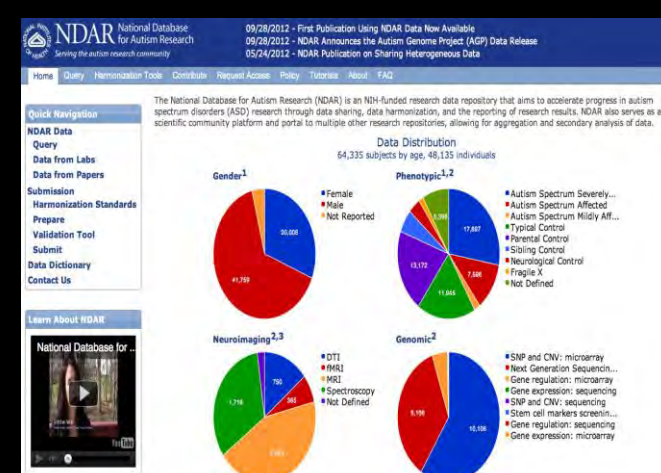
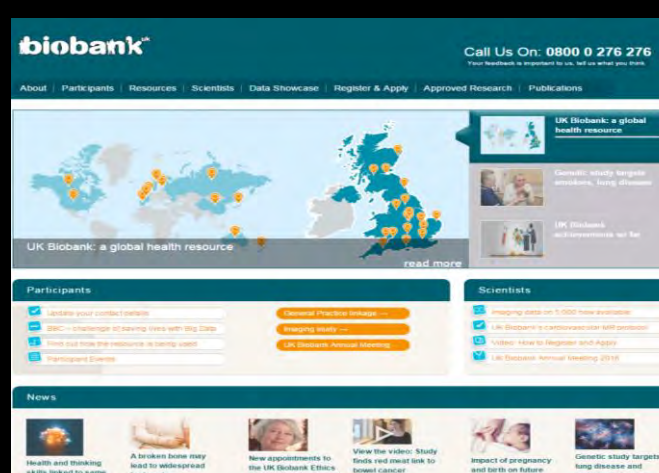
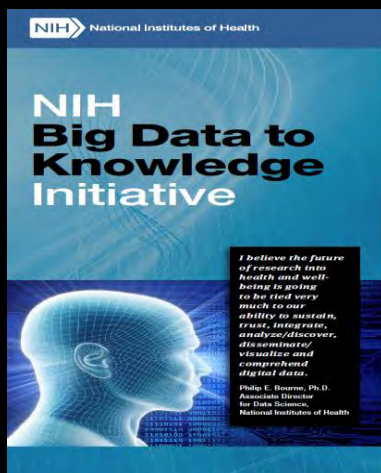
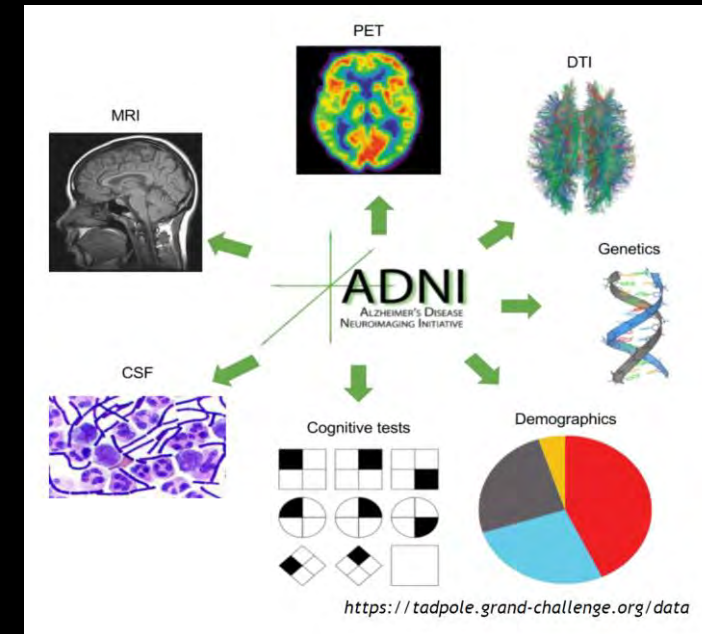
**UKB - 500,000 UK Biobank Project**

**TCIA – 37,600 The Cancer Imaging Archive**

**NLST - 19,000 National Lung Screening Trial**

**OAI – 4800 Osteoarthritis Initiative**

**AllOfUs-1000,000+ All of us project**





## “Big Data” Brain Imaging Genetics Cohorts

“Big data” Brain imaging genetics datasets become available in recent few years  
Systematically collect publicly available individual-level data for > 50k individuals  
Build the largest database in this field

Aging Brain



BCP (Age [0,5])	PING (Age [3,21])	ABCD (n ~ 10k, Age [9,11])	PNC (Age [14,29])	HCP (Age [22,35])	UK Biobank (n ~ 100k [Ongoing], Age [40,69])
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RADC  
(Age > 65)  
ADNI  
(Age [55,92])

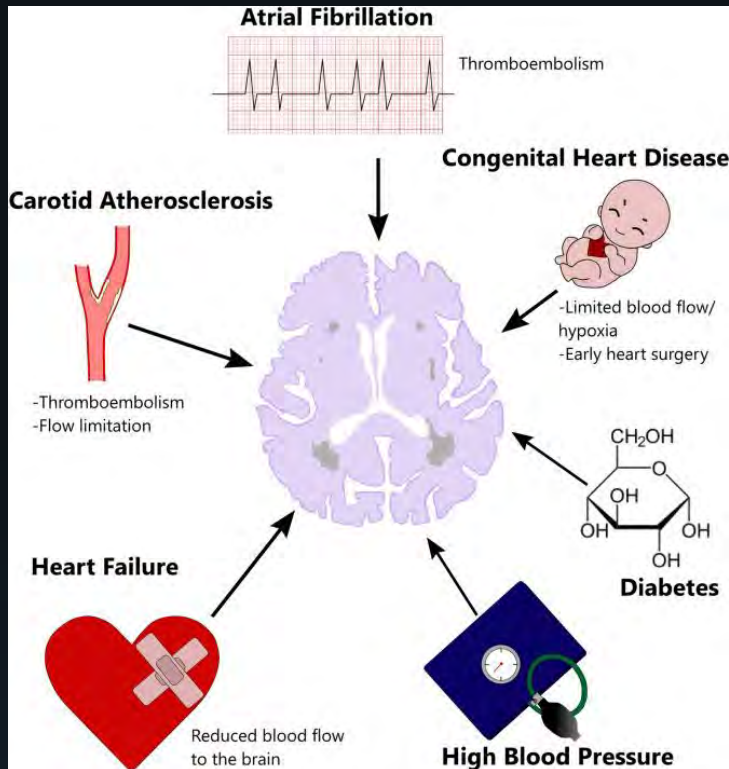
Brain  
Development



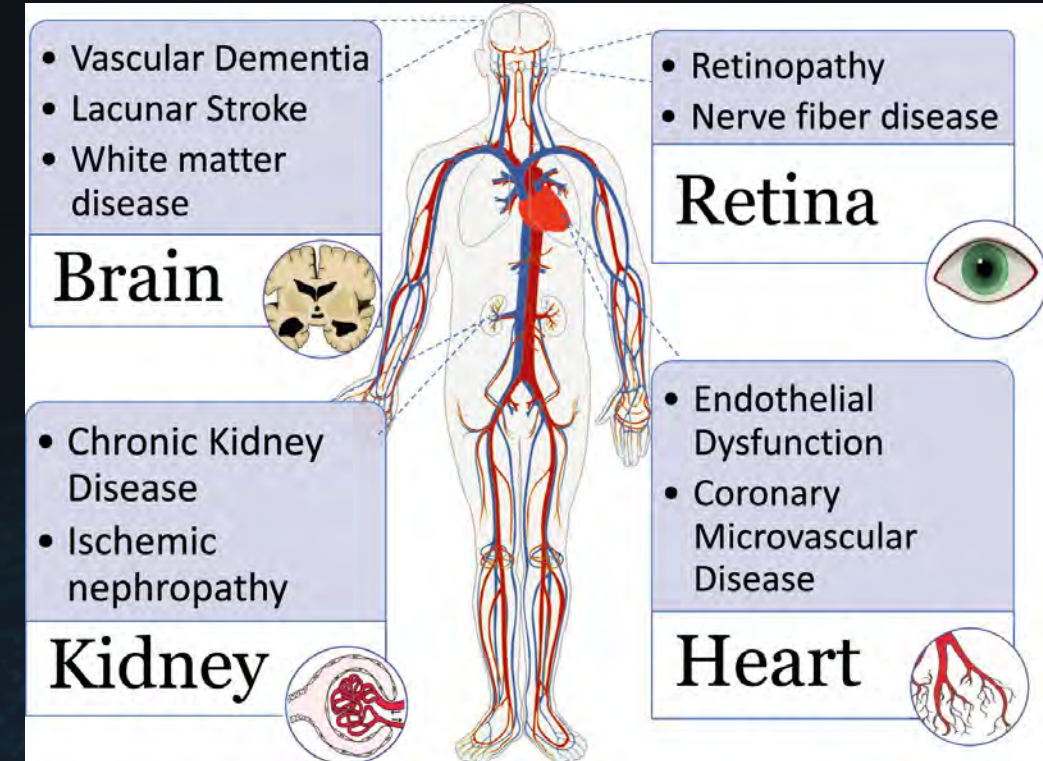
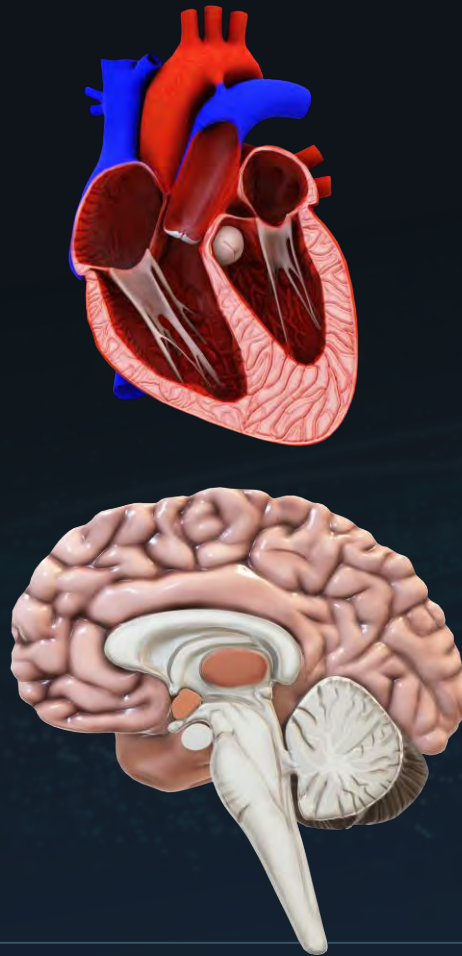


# Cardiovascular Disease & Brain Health

(Neuro)imaging: help understand the complex interplay between brain and other human organs and their underlying genetic overlaps

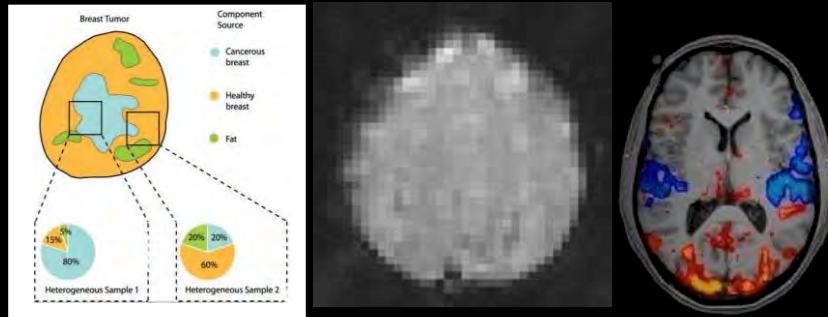


Possible causal factors of brain structure changes, resulting in brain disorders like stroke, dementia and cognitive impairment



Many diseases (e.g., microvascular disease, high blood pressure) are multisystem disorders

# Ecological Layout

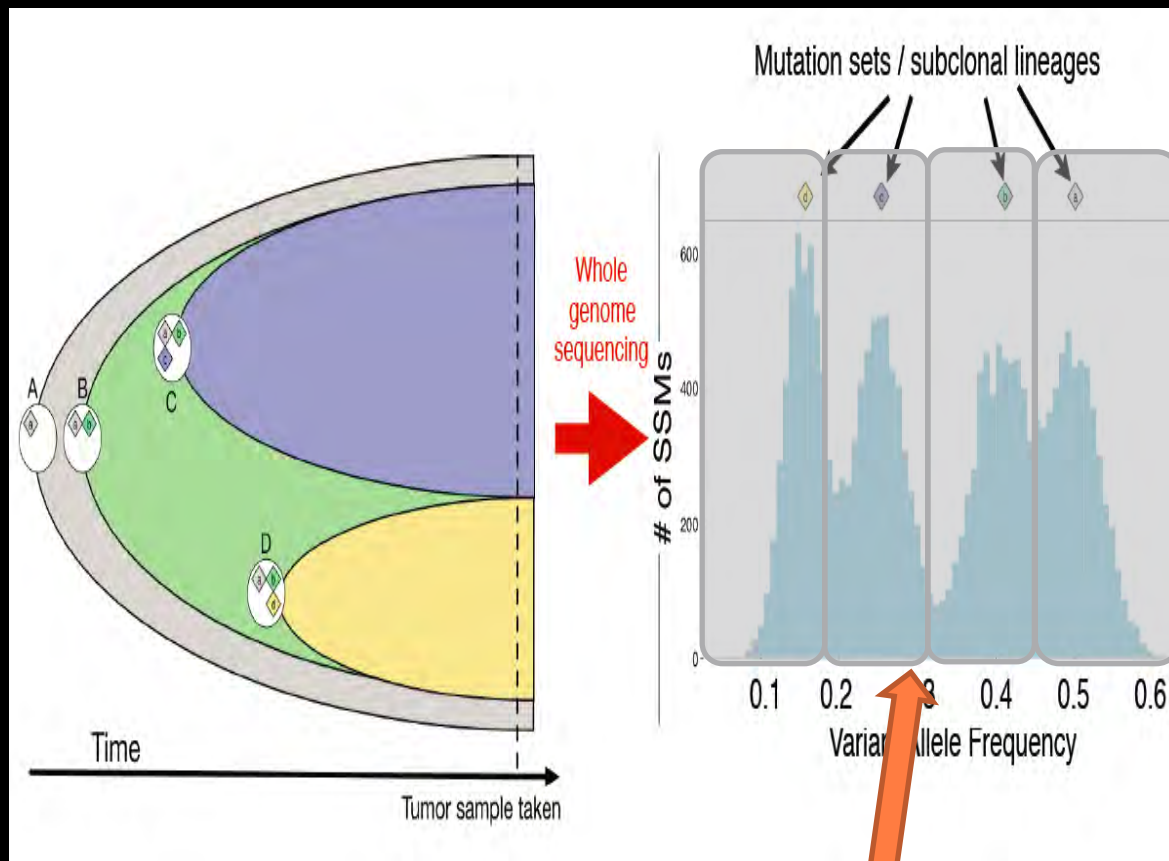


## Deconvolution

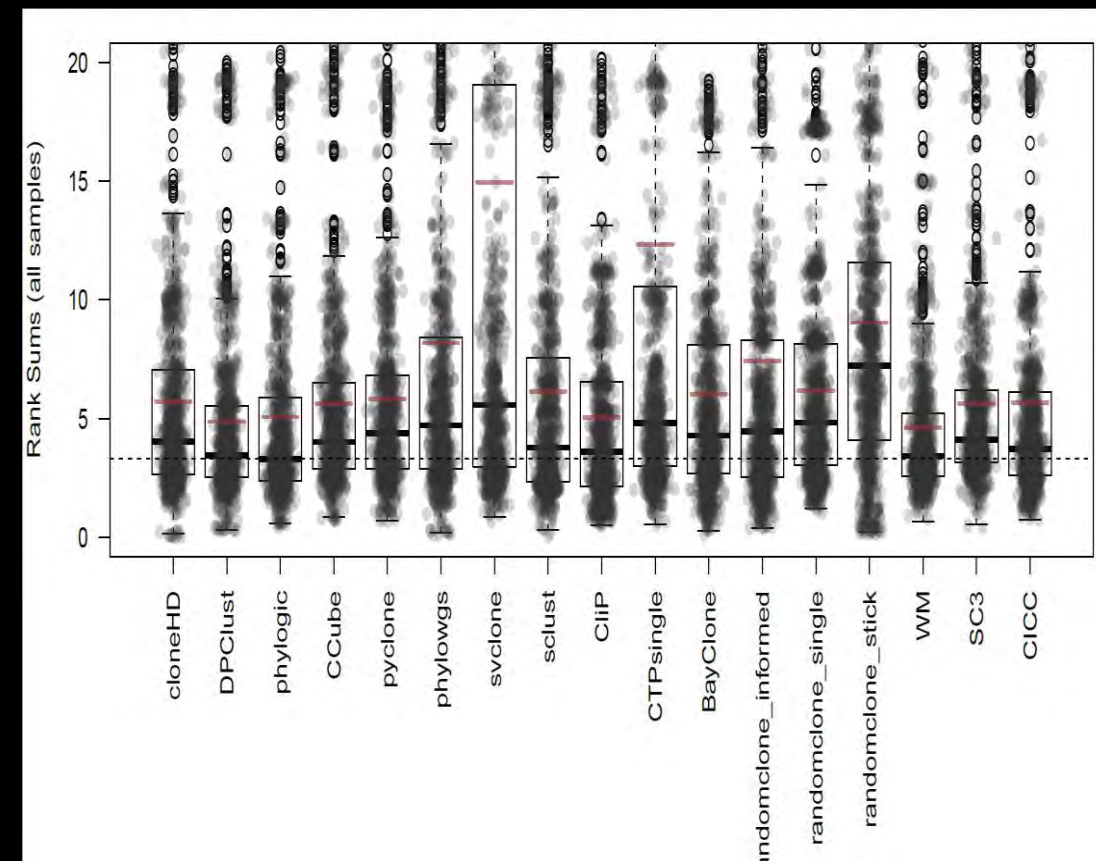


1. Gerstung, M. ..., H. Zhu, ..., P. V. Loo. and PCAWG network. The evolutionary history of 2,658 cancers. *bioRxiv. Nature*, 578(7793):122-128, 2020.
2. The ICGC/TCGA Pan-Cancer Analysis of Whole Genomes Consortium. Pan-cancer analysis of whole genomes. *Nature*, 578, 82-93, 2020.
3. Y.Jiang, K.Yu, ..., H. Zhu, W. Wang. CliP: subclonal architecture reconstruction of cancer cells in DNA sequencing data using a penalized likelihood model: [36059962 \(biorxiv.org\)](https://doi.org/10.1101/360599)

# Tumor Heterogeneity: identification



We developed a CliP (Clonal and subclonal structure identification through Pairwise difference penalization), to distinguish the sub-clones.



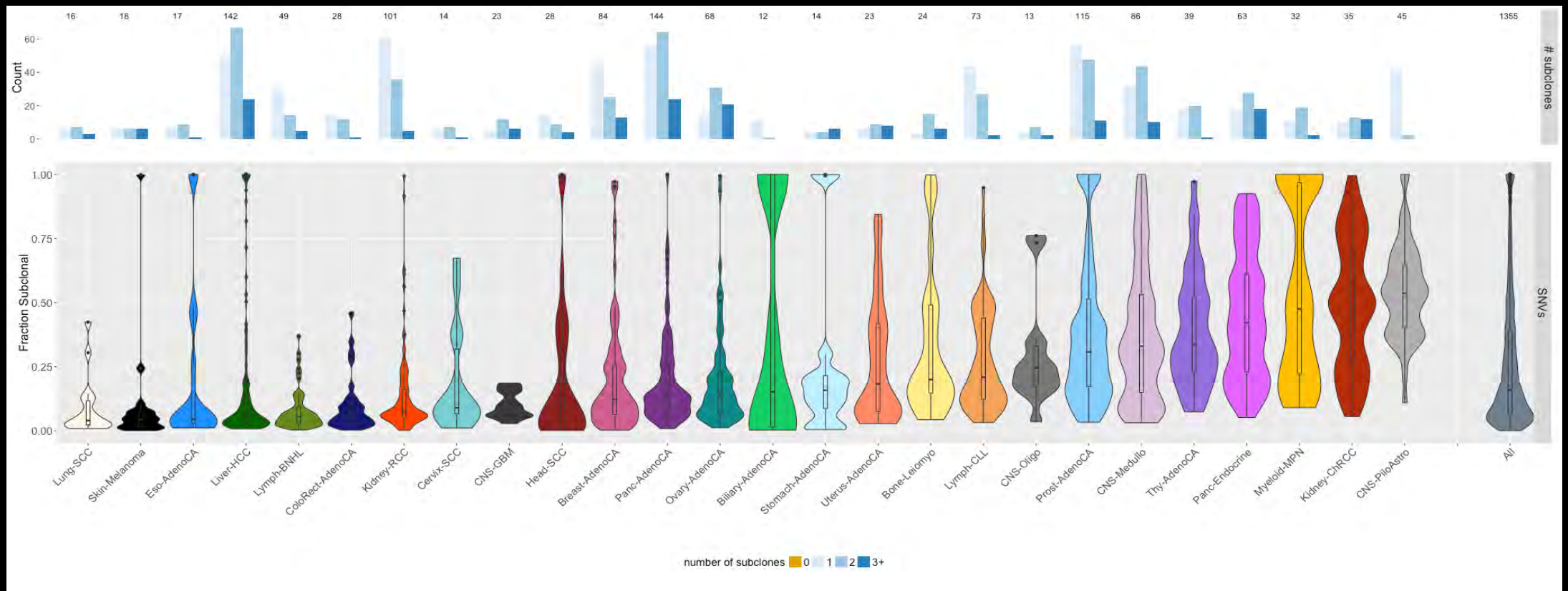
We tested CliP on 965 simulated samples generated by the Broad Institution, all samples are generated using copy number profiles from actual patients samples.



# Results on ICGC samples

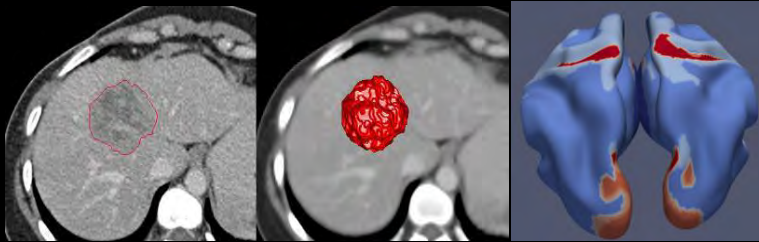
The International Cancer Genome Consortium has collected whole genome sequencing for over 2,700 samples. The clonality study shows that the clone/subclonality compositions are quite different across cancer types.

