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A Genome-Wide Association Study of Type 2 Diabetes in Finns Detects Multiple Susceptibility Variants

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Identifying the genetic variants that increase risk of type 2 diabetes (T2D) has been a formidable challenge. Adopting a genome wide association strategy, we genotyped 1,161 Finnish T2D cases and 1,174 Finnish normal glucose tolerant (NGT) controls with >315,000 SNPs, and imputed genotypes for an additional >2 million autosomal SNPs. We carried out association analysis with these SNPs to identify genetic variants that predispose to T2D, compared our T2D association results with results of two other such studies, and genotyped 80 SNPs in an additional 1,215 Finnish T2D cases and 1,258 Finnish NGT controls. We identify T2D-associated variants in an intergenic region of chromosome 11p12, contribute to the identification of T2D-associated variants near the genes IGF2BP2, CDKAL1, and CDKN2A/CDKN2B, and confirm that variants near TCF7L2, SLC30A8, HHEX, FTO, PPARG, and KCNJ11 are associated with T2D risk. This brings to at least ten the number of T2D loci now confidently identified.

Type 2 diabetes (T2D) is a disease characterized by insulin resistance and impaired pancreatic beta-cell function that affects >170 million people worldwide (1). With first-degree relatives at ~3.5-fold increased risk compared to the general

middle-aged population (2), hereditary factors play an important role in determining T2D risk, together with lifestyle and behavioral factors (3). Intense efforts to identify genetic risk factors in T2D have to date met with only limited success. This report, reports from our collaborators (4–6), and the recently published work of Sladek *et al.* (7), describe results of genome-wide association (GWA) studies that further define the genetic architecture of T2D and identify biological pathways involved in T2D pathogenesis.

We genotyped 1,161 Finnish T2D cases and 1,174 Finnish NGT controls on 317,503 SNPs on the Illumina HumanHap300 BeadChip in stage 1 of a two-stage GWA study of T2D (8). These samples are from the Finland-United States Investigation of NIDDM Genetics (FUSION) (9, 10) and Finrisk 2002 (11) studies (tables S1 and S2A). Among the 317,503 GWA SNPs, 315,635 had \geq 10 copies of the less common allele (minor allele frequency (MAF) > .002) and passed quality control criteria (8). We tested these 315,635 SNPs for association with T2D using a model that is additive on the log-odds scale (Table 1 and tables S3 and S4) (8). We observed a modest excess of SNPs with p-values < 10^{-4} (41 versus 31.6 expected, p = .19) (fig. S1). These results argue against the existence of multiple common SNPs with large impact on T2D disease risk, but are consistent with multiple SNPs that each confer modest risk. They also suggest that matching of cases and controls on birth province, sex, and age (8) has been successful; in support of this conclusion is a genomic control (12) correction value of 1.026.

Analysis of our Illumina HumanHap300 data allowed us to query much of the known SNP variation in the genome. To increase this proportion, we developed an imputation method (8, 13) which uses genotype data and linkage disequilibrium (LD) information from the HapMap CEU samples to predict genotypes of autosomal SNPs not genotyped in our subjects. A total of 2.09 million HapMap CEU SNPs (14) had imputed MAF > 1% in FUSION and passed our imputation quality control criteria. In the HapMap CEU sample, imputed SNPs passing these criteria increased coverage of SNPs with MAF > 1% from 71.9% to 89.1% at r² threshold .8.

To increase power to detect T2D predisposing variants, we compared our stage 1 results to GWA results from the Diabetes Genetics Initiative (DGI) and the Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium (WTCCC). We selected 82 SNPs for FUSION stage 2 follow-up genotyping based on evidence from: (a) FUSION genotyped and imputed SNPs; (b) FUSION-DGI-WTCCC GWA results comparison; and (c) prior T2D association results. For (a) and (b), we used a prioritization algorithm that advantaged SNPs based on genome annotation (8) (table S7) and gave preference to genotyped SNPs over nearby imputed SNPs. We successfully genotyped 80 of the 82 SNPs in our stage 2 sample of 1,215 Finnish T2D cases and 1,258 Finnish NGT controls (8) (table S2B) and carried out joint analysis of the combined FUSION stage 1+2 sample (table S5). DGI (4) and UK T2D Genetics Consortium (UKT2D) (5) investigators also followed up DGI and WTCCC GWAs by genotyping replication samples.

We confirmed well-established T2D associations with TCF7L2, PPARG, and KCNJ11 (Table 1) (15-18). SNPs in TCF7L2 reached genome-wide significance in the FUSION stage 1+2 sample (OR = 1.34, p = 1.3×10^{-8}) and in the FUSION-DGI-WTCCC/UKT2D all-data (all GWA and follow-up samples) meta-analysis (OR = 1.37, p = 1.0×10^{-1} ⁴⁸) (Table 1 and table S5). PPARG Pro12Ala (rs1801282) and KCNJ11 Glu23Lys (rs5219) were not genotyped in the FUSION GWA, but nearby SNPs showed some evidence for T2D association, as did the imputed genotypes for the coding variants. All-data meta-analysis resulted in genome-wide significant T2D association with KCNJ11 Glu23Lys (OR = 1.14, $p = 6.7 \times 10^{-11}$) and strong evidence for *PPARG* Pro12Ala (OR = 1.14, $p = 1.7 \times 10^{-6}$). The *PPARG* and KCNJ11 results emphasize the value of combining data across studies, and suggest other T2D-associated loci remain to be found.