**Figure: clonality composition of selected types of cancer. Both the number of subclones and subclonal fractions are different across tumor types**





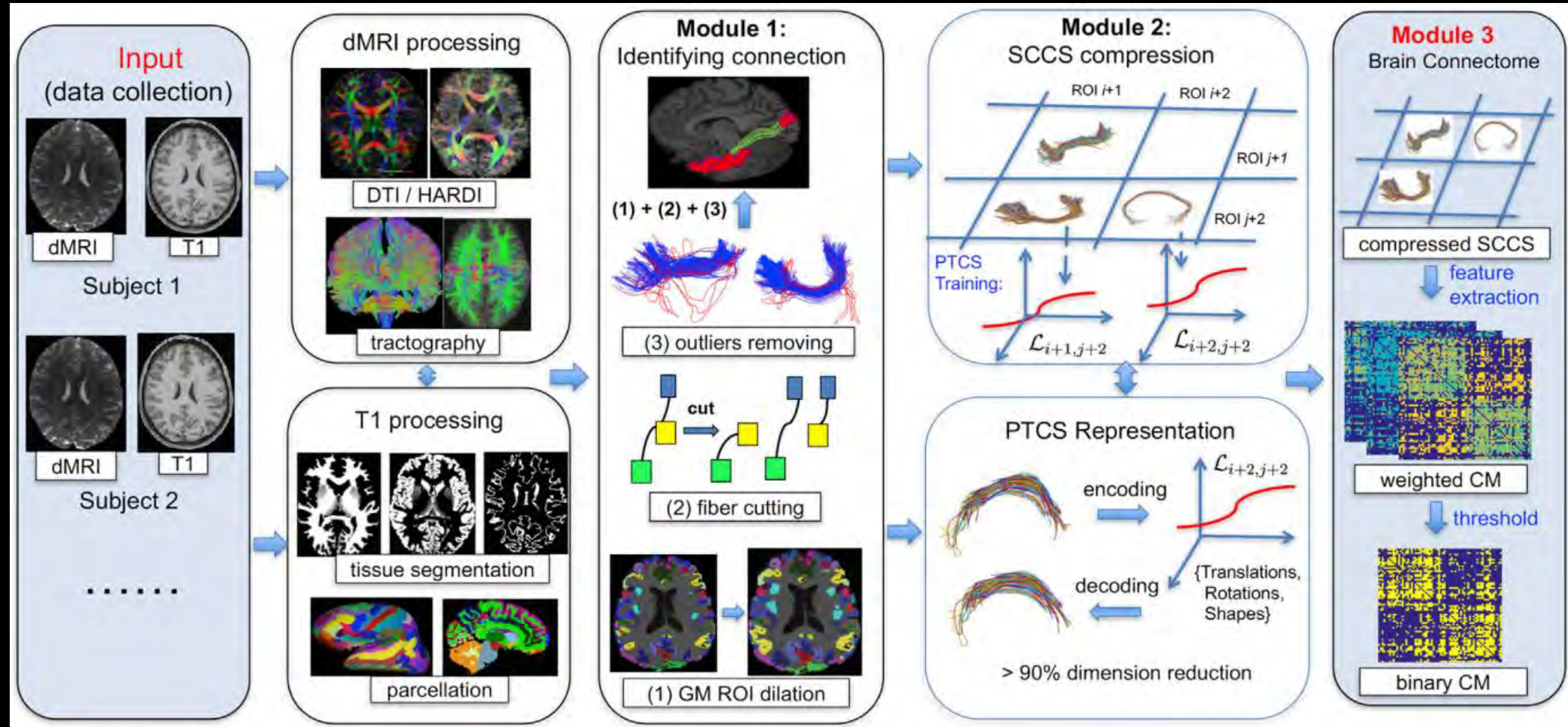
# Ecological Layout



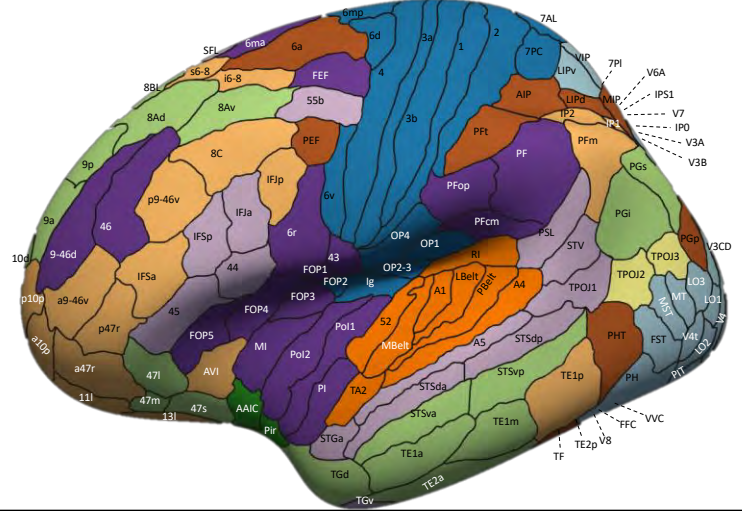
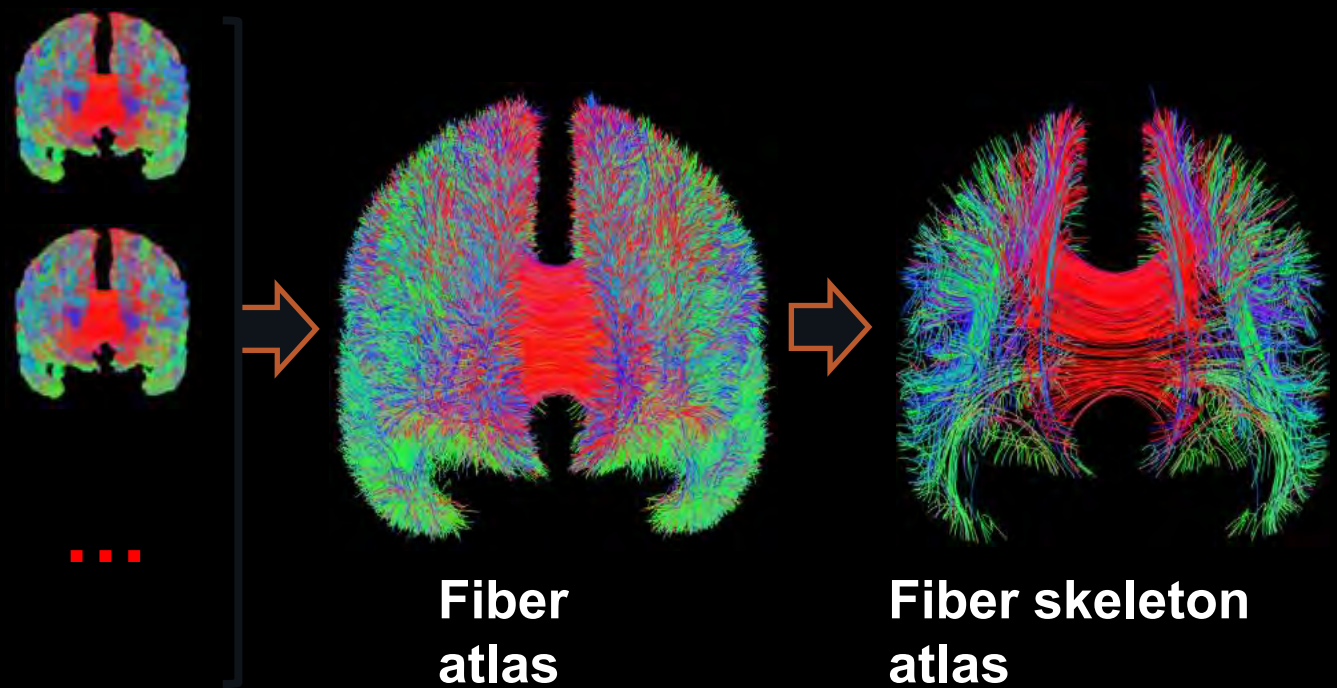
## Learning

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- Smith, I. T., Townsend, L.B., Huh, R. H. Zhu, and Smith, S. L. (2017) Stream-dependent development of higher visual cortical areas. *Nature Neuroscience*, 20, 200–208.
- Z. Zhang, M. Descoteaux, J. Zhang, G. Girard, M. Chamberland, D. Dunson, A. Srivastava, and H. Zhu. (2018). Mapping Population based Structural Connectomes. *NeuroImage*, 172, 130-145.

# Population based Structural Connectomes

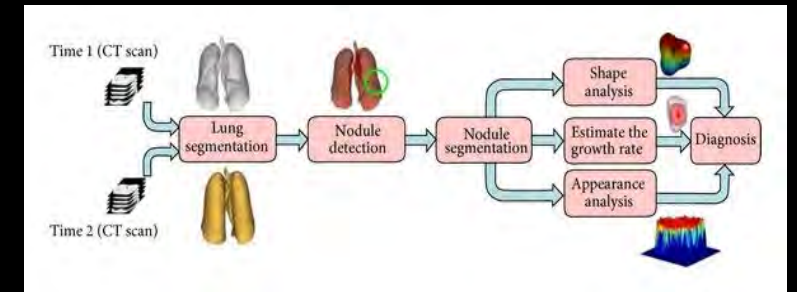


# Brain Function-based Structural Connectome Atlas





# Ecological Layout

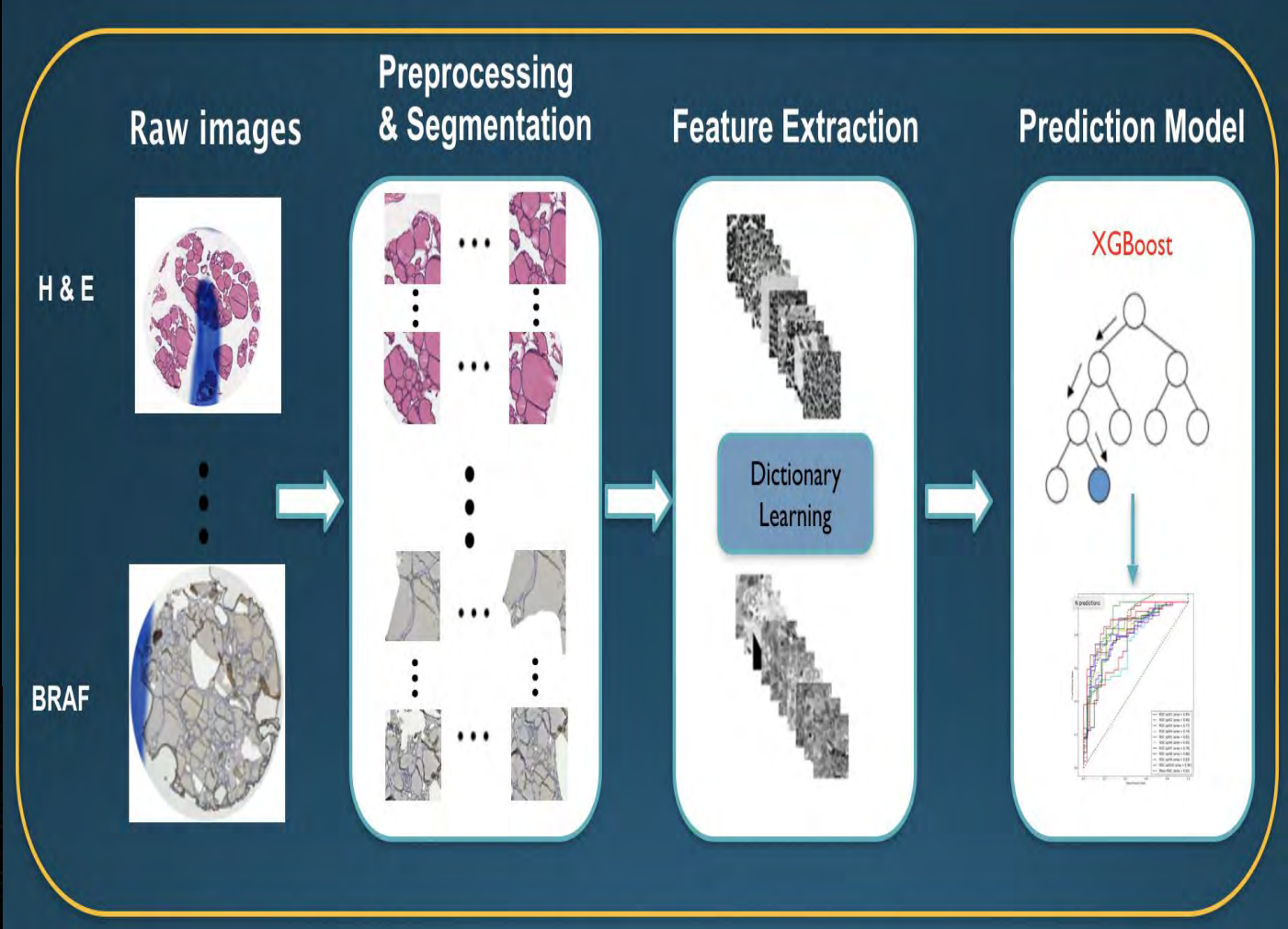
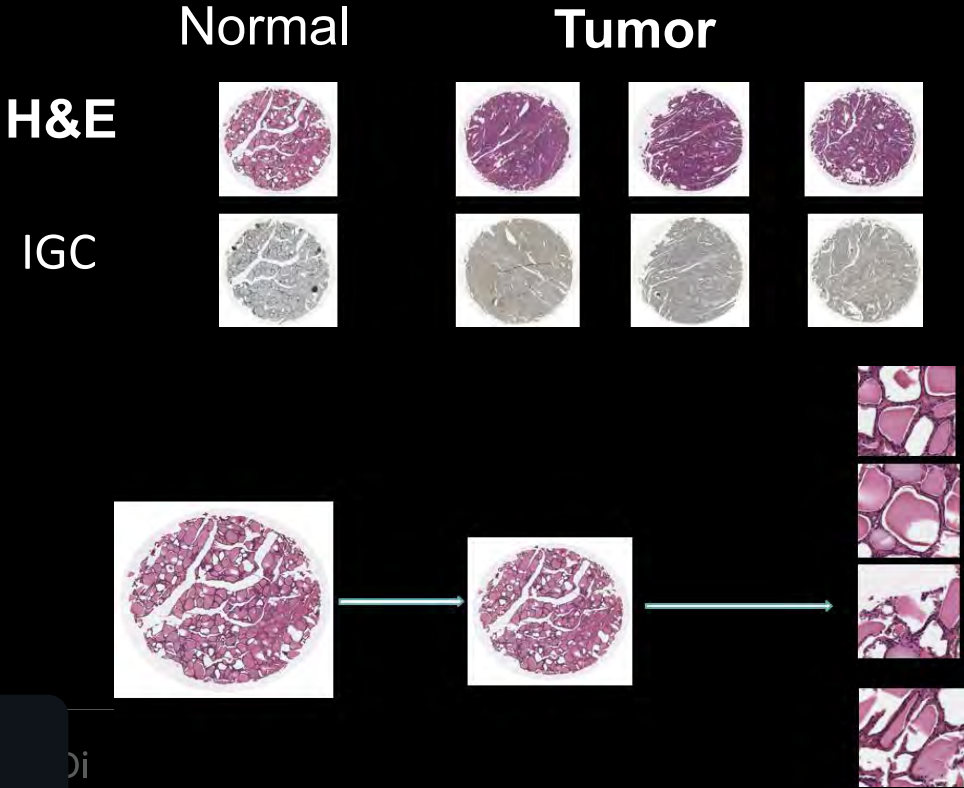


## Prediction

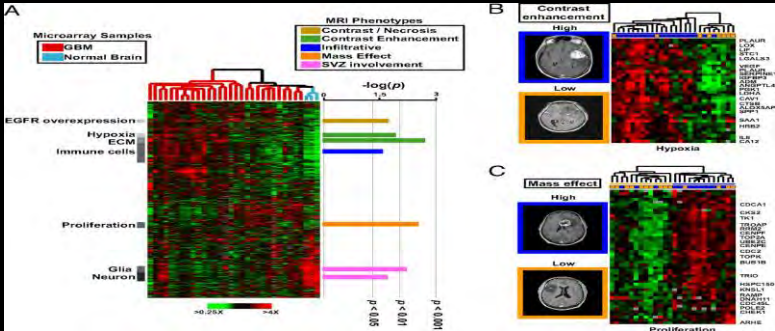
C. W. Wang, Y.C. Lee, E.Calista, **F. Zhou**, **H. Zhu**, R.Suzuki, D. Komura, S.Ishikawa, S.P. Cheng (2018).  
A benchmark for comparing precision medicine methods in thyroid cancer diagnosis using tissue microarrays.  
*Bioinformatics*, 34, 1767-1773.



# CAMELYON17



# Ecological Layout

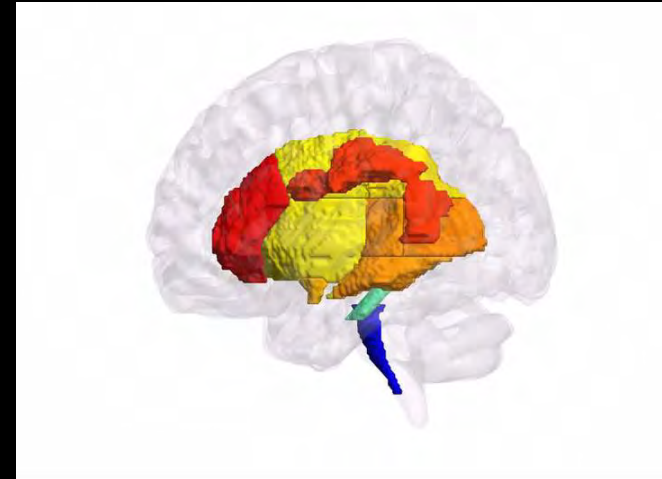
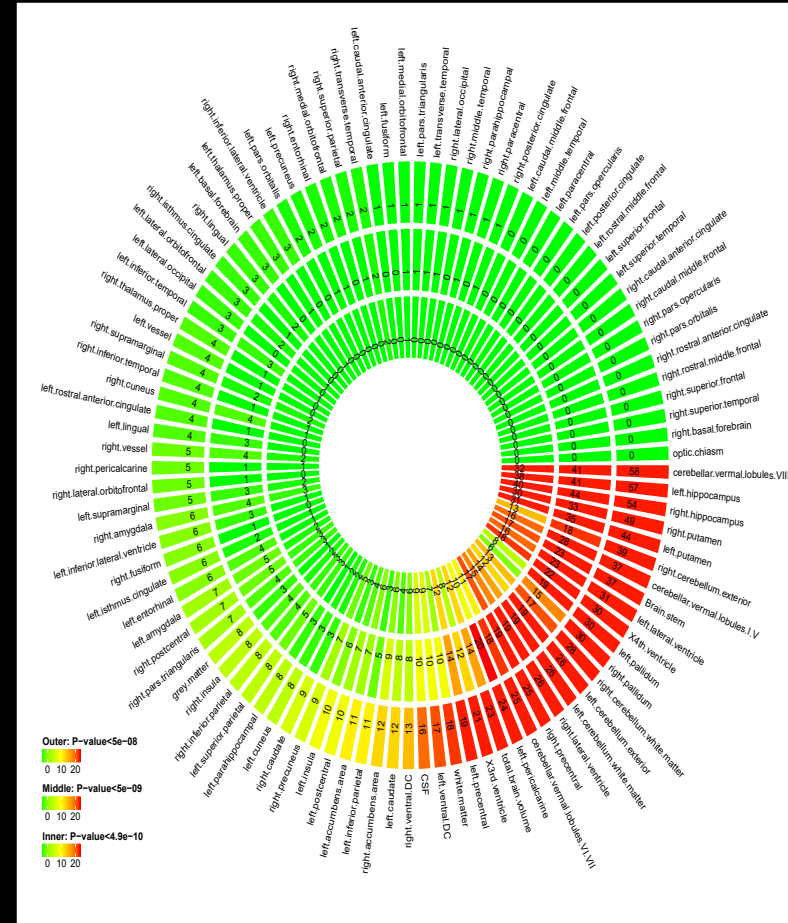


<http://www.pnas.org/content/105/13/5213/F1.expansion.html>

## Integration

# Image Genetics

Genome-wide association study (GWAS) of hundreds of imaging phenotypes with more than 50,000 subjects from five publicly available datasets (largest brain imaging GWAS so far)





## Part II

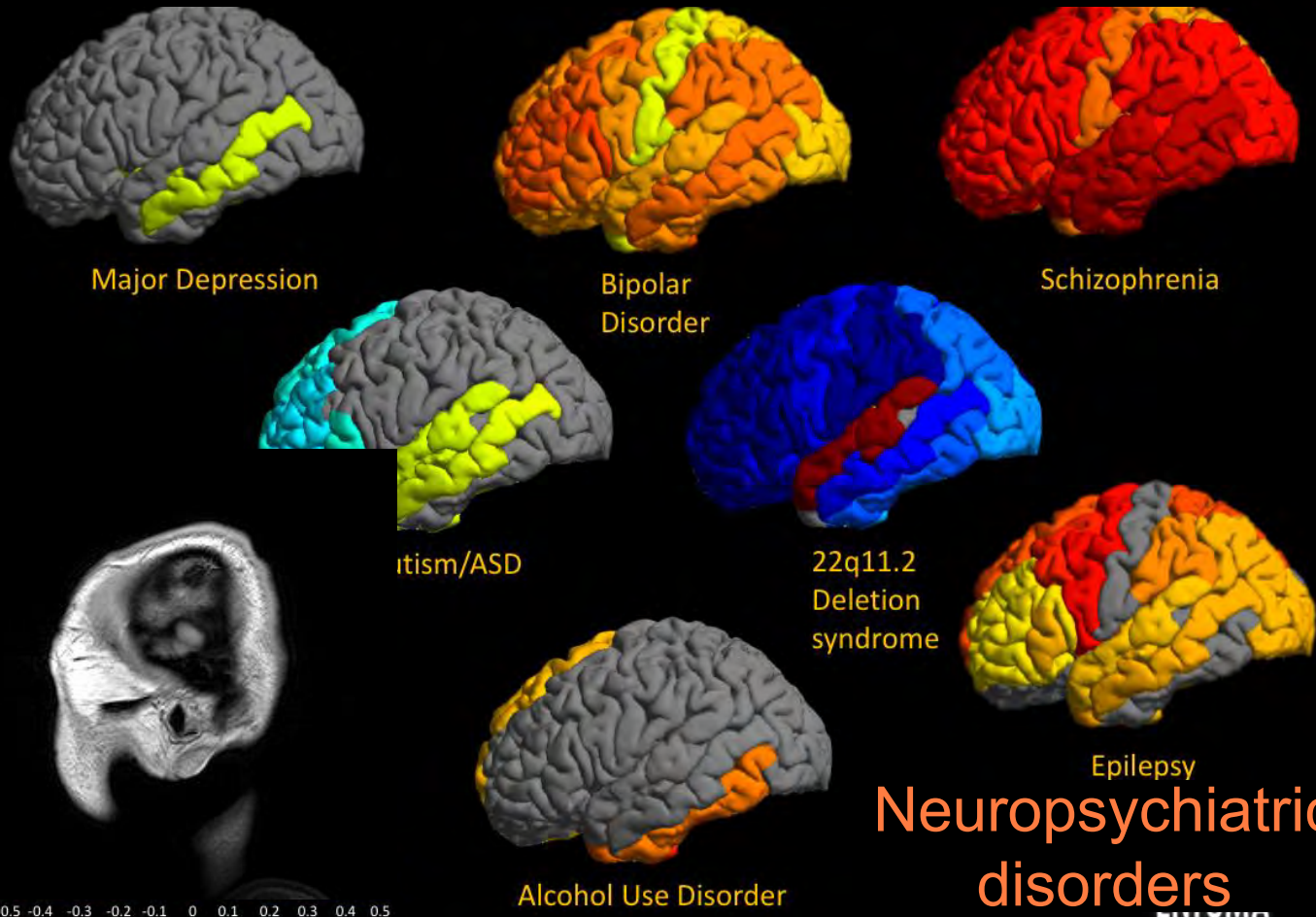
# Big Data in Imaging Genetics

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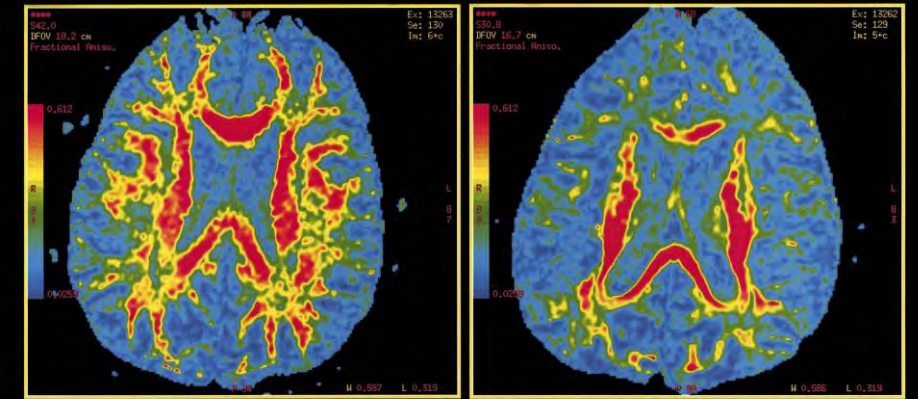


# Brain Imaging for Brain Disorders

Capture the brain structure and function changes associated with major brain-related disorders and normal development



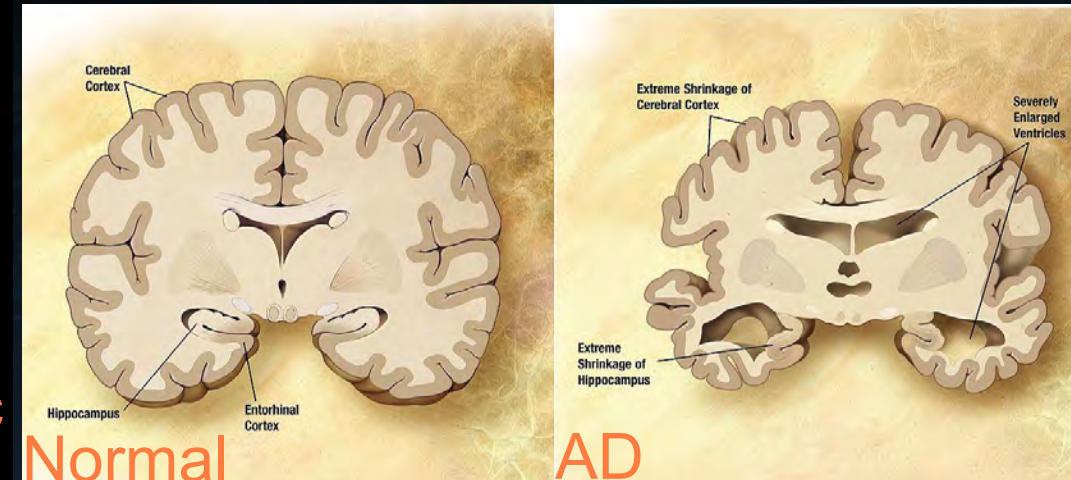
Neuropsychiatric disorders



Normal

AD

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is associated with brain shrinkage



Normal

AD

# Genetics of Brain Disorders

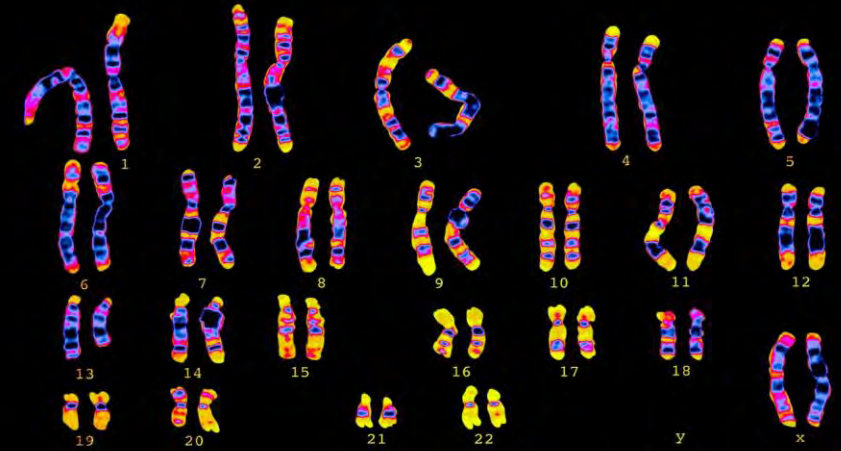
Most major brain disorders (like AD) are **heritable complex traits/diseases**

Together 50%-70% of AD risk

75%-90% of ADHD risk

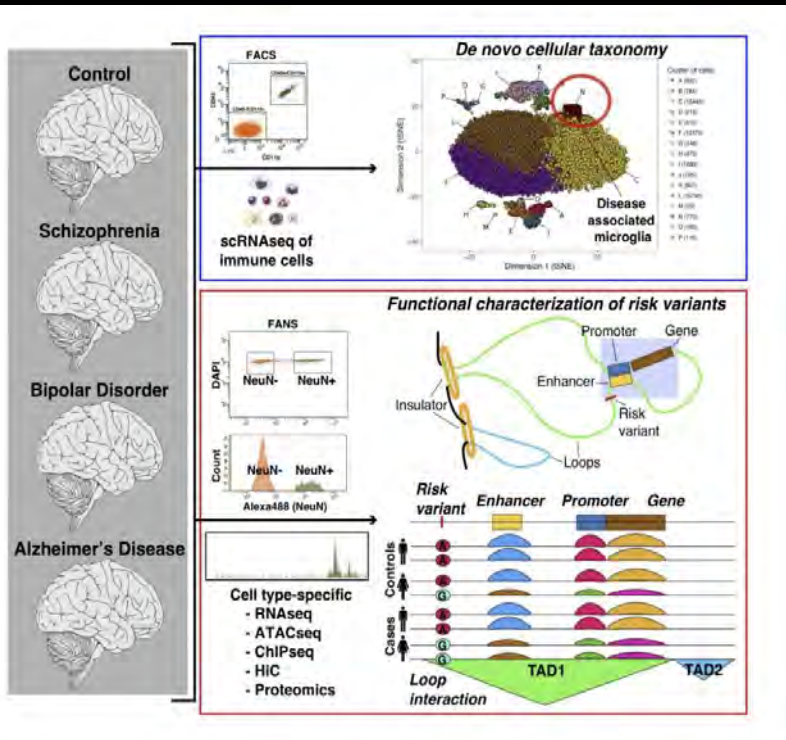
60%-85% of Schizophrenia risk

~80% of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) risk



Complex traits/diseases  
(many genes,  
environmental factors,  
complex functional  
mechanism)

Genetic signals are non-sparse  
and weak:  
Need large sample size to  
detect weak signals

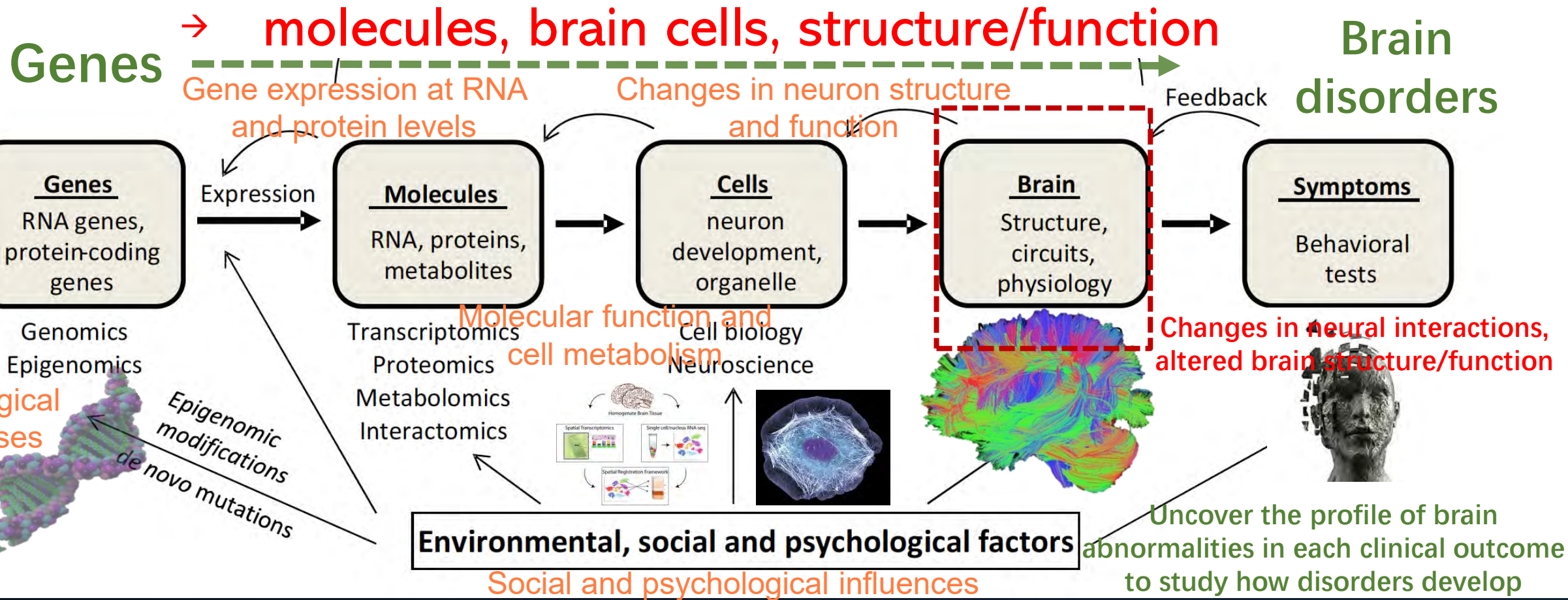


Many genes contribute to  
the risk of AD  
(polygenic genetic architecture)  
(small but nonzero contribution)



# Brain Imaging Genetics Paradigm

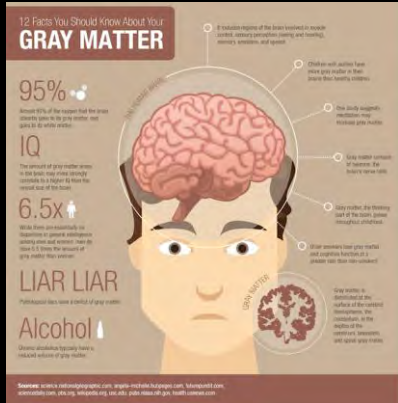
Neuroimaging: an important component to help understand the complex biological pathways of brain disorders



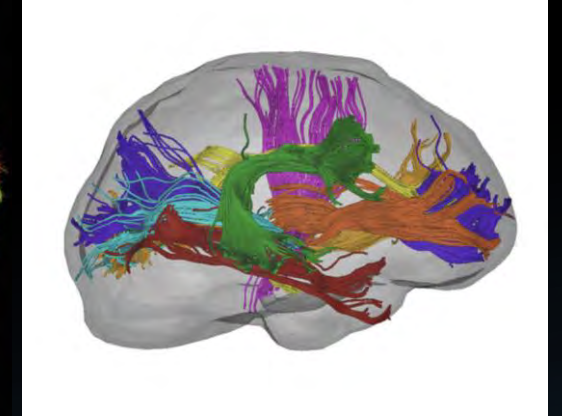
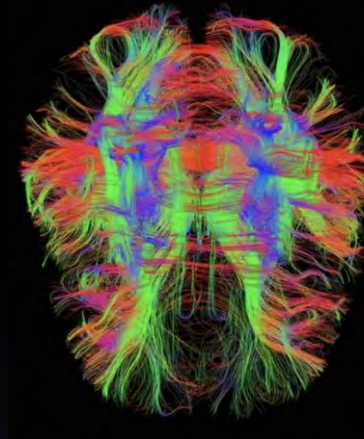


# Brain Imaging Modality Examples

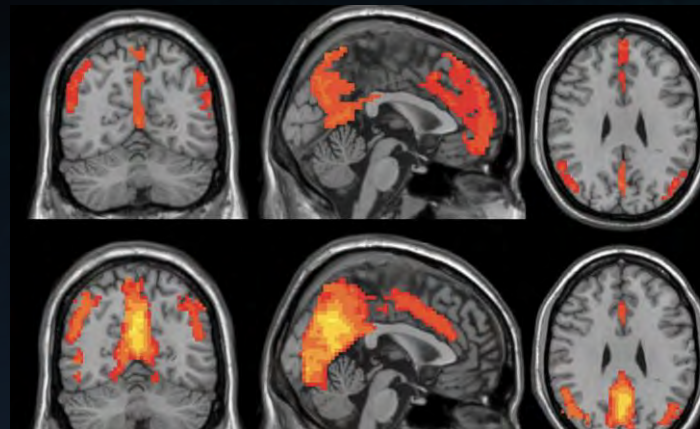
## Harmonize tools/pipelines to consistently generate the full spectrum of neuroimaging features



Cortical and subcortical structures



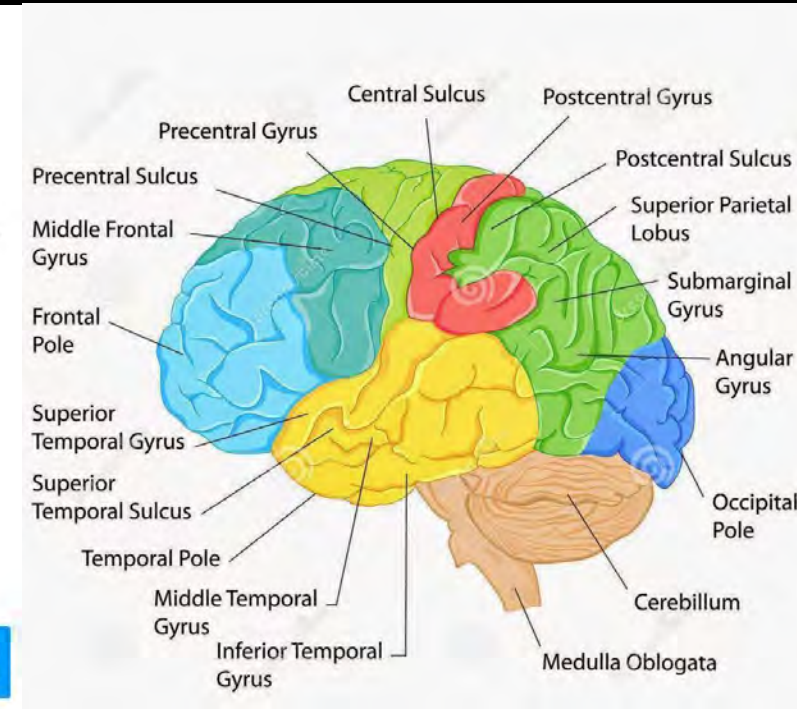
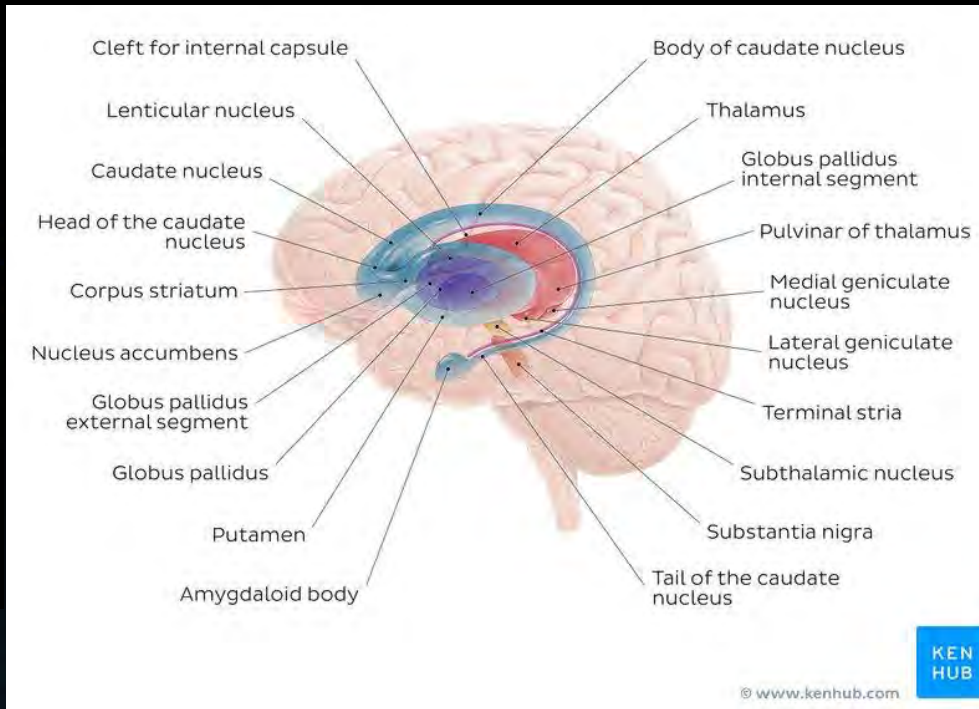
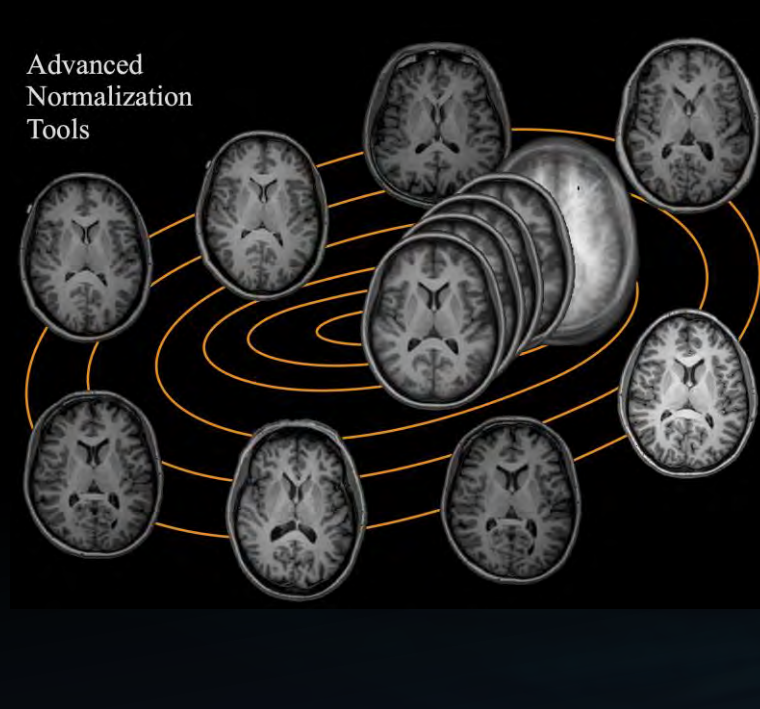
White matter microstructure  
(Structural connectivity,  
diffusion MRI)



Functional networks  
(Functional connectivity,  
functional MRI)

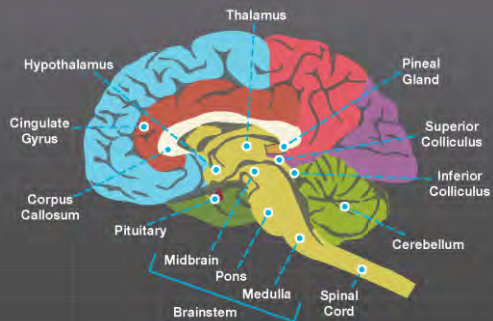
# Regional Brain Volumes and Shape

Generate regional brain volumes and shape representations for 98 pre-specified brain regions and total grey matter, white matter, and brain volumes



## Brain Anatomy

The major parts of the brain are made up of different structures that each have important and different functions



Subcortical structures  
(deep within the brain)

Cortical structures  
(outer layer of the cerebrum)



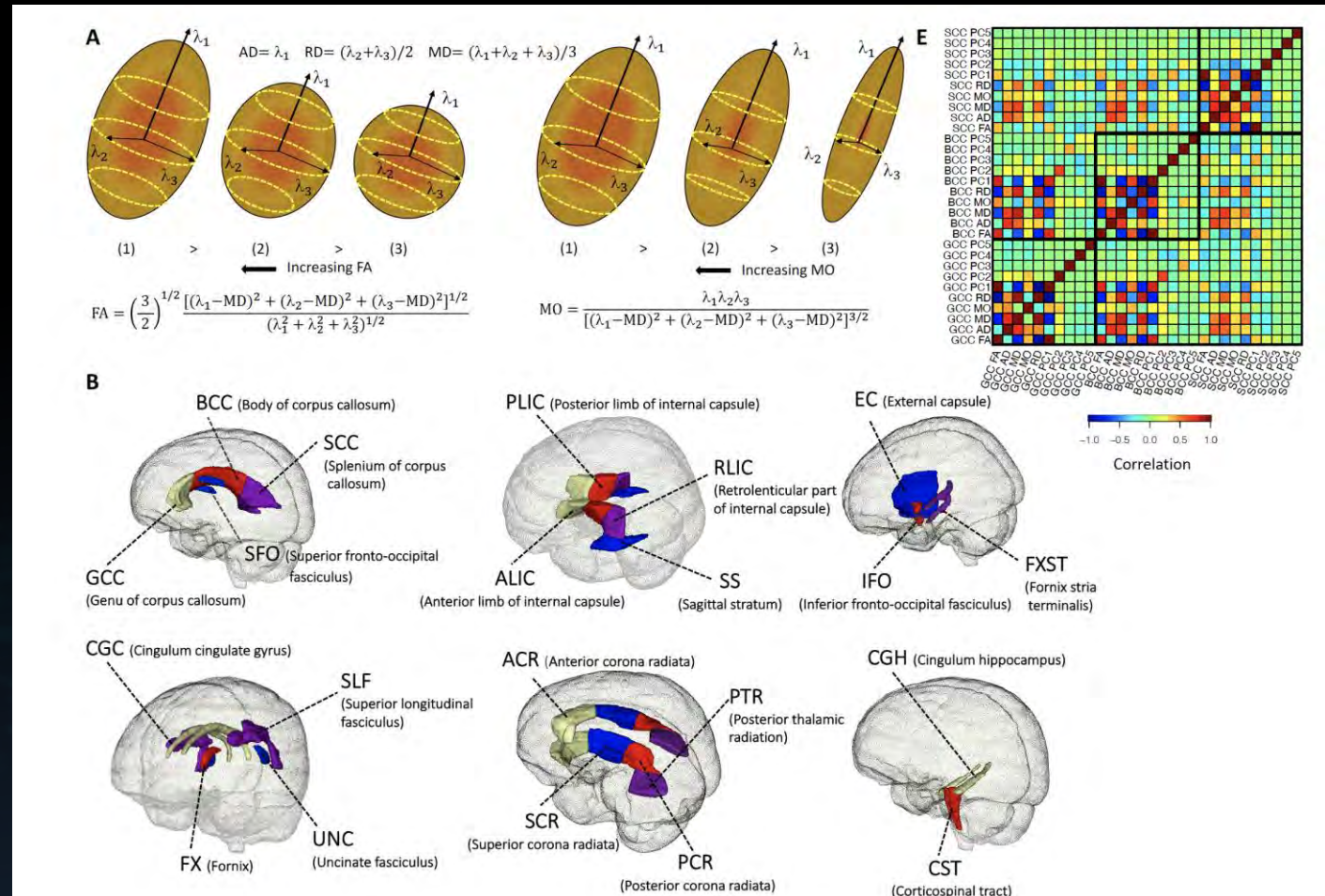
# White Matter Microstructure

## 5 white matter microstructure measures (DTI parameters) for 21 white matter tracts

21 white matter tracts from ENIGAMA-DTI pipeline

fractional anisotropy (FA)  
mean diffusivity (MD),  
axial diffusivity (AD),  
radial diffusivity (RD), and  
mode of anisotropy (MO)

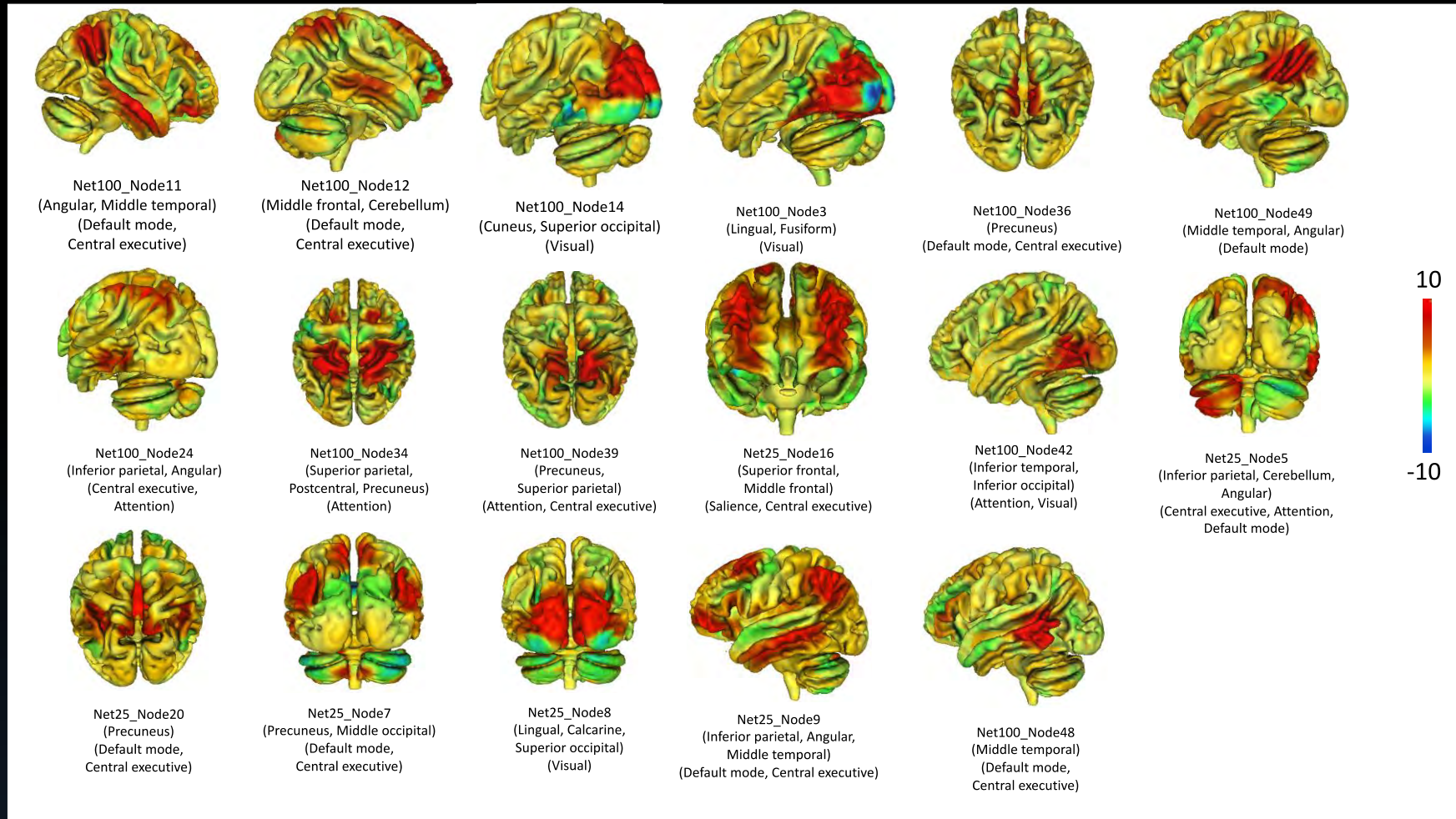
sensitive to specific types of  
microstructural changes and  
have also been widely used  
in clinical research





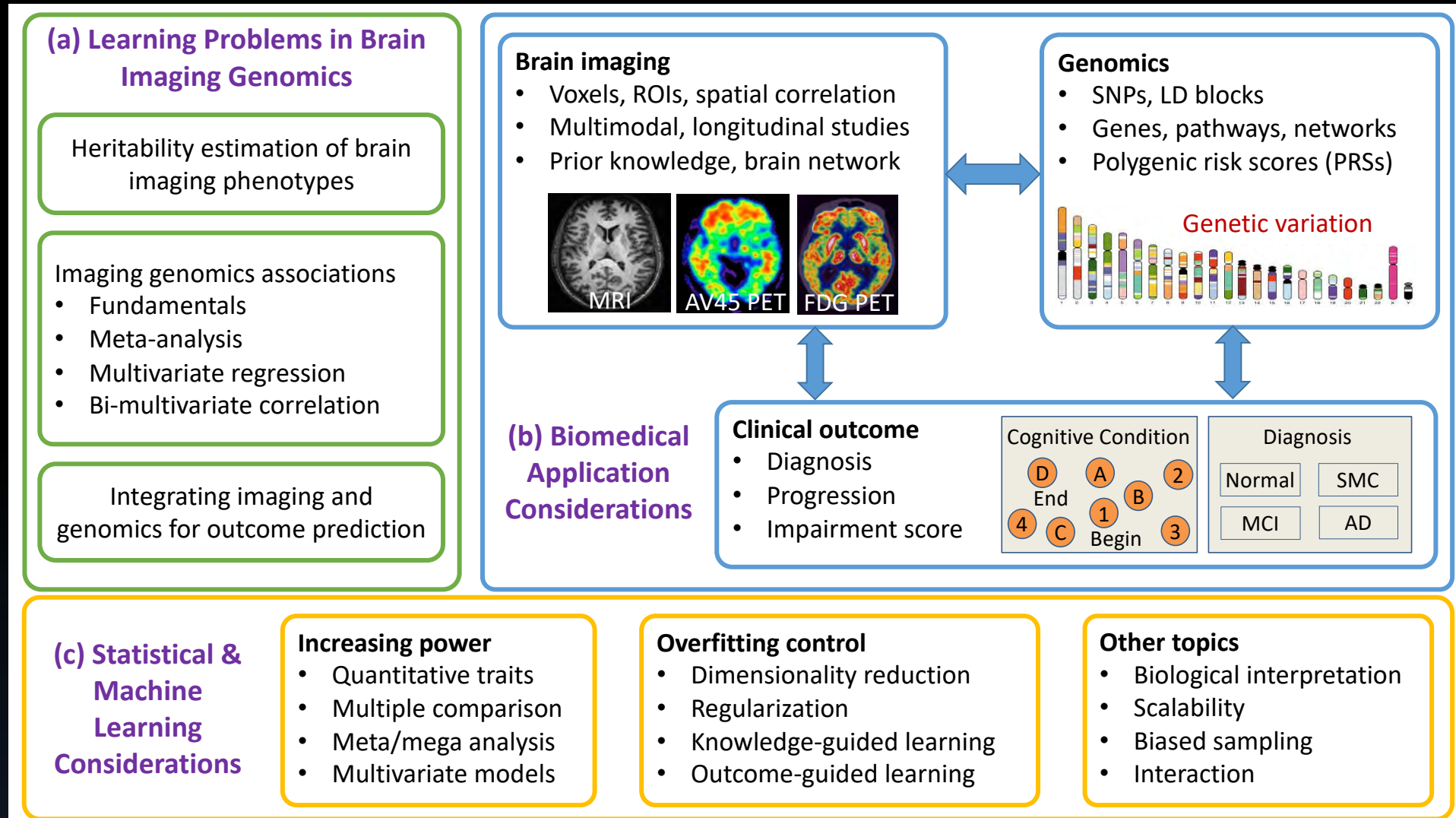
# Resting/task functional MRI (fMRI)

Independent component analysis (ICA)-based methods to form 76 functional regions and generate 1,701 functional connectivity traits

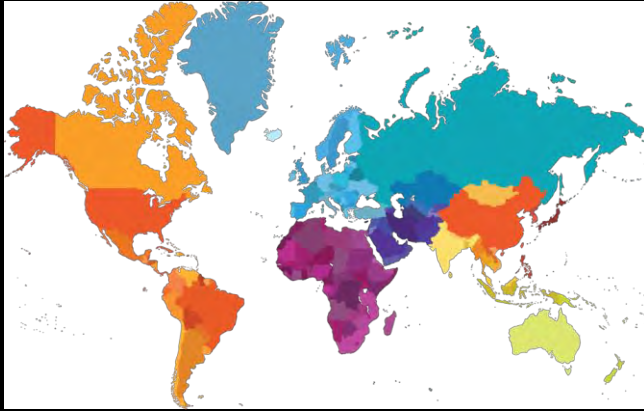


Characterize  
major functional  
brain regions and  
their connectivity

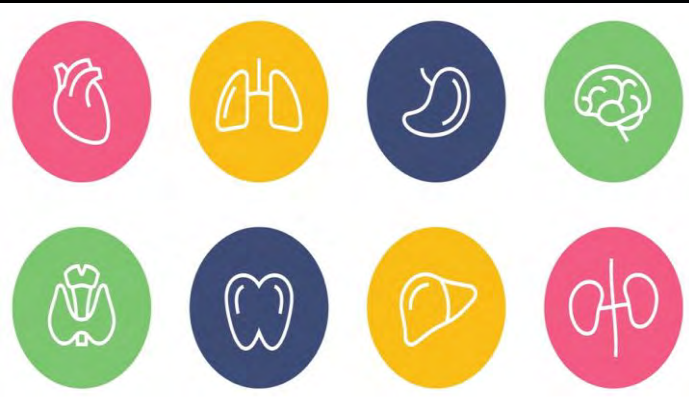
# Brain Imaging Genetics: Learning Problems



# Methodological Challenges

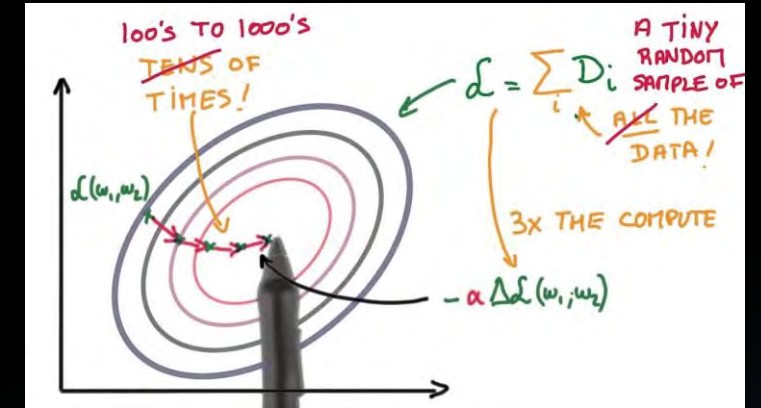
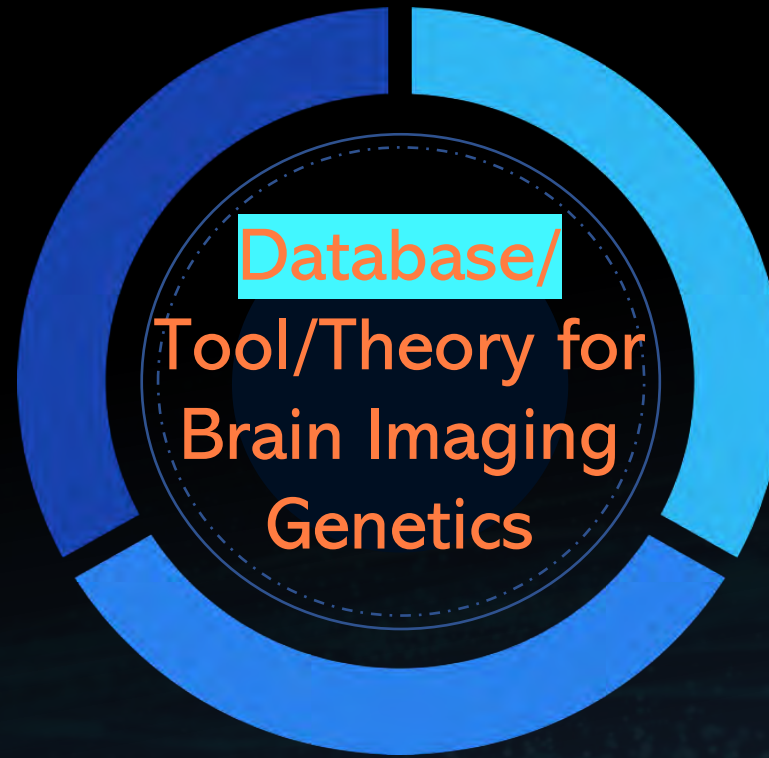


Multiple Biobanks Integration  
(e.g., Heterogeneity in global populations)

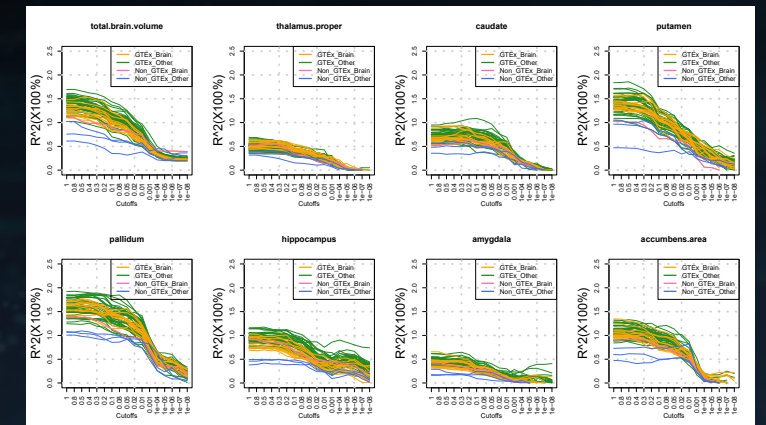


Omics Data Integration  
(e.g., new tech, biological pathway)

UNC Biostatistics



New Computational Tools  
(e.g., challenge of dense signal in biobank-scale database)



Advanced Methods for Dense Signals  
(e.g., deep learning)

BIG-KP | <https://bigkp.org/>



# Brain Imaging Genetics: Learning Problems

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M.Huang, T.Nichols, C.Huang, Y.Yang, Z. Lu, Q. Feng, R.C. Knickmeyer, **H.Zhu**, and for ADNI. (2015). FVGWAS: Fast Voxelwise Genome Wide Association Analysis of Large-scale Imaging Genetic Data. *NeuroImage*, 118, 613-627. **Winner of Best Paper award in ASA SI Session, 2015.**

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**Zhu, H.T.**, **Khondker, Z. S.**, **Lu, Z.H.**, and Ibrahim, J. G. Bayesian generalized low rank regression models for neuroimaging phenotypes and genetic markers. *Journal of American Statistical Association*, 109, 1084-1098, 2014.

**Lin, J.**, **Zhu, H.T.**, Knickmeyer, R., Styner, M., Gilmore, J. and Ibrahim, J.G. Projection Regression Models for Multivariate Imaging Phenotype. *Genetic Epidemiology*, 36, 631-641, 2012.



## Part III

# Novel Clinical findings

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# Brain Imaging Genetics Knowledge Portal (BIG-KP)

Genetics Discoveries in Human Brain by Big Data Integration

**bigkp.org**

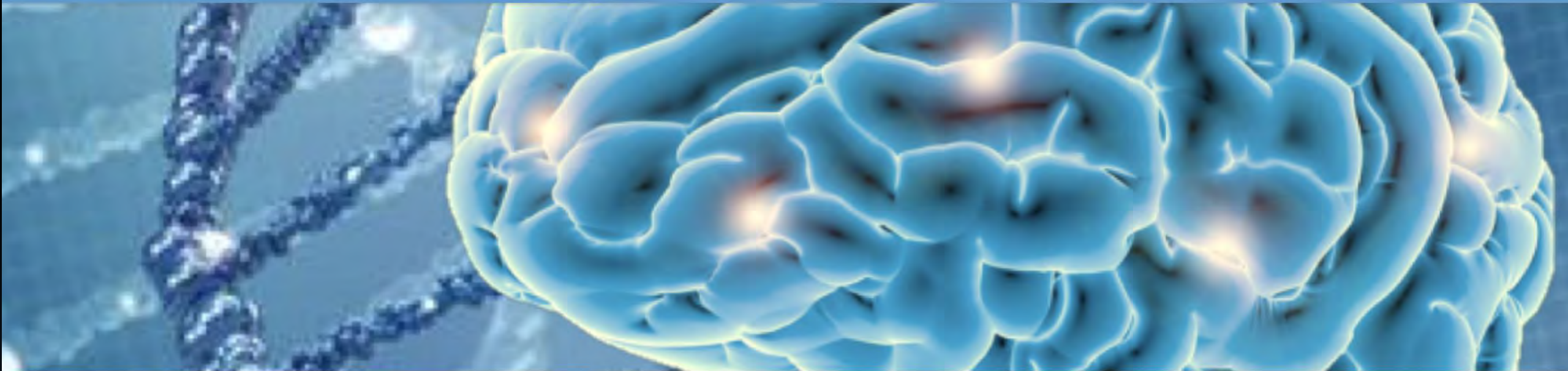
Imaging Genetics Online Server

GWAS Summary Statistics Data Download

UNC BIG-S2 Lab

BIG-S2 Github

Other Resources



Aim to build the best knowledge database of neuroimaging genetics



# GWAS Locus Browser

Brain Imaging Genetics Summary Statistics

Phenotypes

Top Hits

Random

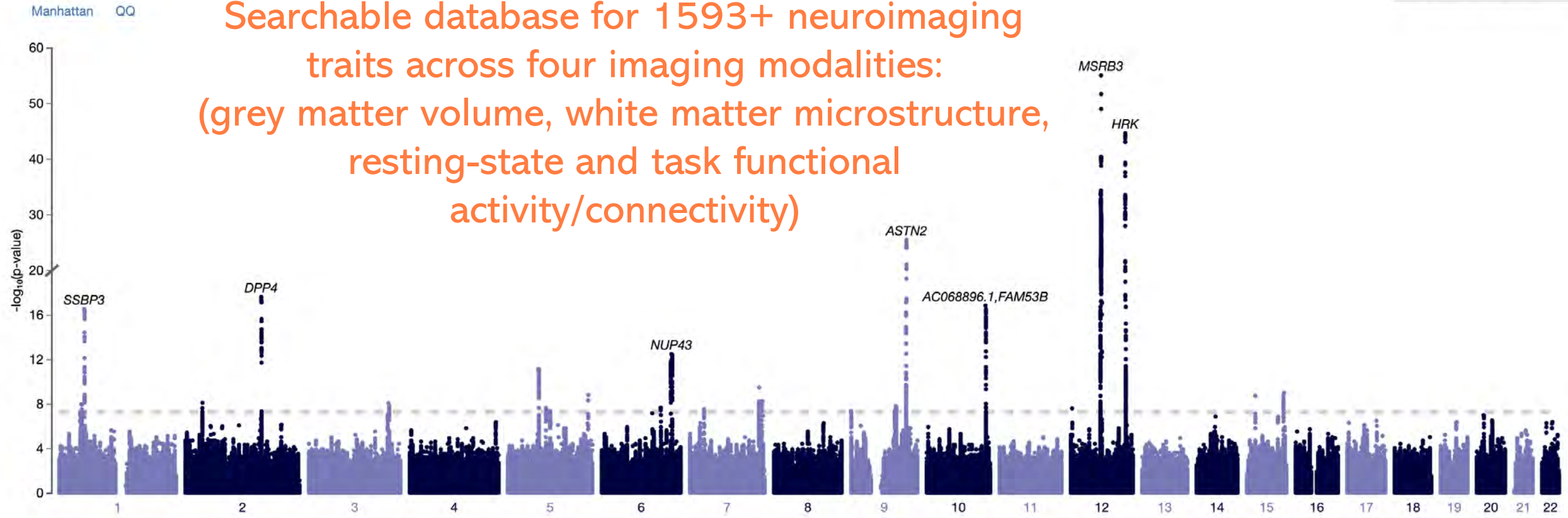
About

## left.hippocampus

Category: sMRI

[Download summary statistics](#)

Searchable database for 1593+ neuroimaging traits across four imaging modalities: (grey matter volume, white matter microstructure, resting-state and task functional activity/connectivity)



# GWAS Locus Browser

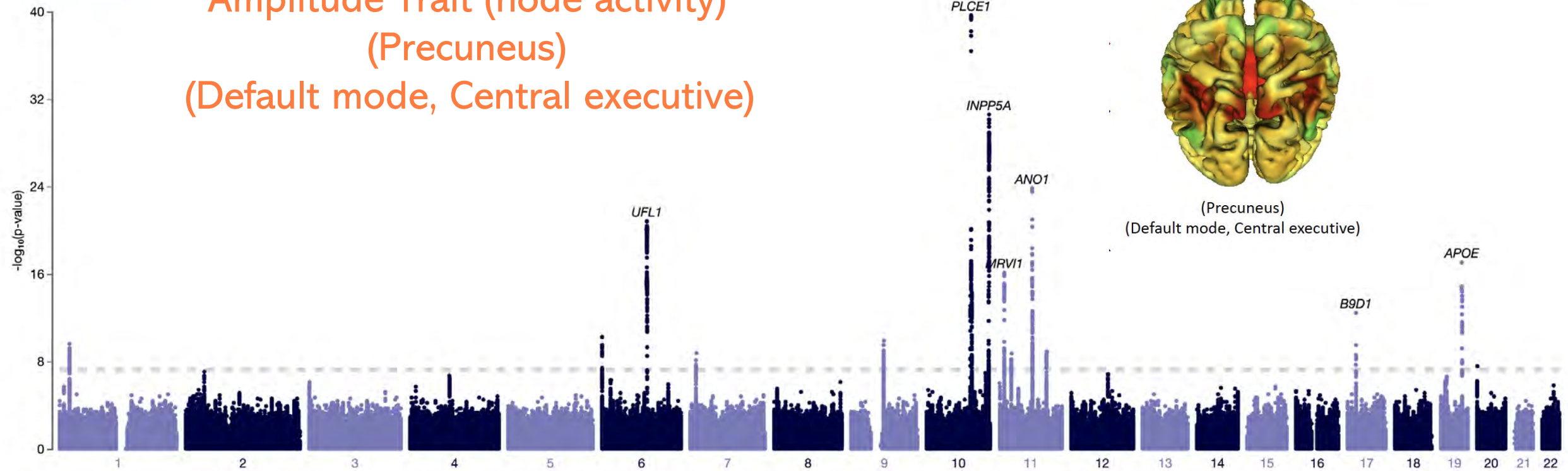
Net25\_Node20

Category: rs-fMRI

[Download summary statistics](#)

Manhattan QQ

Amplitude Trait (node activity)  
(Precuneus)  
(Default mode, Central executive)



# GWAS Summary Statistics

The full set of GWAS summary statistics have been made freely available to the research community

Resources with the largest sample size (>4,350 page views since Sep 2019)

## GWAS Summary Statistics for Brain Imaging Phenotypes

Involved datasets: UK Biobank (UKB), Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study, Human Connectome Project (HCP), Philadelphia Neurodevelopmental Cohort (PNC), Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI), Pediatric Imaging, Neurocognition, and Genetics (PINIG)

### Terms of Use:

- By downloading these data, you acknowledge that they will be used for research purposes and that you are in compliance with applicable rules, policies and regulations.
- When reporting results of research that utilizes these data we request that you cite the original publication.

### GWAS summary statistics for 200 resting-state functional MRI (rs-fMRI) traits

- **Sample size:** n=34,691
- **Version:** July 15, 2020
- Download Summary Statistics:

```
wget --no-check-certificate --content-disposition https://raw.githubusercontent.com/stat-yyang/sumstats/master/fMRI.list  
wget -i fMRI.list
```

- **Description:** [readme](#)
- **Citation:** Zhao et al (2020) Common variants contribute to intrinsic

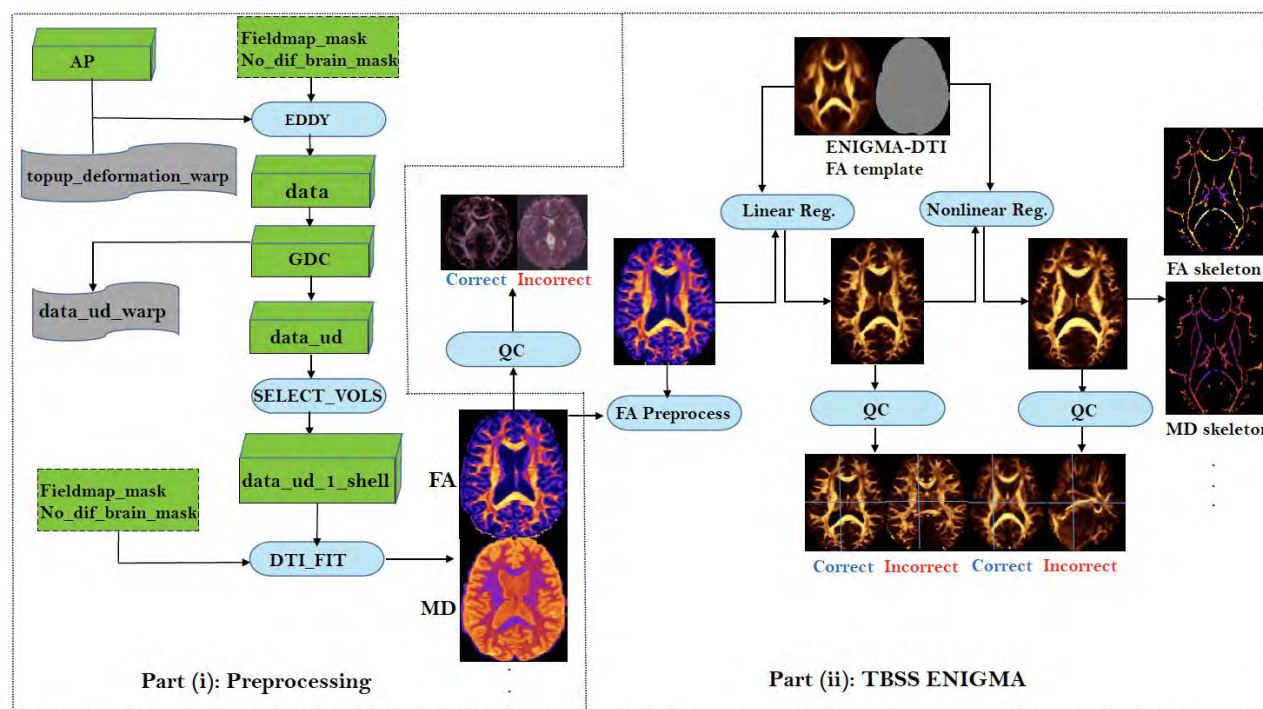
### Contents [hide]

- 1 GWAS summary statistics for 200 resting-state functional MRI (rs-fMRI) traits
- 2 GWAS summary statistics for 635 tract-specific diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) parameters
- 3 GWAS Summary Statistics for 101 Brain Regional Volumes
- 4 GWAS summary statistics for 110 brain regional diffusion tensor imaging

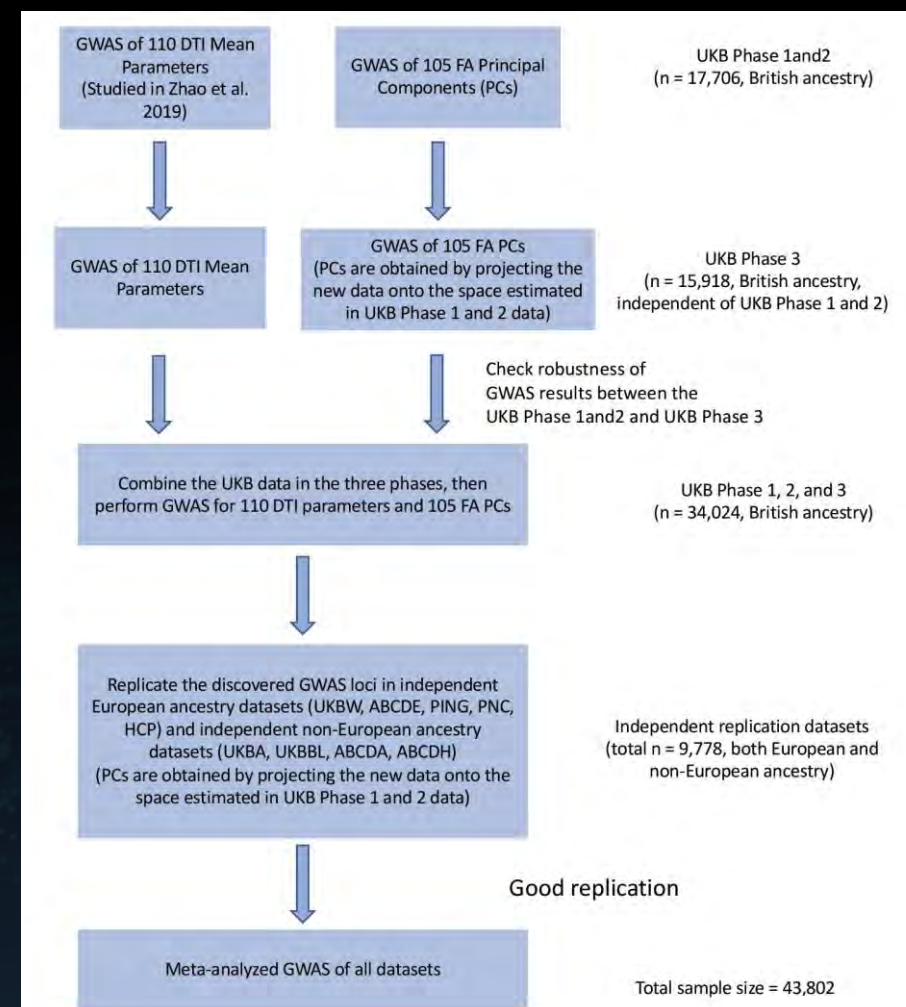


# GWAS of White Matter Tracts

## Overview of the ENIGMA-DTI pipeline and the multiple-stage design in GWAS



Apply the same pipeline in different datasets (UKB, ABCD, PING, PNC, HCP)



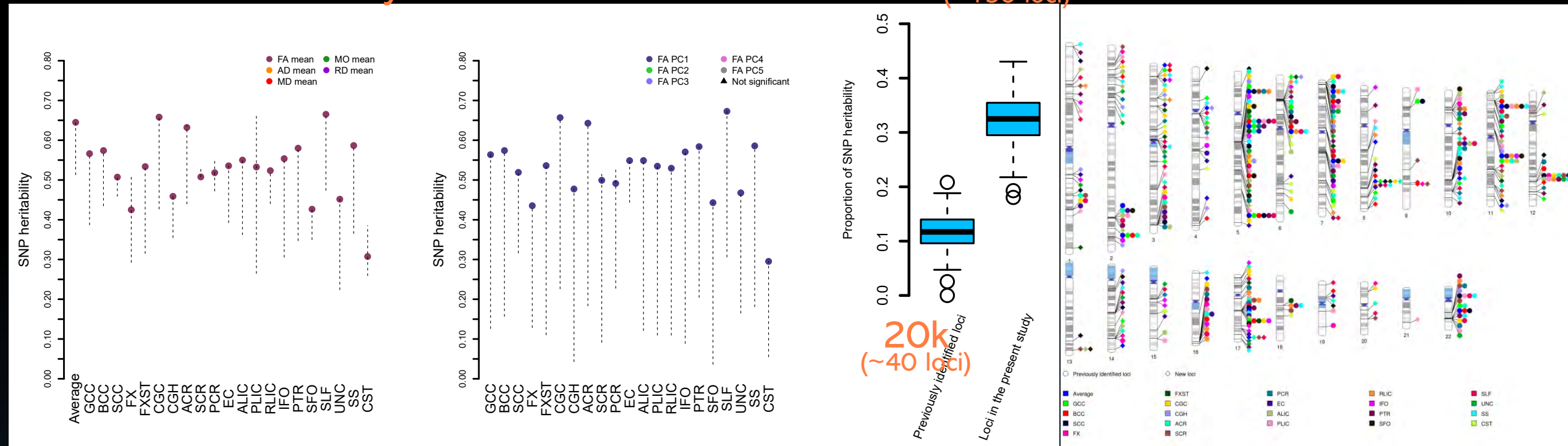
# Genetic Architecture of White Matter

We observed 109 novel genomic regions (151 in total,  $P < 2.3e-10$ ,  $5e-8/215$ ) associated with white matter microstructure

Heritability  $h^2 \sim 45\%$

40k  
(~150 loci)

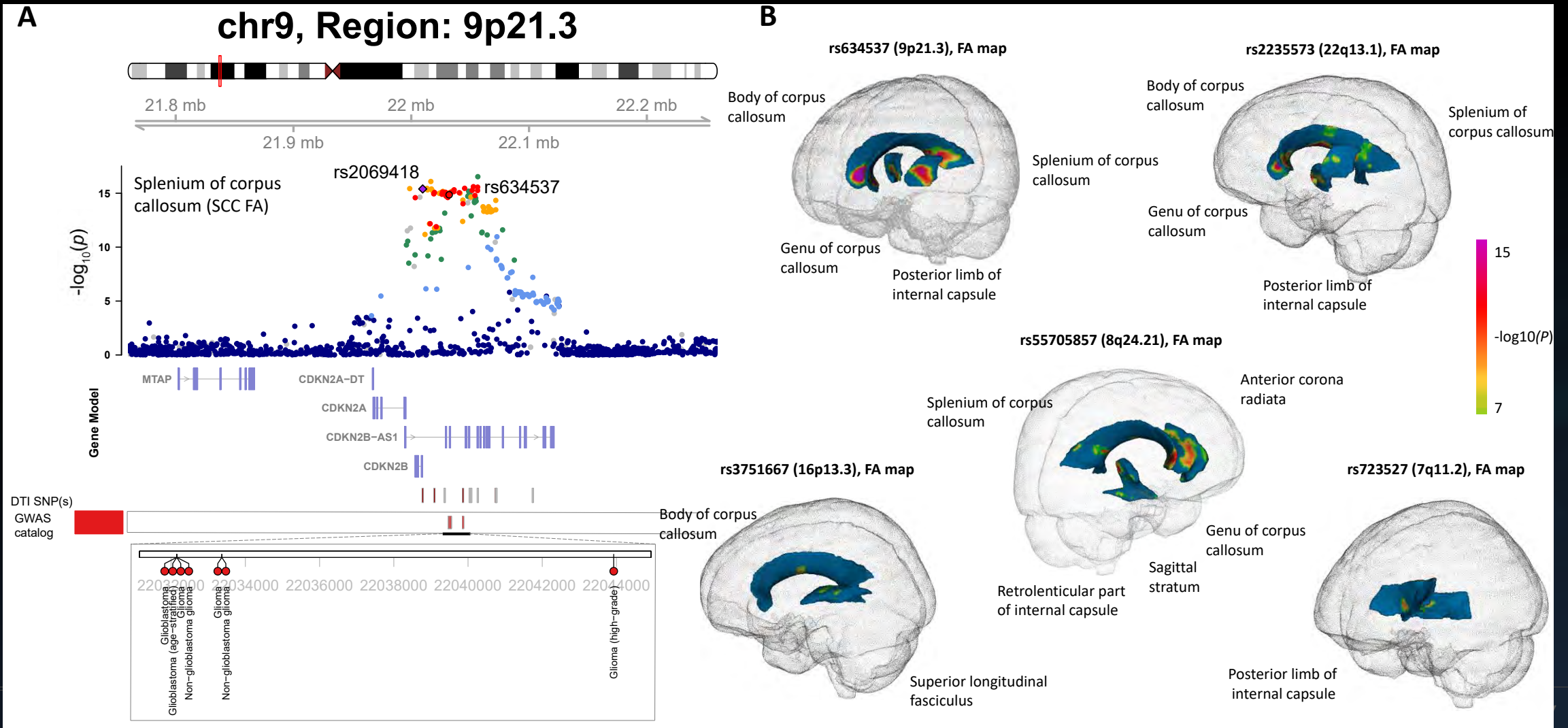
Ideogram of genomic regions



Sample size is essential for gene discovery of traits with highly polygenic genetic architecture

# Colocalization with Glioma/GBM

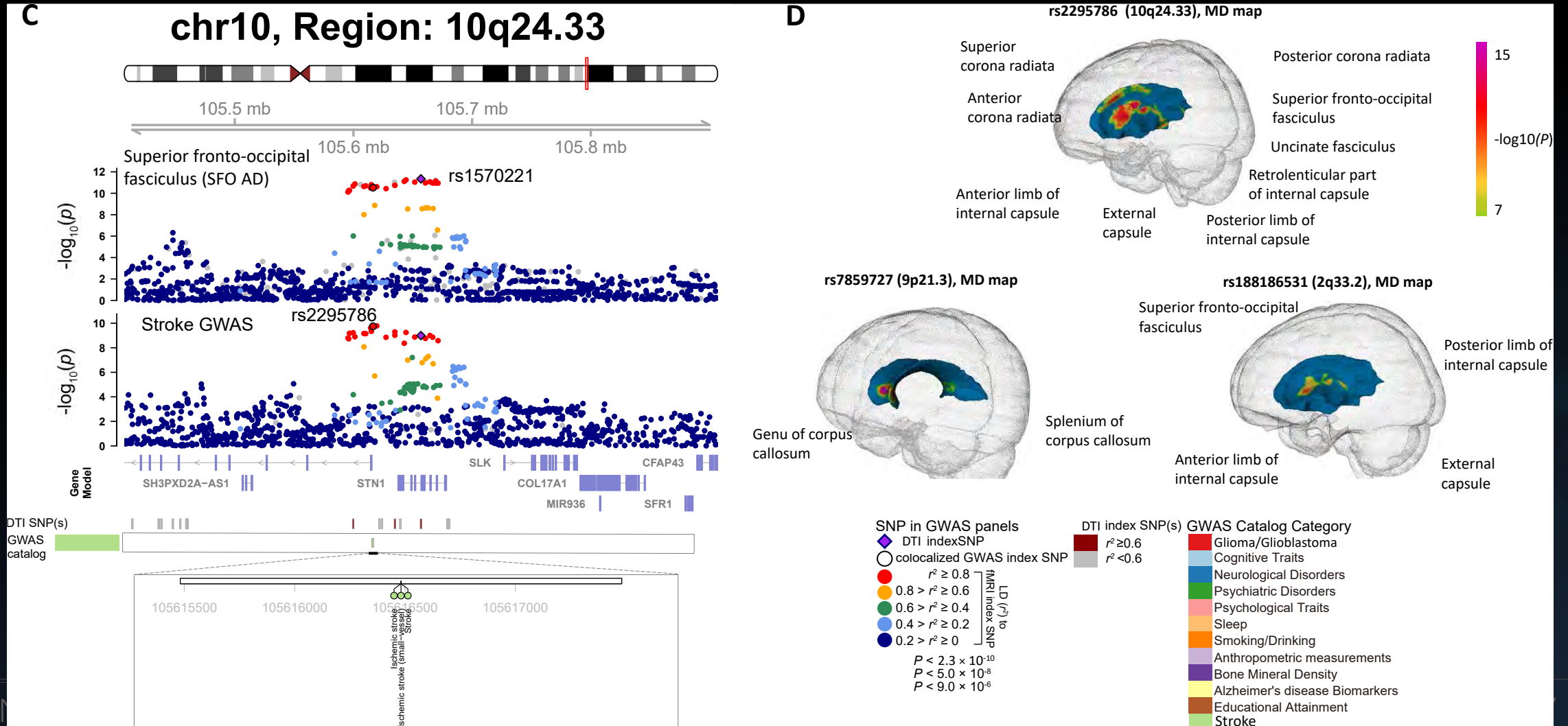
For the 25 known genomic risk regions of Glioma/GBM, 11 are associated with white matter microstructure





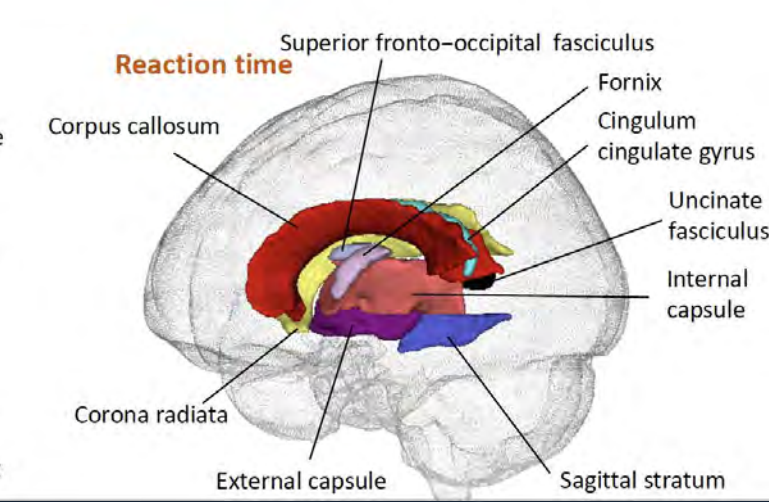
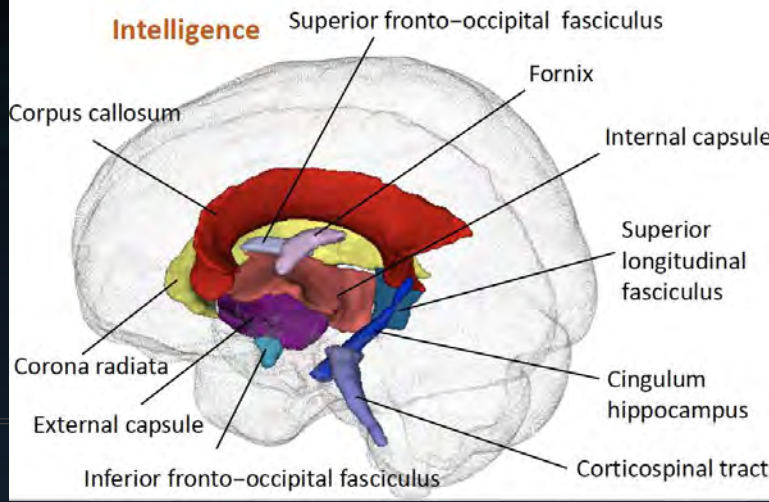
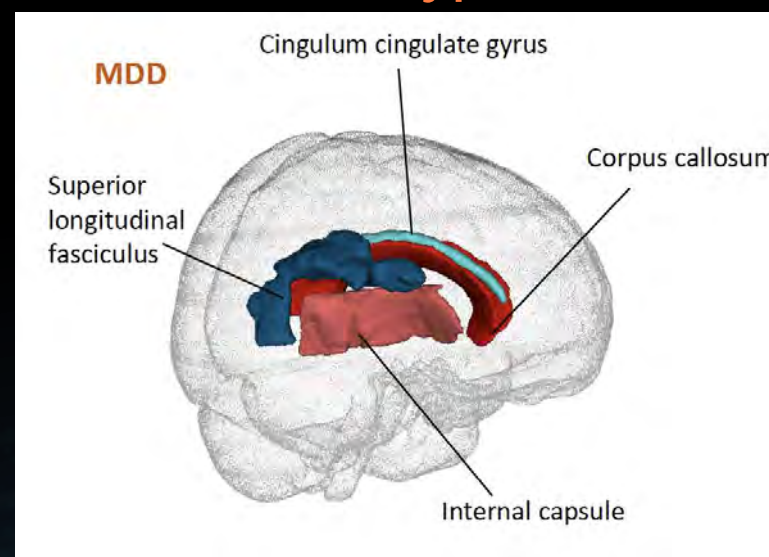
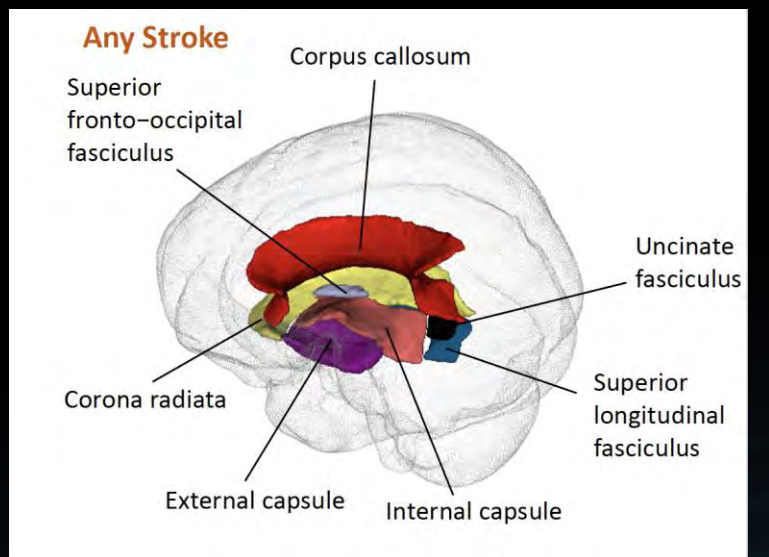
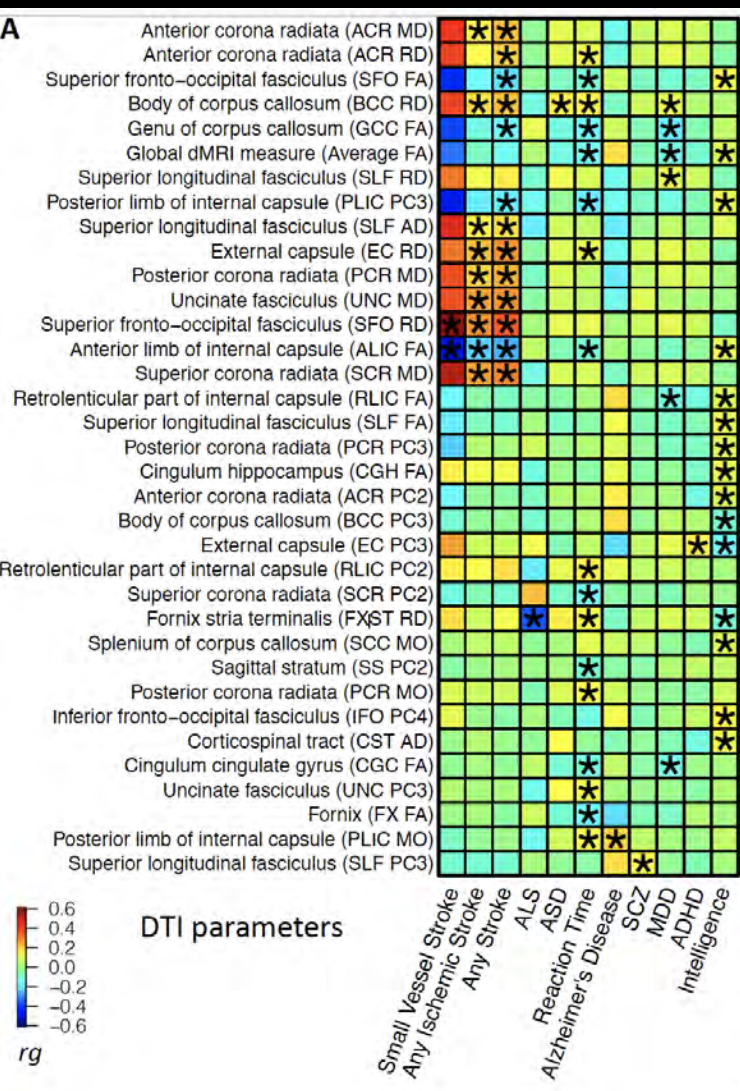
# Colocalization with Stroke

Genetic colocalizations among vascular risk factors (e.g., obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure), white matter microstructure, and stroke



# Genetic Correlations with Brain Disorders

**Strong genetic correlation**  
between white matter microstructure and **small vessel stroke subtype**

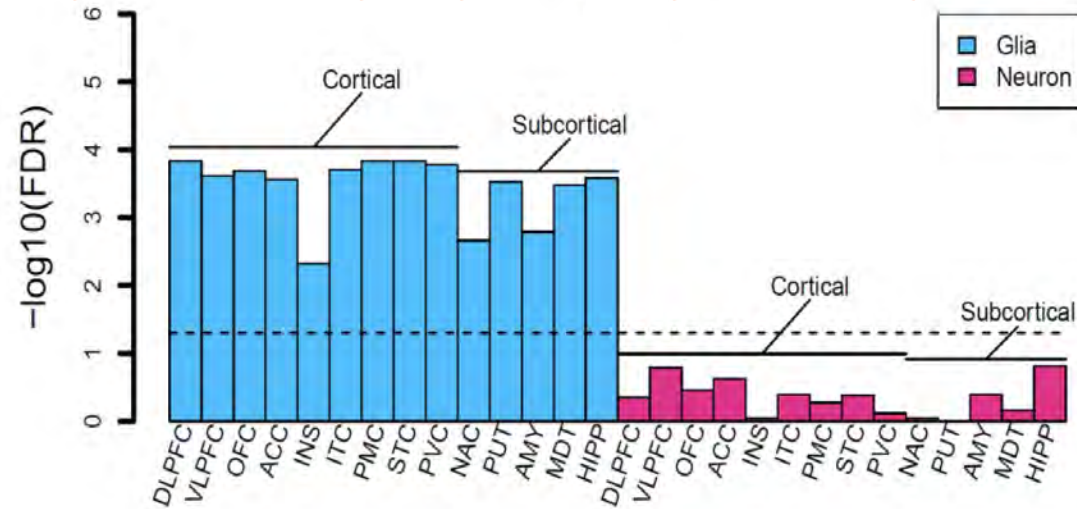
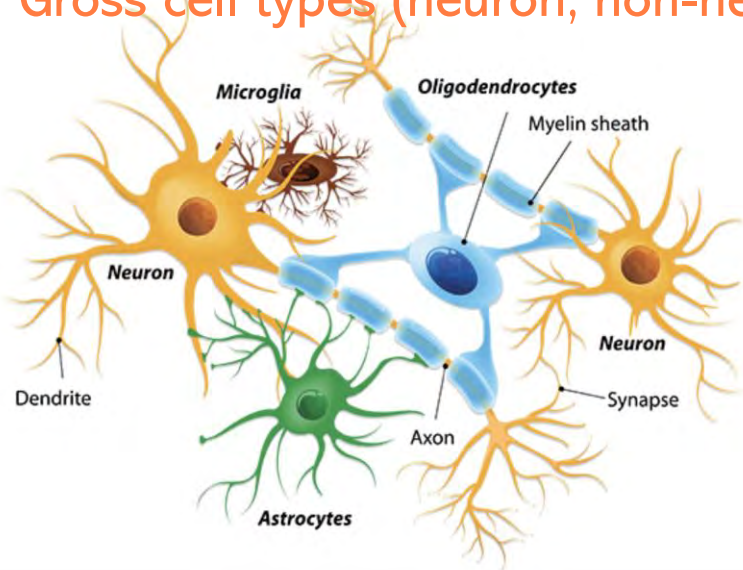




# Heritability Enrichment in Brain Cells

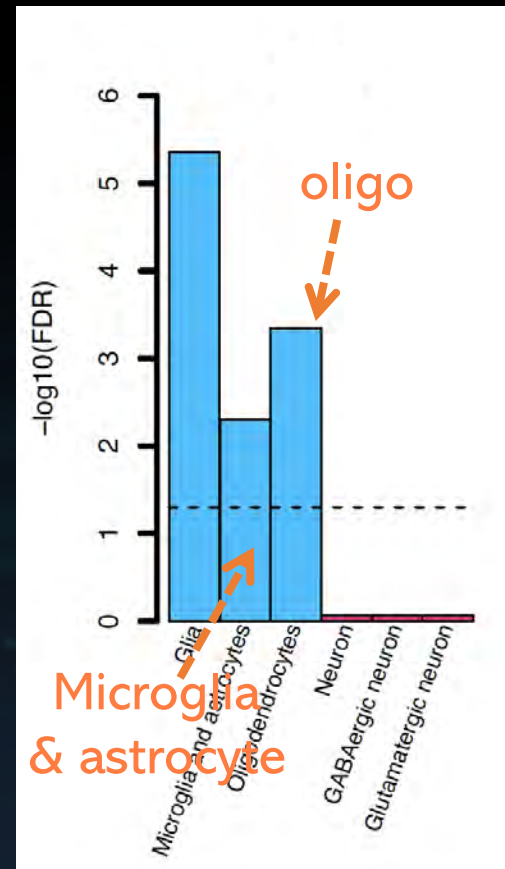
Identify brain cell types where genetic variation leads to changes in white matter connectivity

Gross cell types (neuron, non-neuron [glia, including oligo, microglia, astrocyte])



White matter is largely composed of glial cell types (oligo, microglia, astrocyte)

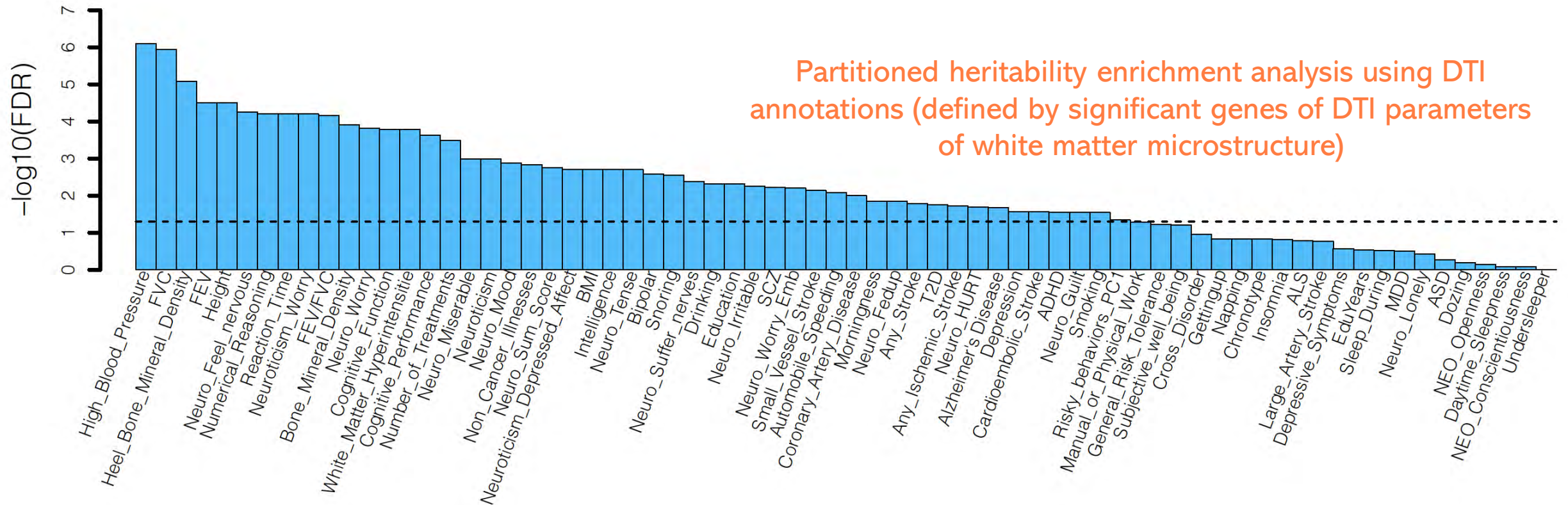
Oligo annotation accounted for 10.4% heritability while only composed 0.3% of the genetic variants





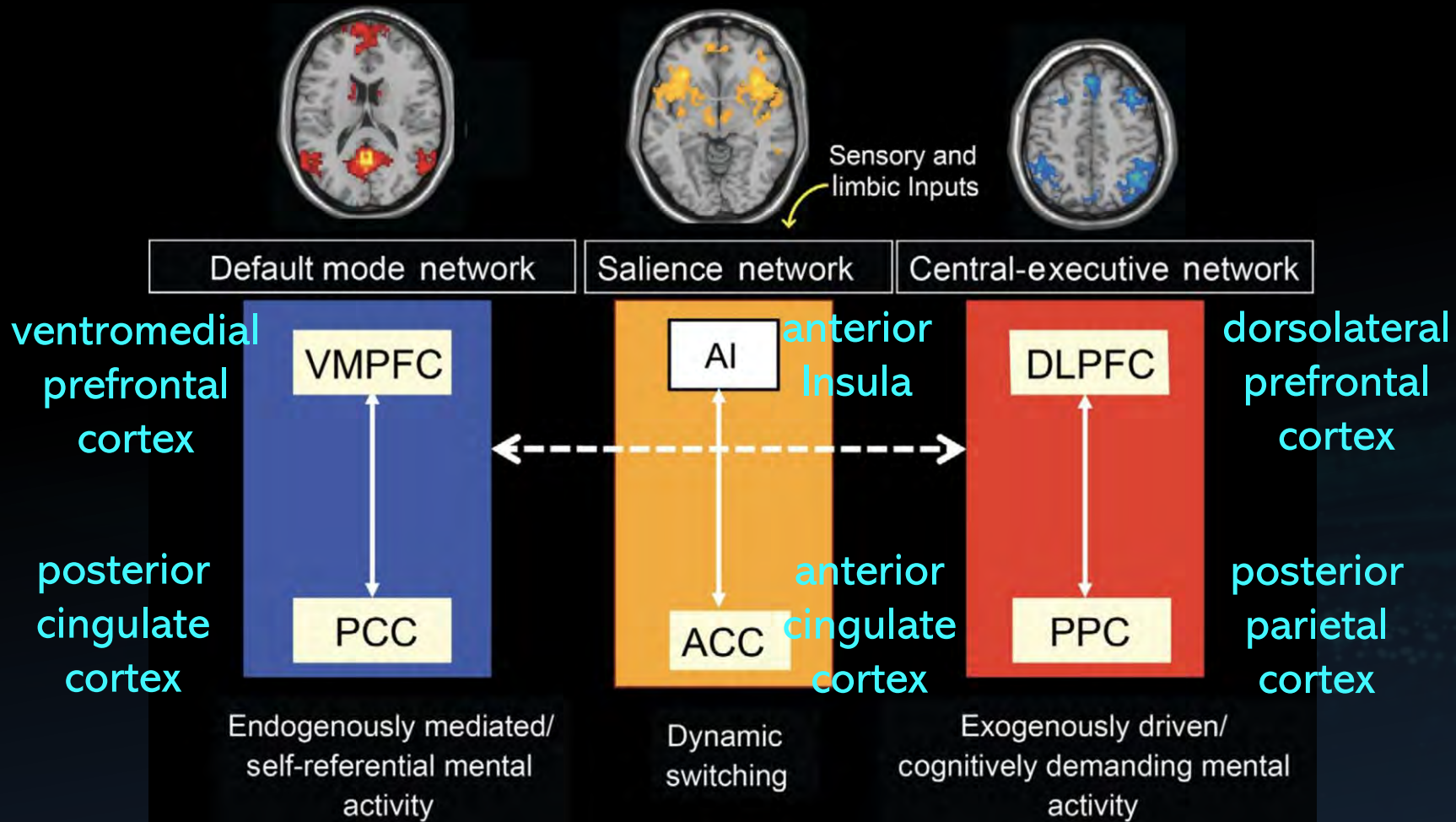
# DTI annotation enrichment

Heritability of 49 complex traits was significantly enriched in genetic regions influencing white matter microstructure, such as stroke, schizophrenia, ADHD, bipolar Alzheimer's Disease, T2D, high blood pressure, and coronary artery disease



## Triple Network Model of Psychopathology

The salience network (SN) plays a crucial role in dynamic switching between the central executive (CE) and default mode (DM) networks



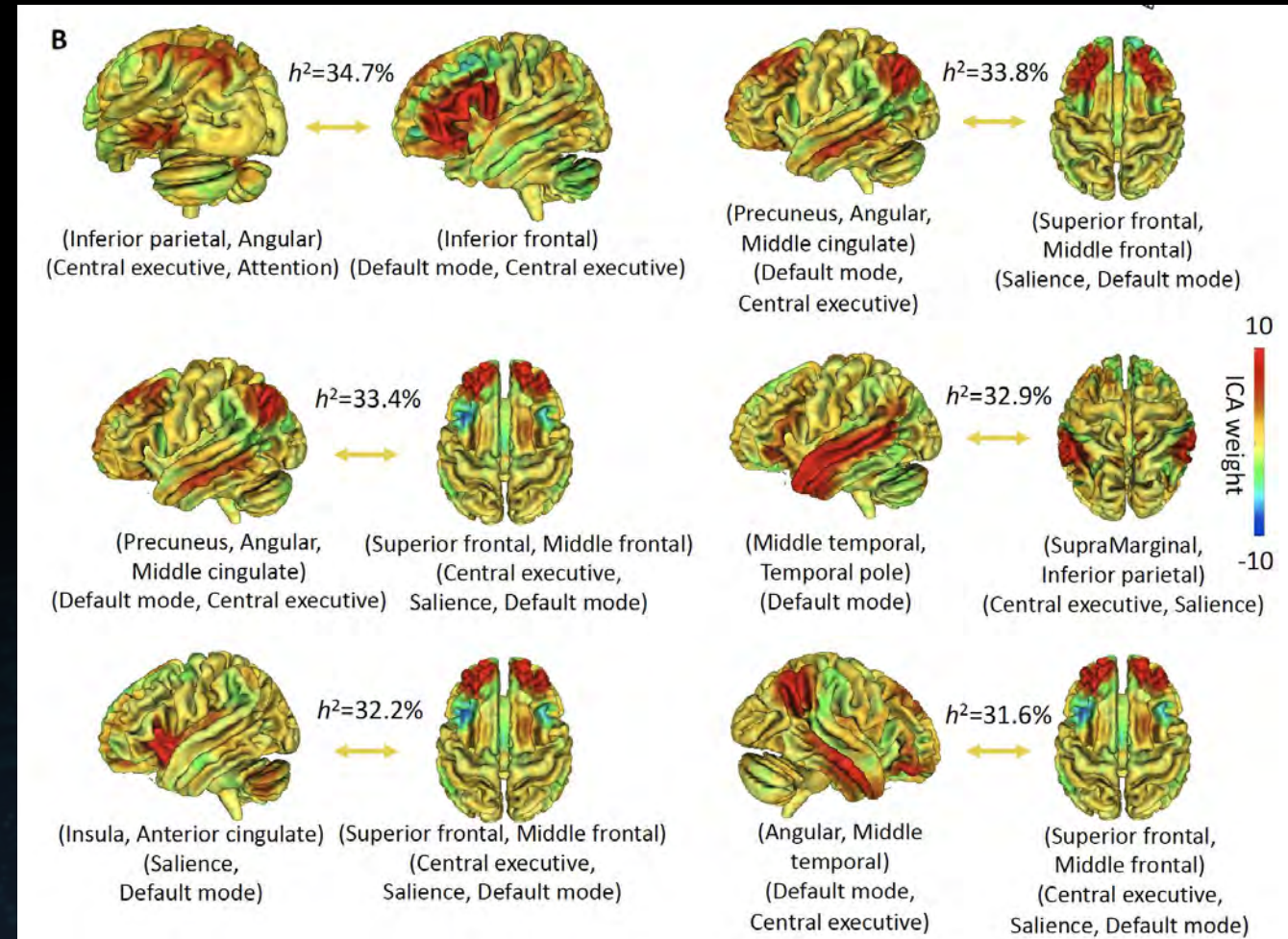
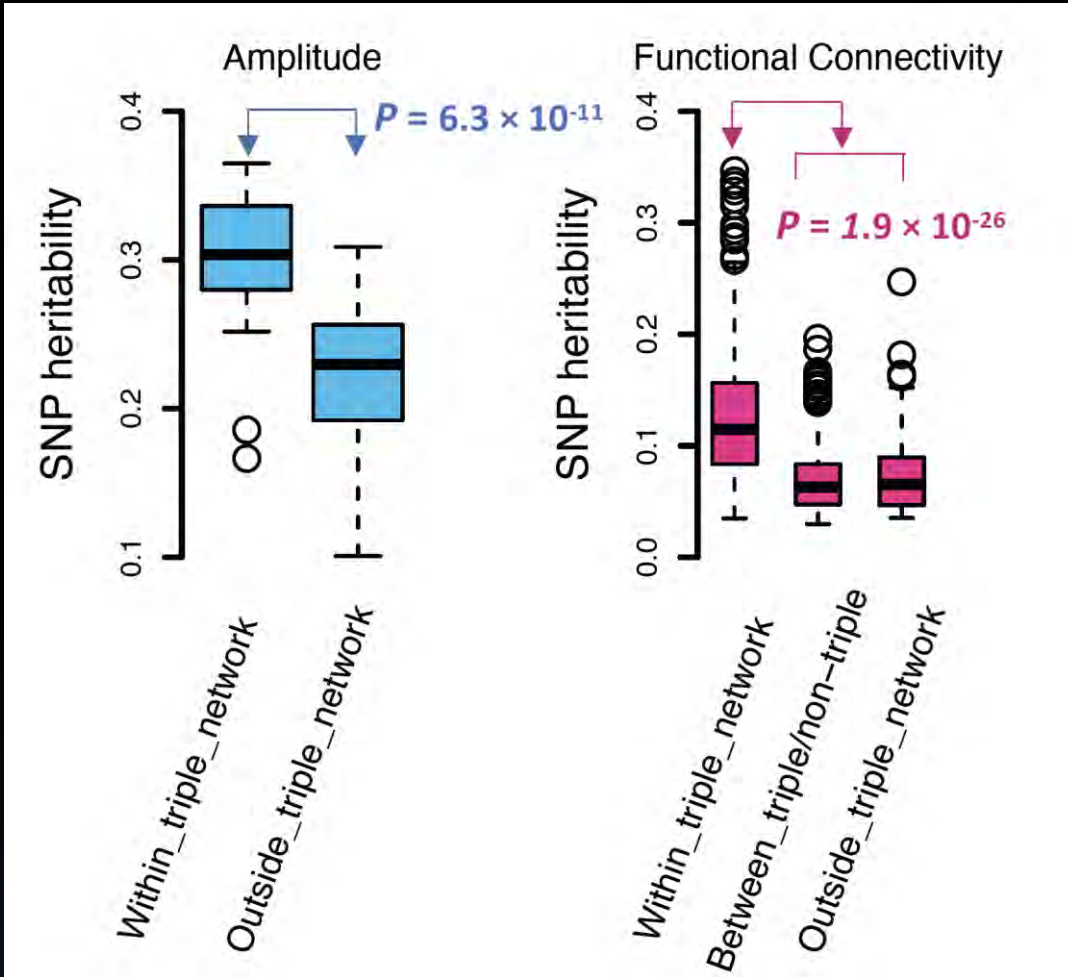
Three core functional networks that support efficient cognition

Related to major brain disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease (AD), Parkinson's disease (PD), and major depressive disorder (MDD)



# Genetics of the Triple Networks

Higher heritability than other functional networks (e.g., motor, vision)

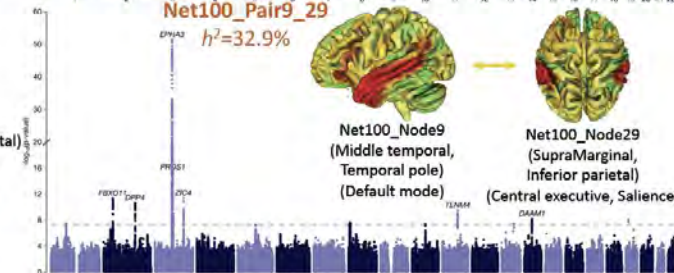
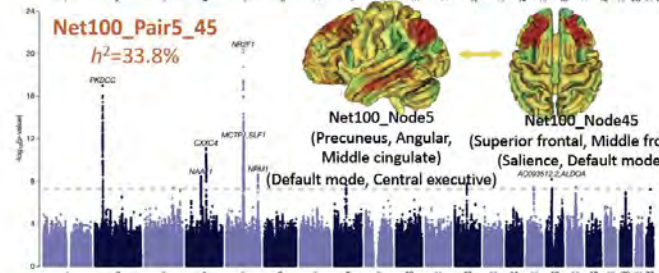
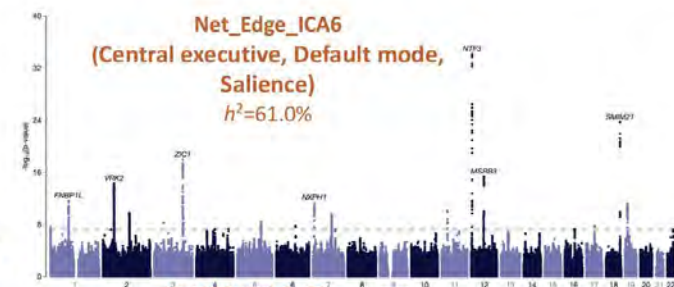
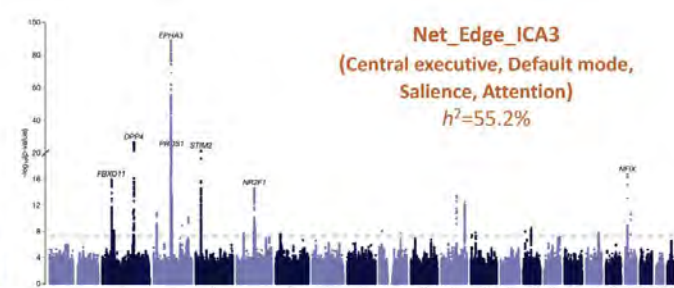
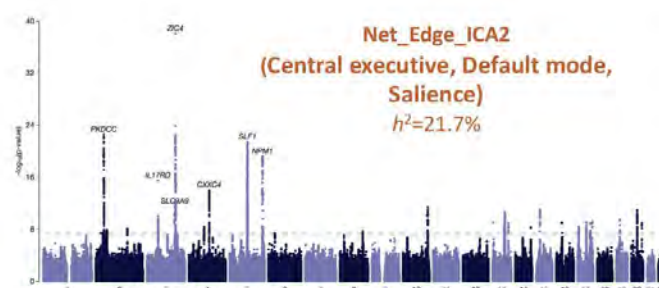
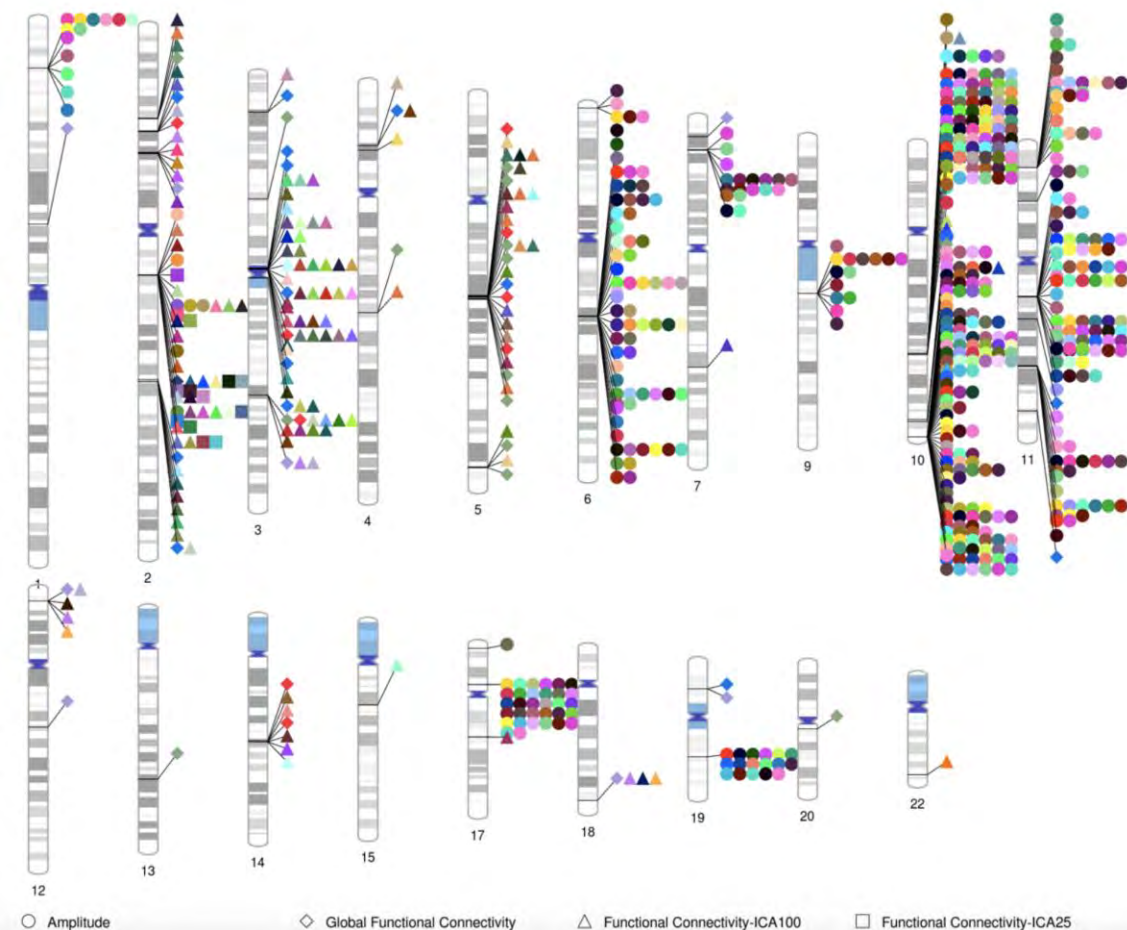


The level of genetic control is higher in the triple networks, which closely control multiple cognitive functions and affect major brain disorders



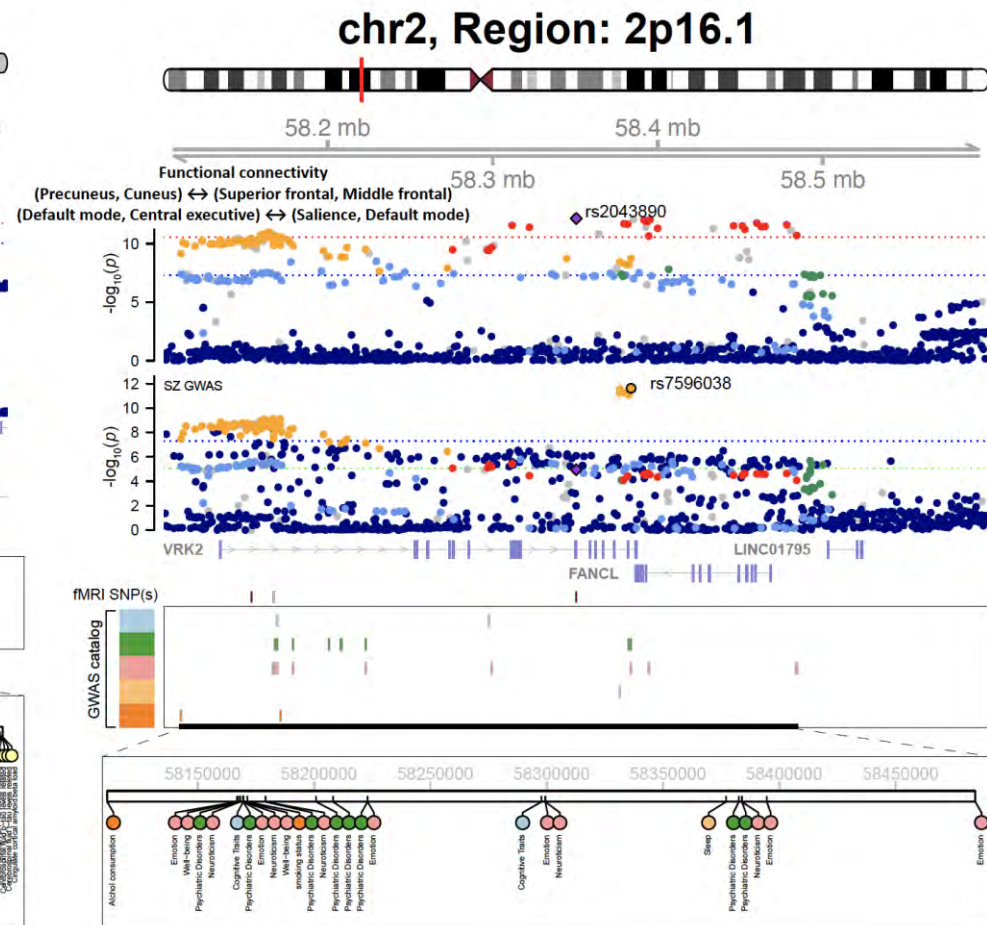
# Genetics of Functional Brain

Ideogram of the loci influencing rsfMRI traits of intrinsic brain activity at the significance level  $2.8e-11$  ( $5e-8/1777$ )



# Colocalization between brain function in the default mode (DM) and central executive (CE) networks with Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Schizophrenia (SCZ)

# Schizophrenia





# Colocalization at *APOE*

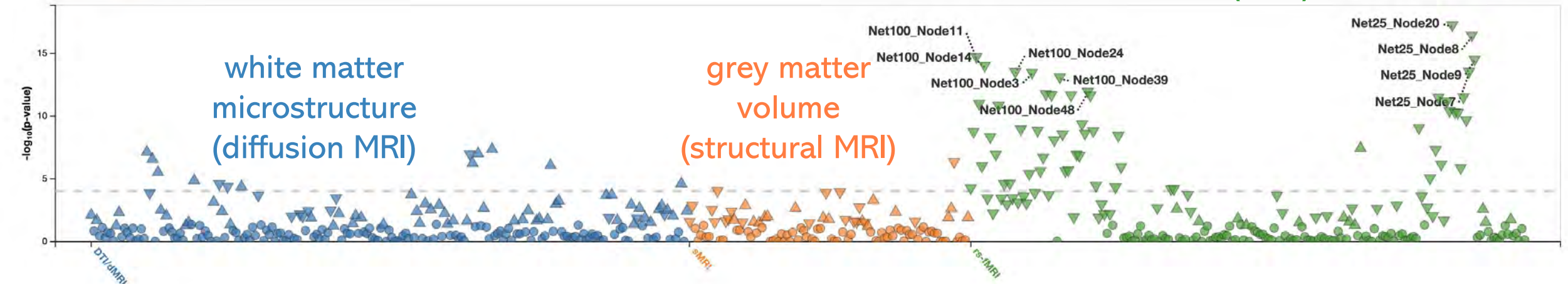
*APOE* gene has stronger genetic relationships with brain function than brain structures

19 : 45,411,941 C / T

Nearest gene: *APOE*  
MAF ranges from 0.15 to 0.15  
View on [UCSC](#) , [Clinvar](#)

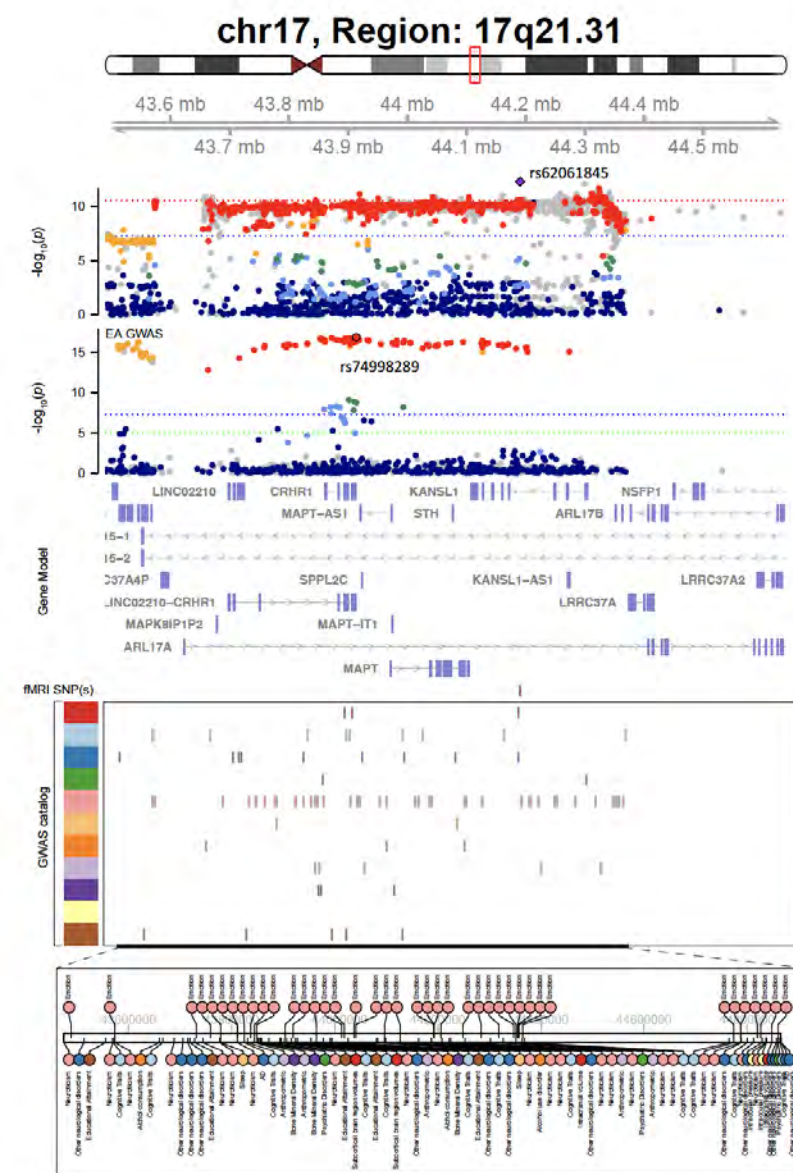
functional activity  
(fMRI)

Download Image

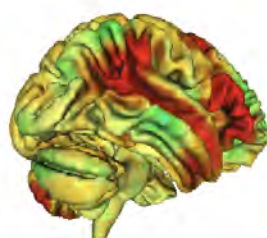




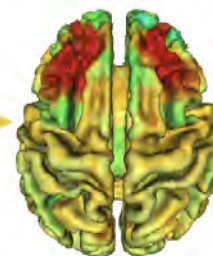
# Colocalization at 17q21.31 regions



Net100\_Pair33\_45  
 [(Inferior frontal, Middle temporal, Supp motor area) <=> (Superior frontal, Middle frontal)]  
 [(Default mode, Salience) <=> (Salience, Default mode)]



Net100\_Node33  
 (Inferior frontal, Middle temporal, Supp motor area)  
 (Default mode, Salience)



Net100\_Node45  
 (Superior frontal, Middle frontal)  
 (Salience, Default mode)



Neurological disorders  
 (e.g., Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, corticobasal degeneration)

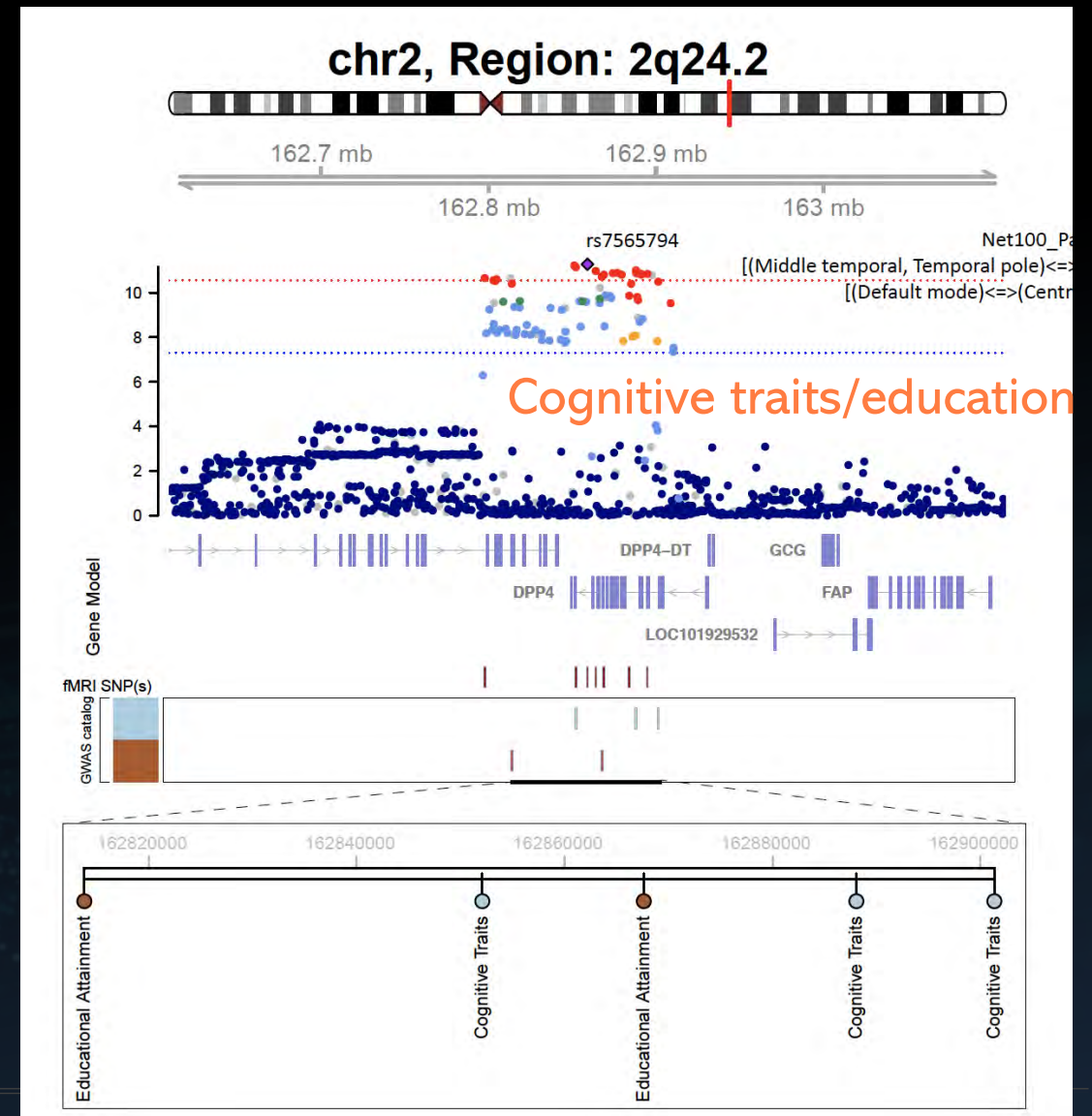
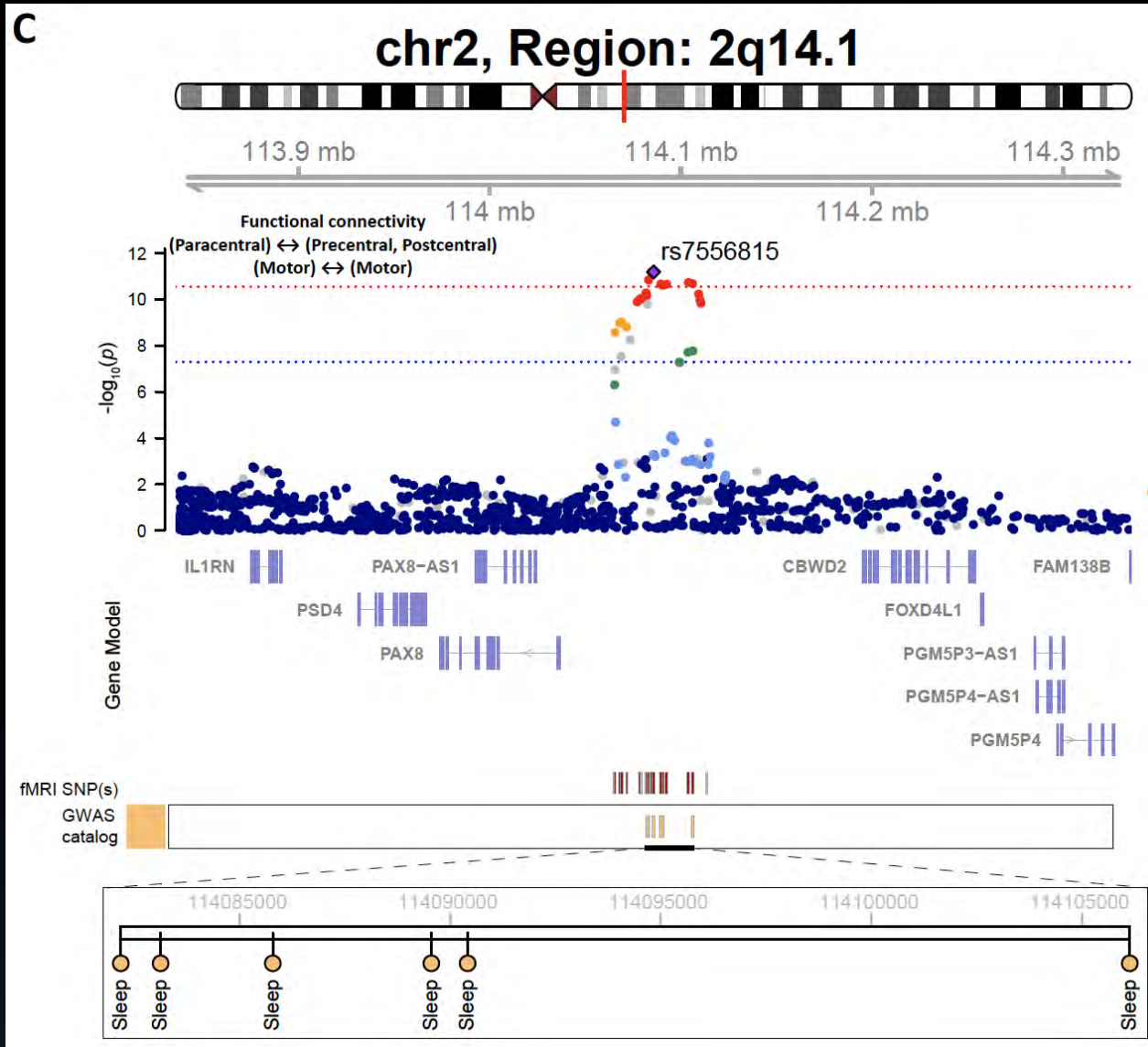
Psychiatric disorders  
 (e.g., autism spectrum disorder, depression)

Education, cognitive ability

Psychological traits (e.g., neuroticism)

Alcohol use disorder

# Colocalization with Sleep and Cognition

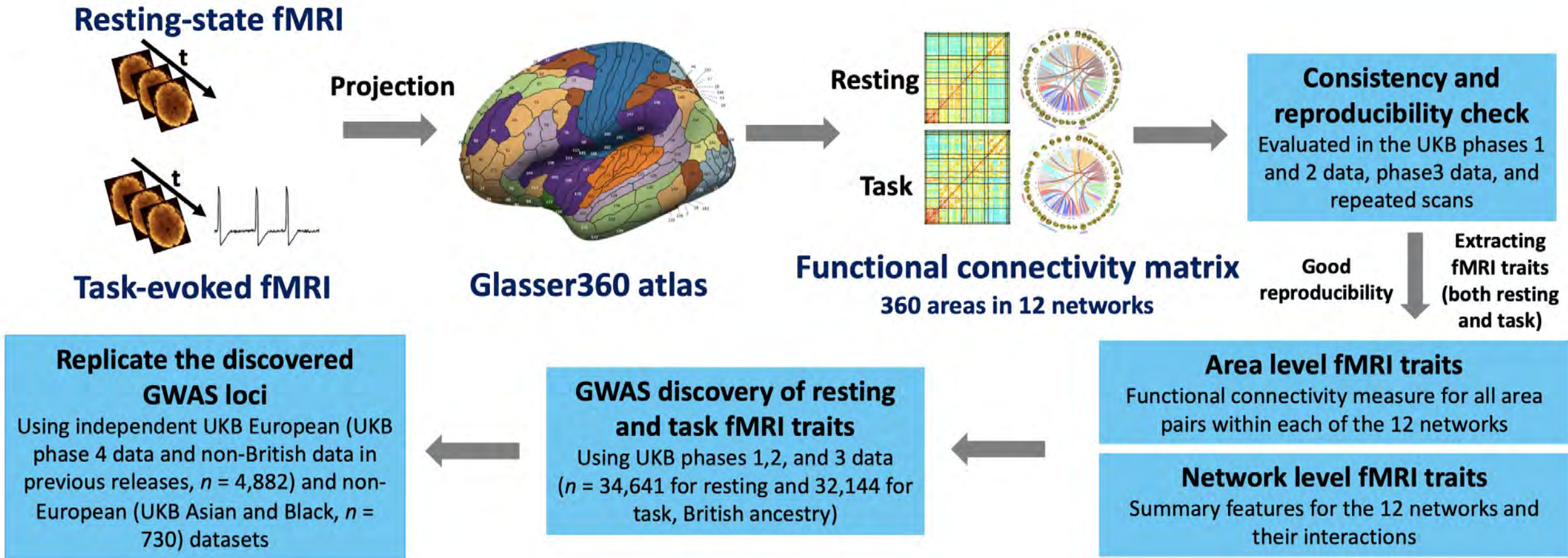








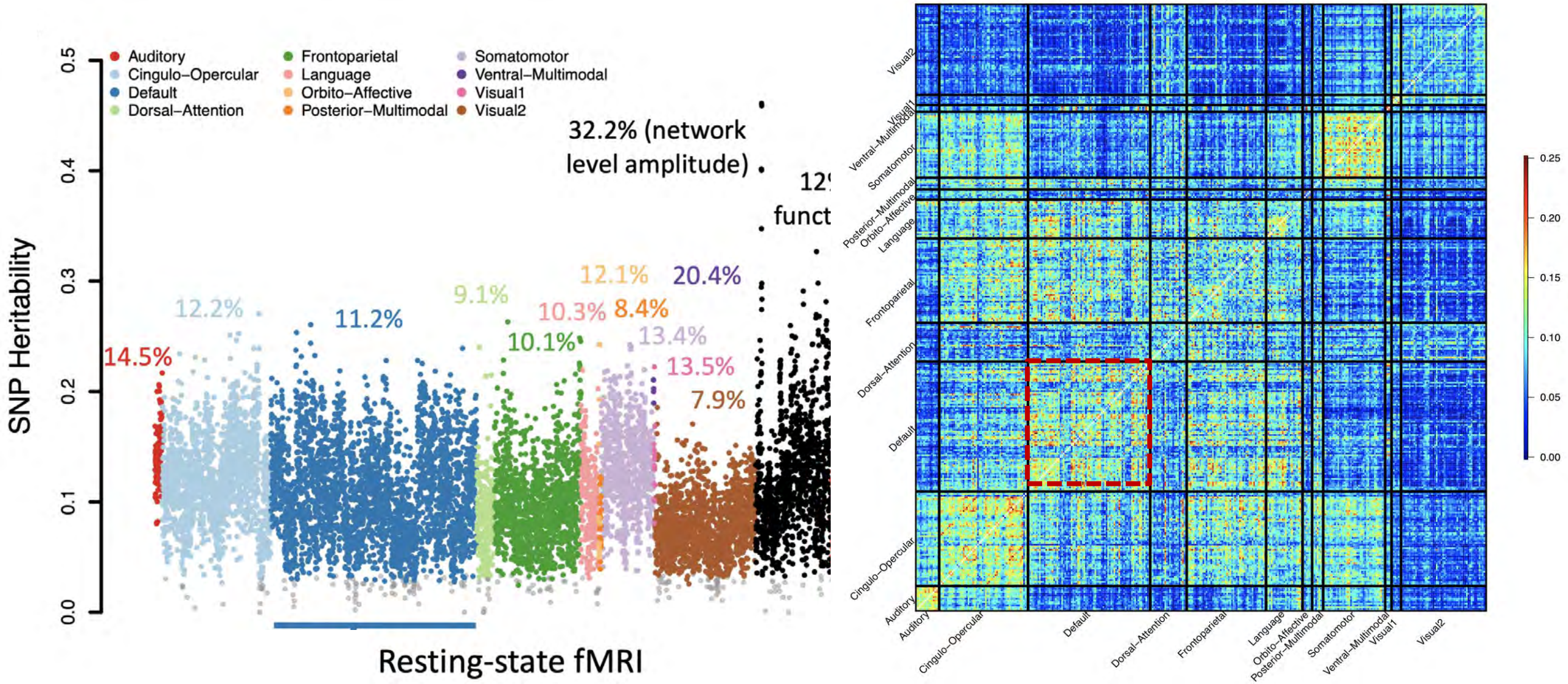
# GWAS of Brain Functions





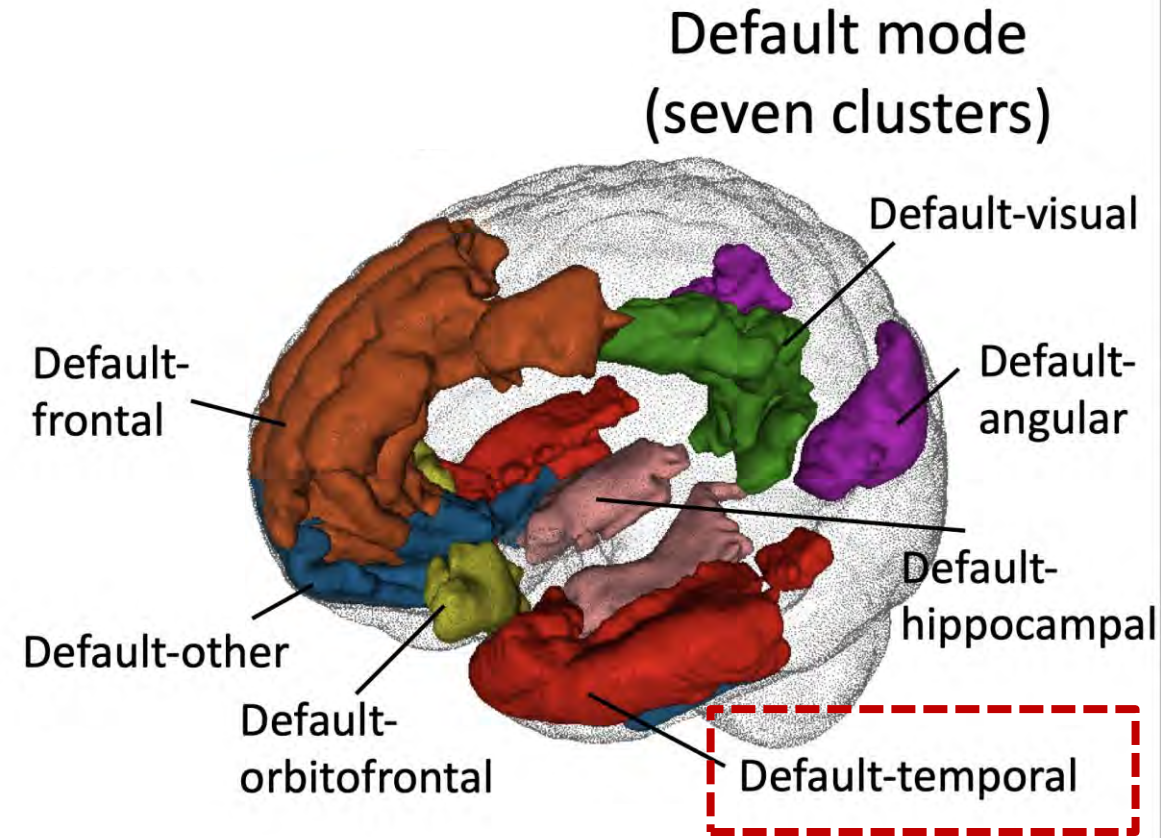
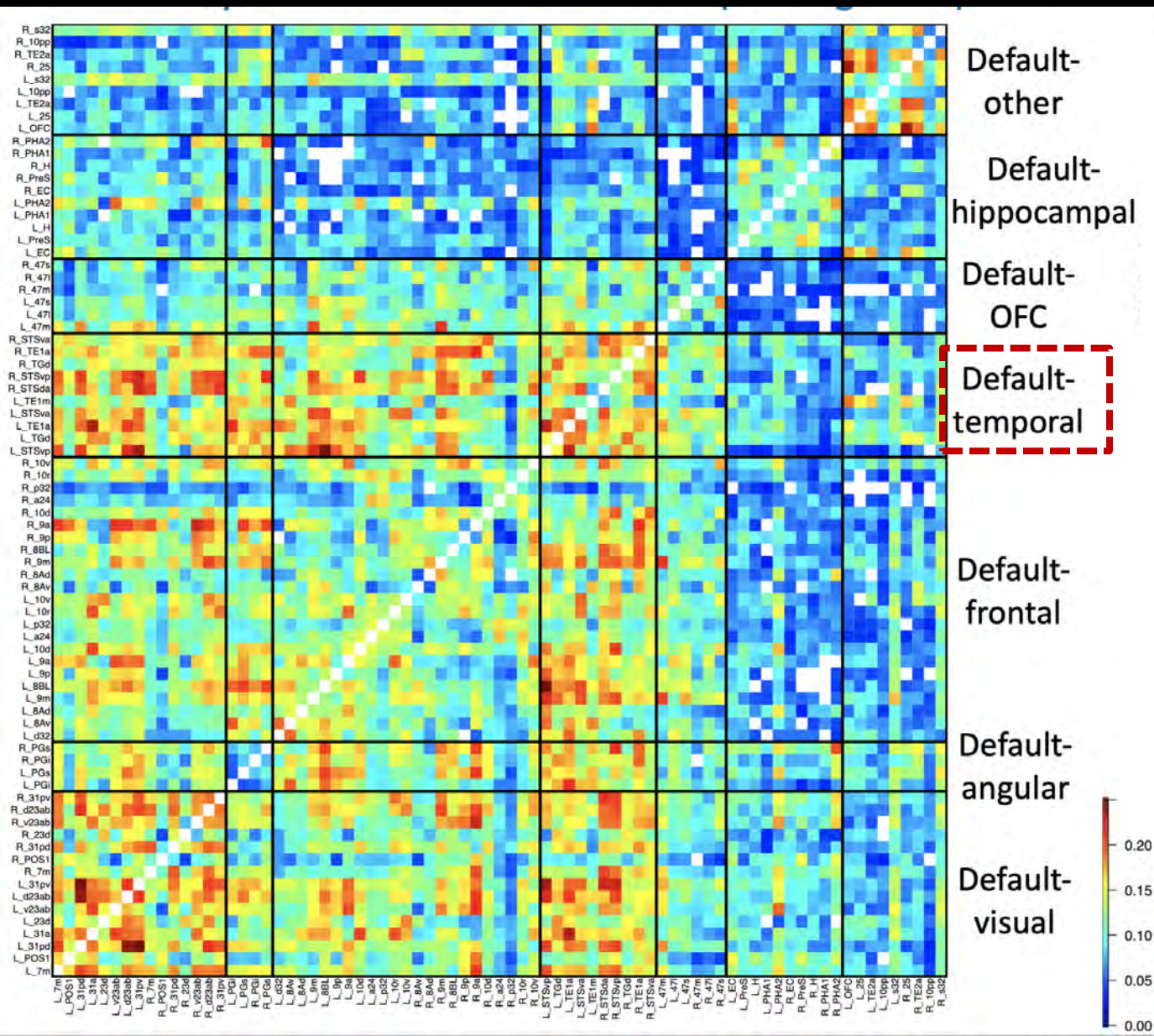
# Area-level Heritability Pattern of Functional Brain

Fine details about the heritability pattern (> 64k fMRI connectivity traits among 360 regions)





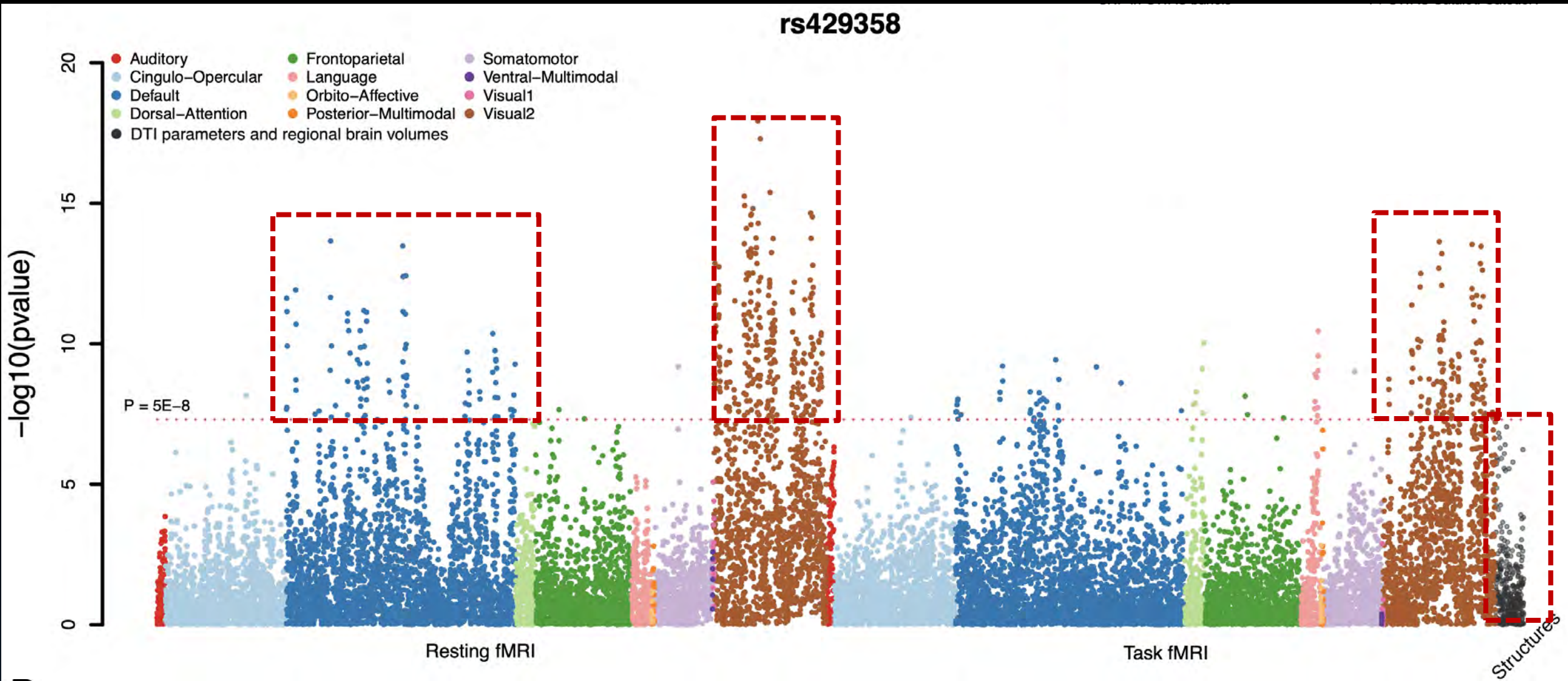
# Heritability Pattern in the Default Mode Network





# APOE-associations across functional networks

observations: 1) Enriched in the secondary visual and default mode networks;  
2) Stronger connections in fMRI than in structural MRI.



# It's just a beginning

## Publications (2018+)

Hundreds of associated genetic variants for 1593+ neuroimaging traits across three modalities:

(grey matter volume, white matter microstructure, resting-state functional connectivity + rfMRI, task fMRI, shape, heart)

Genetic influences on the intrinsic and extrinsic functional organizations of the cerebral cortex (2021). *medRxiv*, 21261187. [LINK](#)

Common genetic variation influencing human white matter microstructure (2021). *Science*, 372-6548. [LINK](#)

Transcriptome-wide association analysis of brain structures yields insights into pleiotropy with complex neuropsychiatric traits (2021). *Nature Communications*, 842872. [LINK](#)

Science  
AAAS

nature communications

nature genetics

Common variants contribute to intrinsic functional architecture of human brain (2020). *bioRxiv*, 229914. [LINK](#)

Genome-wide association analysis of 19,629 individuals identifies variants influencing regional brain volumes and refines their genetic co-architecture with cognitive and mental health traits (2019). *Nature Genetics*, 51(11), 1637-1644. [LINK](#)

nature genetics

[Cover Feature]

Large-scale GWAS reveals genetic architecture of brain white matter microstructure and genetic overlap with cognitive and mental health traits (n= 17,706) (2019).

*Molecular Psychiatry*, in press. [LINK](#)

Molecular  
Psychiatry

Heritability of regional brain volumes in large-scale neuroimaging and genetic studies (2018). *Cerebral Cortex*, 29(7), 2904-2914. [LINK](#)

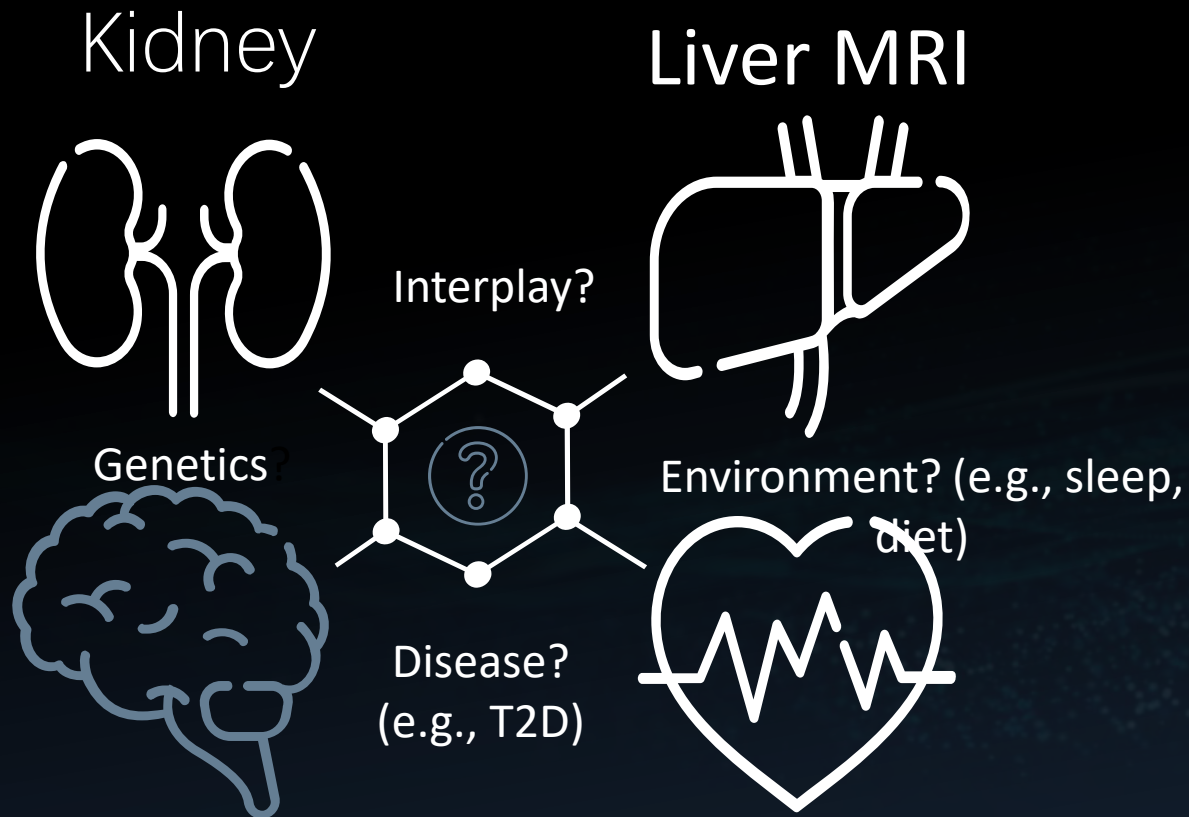
Cerebral CORTEX

## Genetics discovery in human brain by big data integration



# Human Body Imaging Genetics Network (1-5 yrs)

Multi-organ images  
(abdominal, brain, and heart)



Other images  
(eye, face, knee, hip, etc.)

Retinal  
images



DXA bone  
images

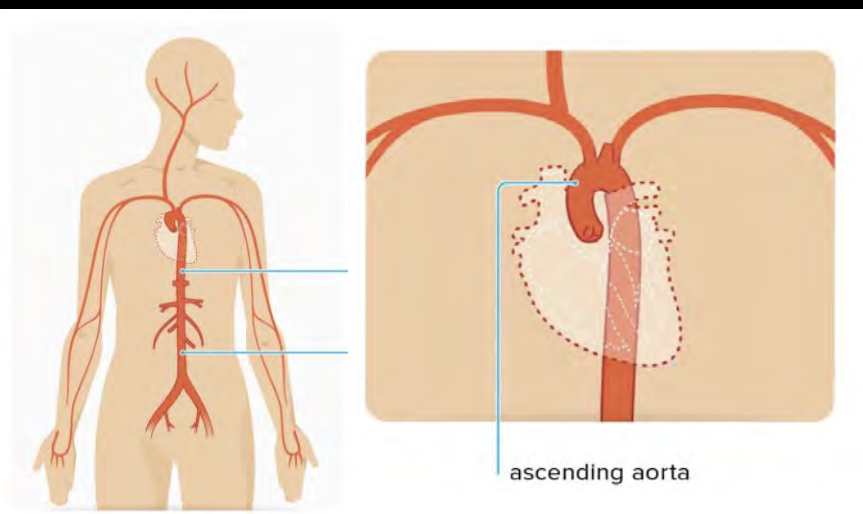


Data from > 100k subjects (by 2024)

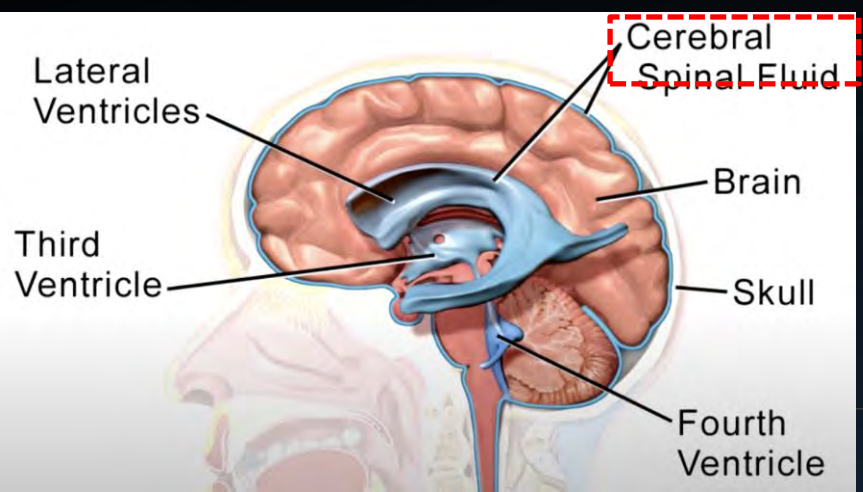
# Heart-Brain Connections

Zhao et al. *medRxiv*, 2021, multi-organ images from 40k subjects

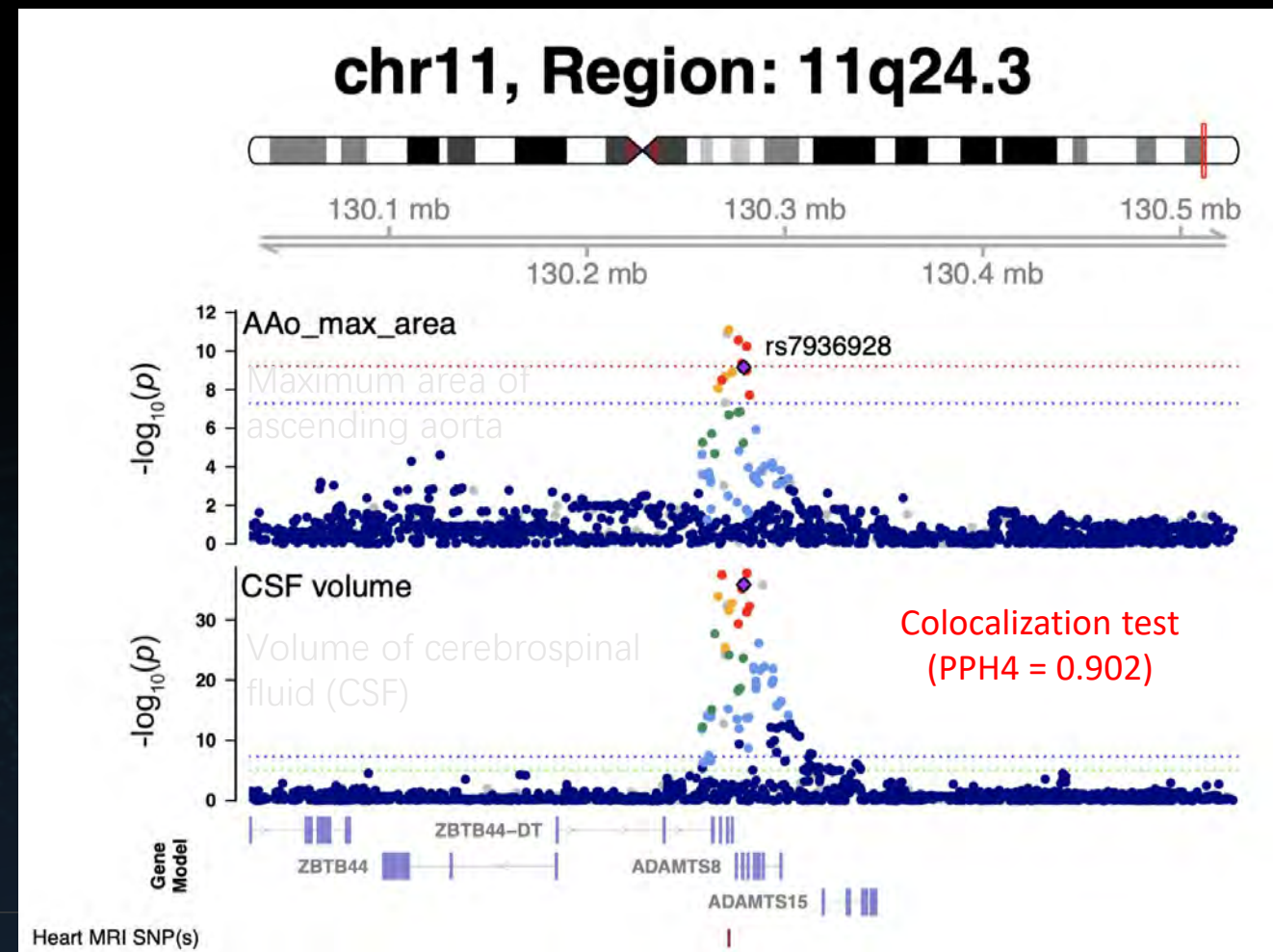
Shared genetic influence between heart and brain structures



Heart MRI



Brain MRI





# Heart Knowledge Portal

上午10:40 9月20日周一 不安全 — heartkp.org 91%

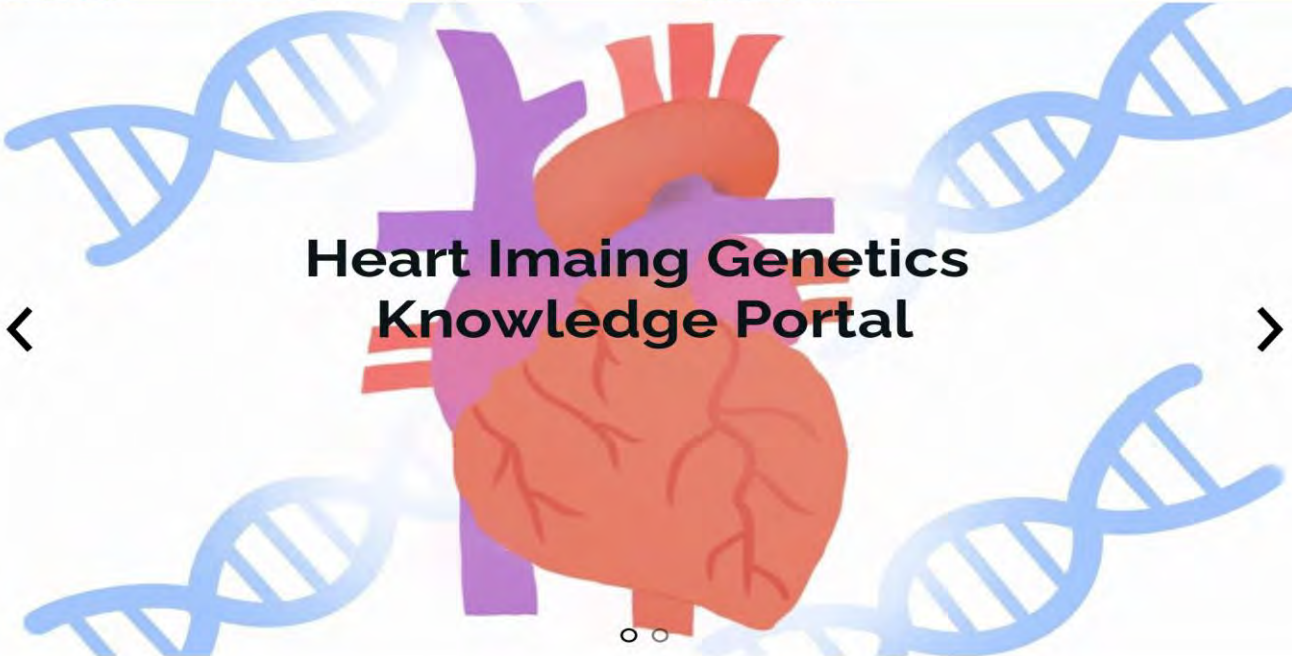
**Heart Imaging Genetics Knowledge Portal (Heart-KP)**  
Integrating knowledge and data for human heart research

Imaging Genetics Online Server   GWAS Summary Data Download   UNC-BIGS2 Lab   Brain Imaging Genetics Website






**Heart Imaging Genetics Knowledge Portal**

**Welcome to Heart-KP!**

This knowledge portal serves as a platform for accelerating research into human hearts.

A central graphic featuring a stylized human heart in red and orange, with purple vessels. It is surrounded by four blue DNA double helix structures. Navigation arrows (less than and greater than signs) are positioned on the left and right sides of the central graphic.

# Ongoing/Future Directions

-  Causal relationships among disease, brain structures, and brain functionalities (e.g., the **genetic pathway** among vascular risk factors, white matter, and stroke)
-  Build optimal models for complex traits and **diseases prediction** using imaging and genetics data (e.g., deep learning)
-  Compare and identify the **best practical strategy and pipelines** to process different neuroimaging modalities (e.g., ICA for fMRI)
-  Model brain changes and genetics effects across **the life span**
-  Align and integrate **different neuroimaging modalities**



# Acknowledgement



**GILLINGS SCHOOL OF  
GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH**



**Department of Statistics**

**Brain Imaging Genetics Knowledge Portal (BIG-KP)**

Genetics Discoveries in Human Brain by Big Data Integration

**bigkp.org**

**Funding:** U.S. NIH Grants MH086633 and MH116527

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**Data:** We thank Bingxin Zhao, Tengfei Li and other members of the **UNC BIG-S2 lab** (<https://med.unc.edu/bigs2/>) for processing the neuroimaging data.

UK Biobank resource application number: 22783.