The combined samples from the three studies provide evidence for seven additional T2D loci. For the first three of these we had strong evidence in the FUSION stage 1 GWA data, and for the latter four our FUSION stage 1 evidence was more modest.

A cluster of variants in the IGF2BP2 (insulin-like growth factor 2 mRNA binding protein 2) region was associated with T2D in our stage 1 sample (e.g. rs1470579 with OR = 1.27, p = 1.6×10^{-4}) (Fig. 1A). Combining results for rs4402960 with the DGI and the WTCCC/UKT2D resulted in genome-wide significance (OR = 1.14, $p = 8.9 \times 10^{-16}$) in the all-data metaanalysis. Including rs4402960 genotype as a covariate essentially eliminates evidence for T2D association for other variants in the cluster (Fig. 1A), consistent with all SNPs representing the same T2D-predisposing variant(s). IGF2BP2 is a paralog of IGF2BP1, which binds to the 5' UTR of the insulin-like growth factor 2 (IGF2) mRNA and regulates IGF2 translation (19). IGF2 is a member of the insulin family of polypeptide growth factors involved in development, growth, and stimulation of insulin action. The most strongly associated IGF2BP2 SNPs are located in a 50 kb region within intron 2 (Fig. 1A); diabetes-predisposing variants may therefore affect regulation of IGF2BP2 expression.

SNP rs13266634, a non-synonymous Arg325Trp variant in the pancreatic beta-cell specific zinc-transporter SLC30A8 (20), showed evidence for T2D association in stage 1 (Table 1 and fig. S2) using our annotation-based algorithm. Modest evidence in stage 2 resulted in stronger evidence in our stage 1+2 sample (OR = 1.18, p = 7.0×10^{-5}) (Table 1 and table S5). Subsequent DGI and UKT2D genotyping resulted in strong evidence in the combined samples (OR = 1.12, p = 5.3x 10^{-8}). Sladek *et al.* (7) recently reported independent T2D association evidence with the same allele in two French samples ($p = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$ and $p = 5.0 \times 10^{-7}$). SLC30A8 transports zinc from the cytoplasm into insulin secretory vesicles (20, 21), where insulin is stored as a hexamer bound with two Zn^{2+} ions prior to secretion (22). Variation in SLC30A8 may affect zinc accumulation in insulin granules, affecting insulin stability, storage, or secretion. In high glucose conditions, overexpression of SLC30A8 in INS-1E cells enhanced glucose-induced insulin secretion (21).

SNP rs9300039 in an intergenic region on chromosome 11 showed evidence for T2D association in stage 1 (Table 1 and Fig. 1B); genotyping stage 2 resulted in near genome-wide significance in our stage 1+2 sample (OR = 1.48, p = 5.7×10^{-8}) (Table 1 and tables S3 and S5). In the WTCCC and DGI scans, the nearby SNP rs1514823 (r² = .97 with rs9300039) provided weak evidence for T2D association with the appropriate allele; combining results across all three studies gave OR = 1.25 and p = 4.3×10^{-7} . Fifty-six imputed and two more genotyped SNPs spanning 219 kb are in LD with rs9300039 and show substantial evidence for T2D association (p < 10^{-4}) in our stage 1 (table S3 and Fig. 1B). Including genotype for rs9300039 as a covariate essentially eliminates evidence for T2D association with the remaining SNPs (Fig.

1B). This region includes three sets of spliced ESTs but no annotated genes. Identification of a T2D-associated variant >1 Mb from the nearest annotated gene highlights the value of a genome-wide approach. Interestingly, Sladek *et al.* (7) reported strongly associated SNPs in two nearby regions on chromosome 11. SNP rs7480010 near hypothetical gene *LOC387761* is 331 kb centromeric to rs9300039. LD between rs9300039 and rs7480010 is essentially zero ($r^2 = .00063$, D' = .036), and rs7480010 showed little evidence for association in our stage 1+2 sample (OR = 1.03, p = .54). Sladek *et al.* (7) also reported T2D association with three intronic variants of *EXT2*, located ~2.4 Mb centromeric of rs9300039; we had no evidence for association with *EXT2* SNPs.

SNP rs4712523, located within intron 5 of CDKAL1, showed modest evidence for T2D association in our FUSION stage 1 sample, which strengthened slightly in our combined stage 1+2 sample (OR = 1.12, p = .0095) (Table 1 and table S5). Nearby SNPs in strong LD with rs4712523 showed modest evidence for T2D association in the DGI scan and considerably stronger evidence in the WTCCC scan. Including strong DGI and UKT2D replication data resulted in genome-wide significance (OR = 1.12, p = 4.1×10^{-11}) in the all-data meta-analysis. CDKAL1 (CDK5 regulatory subunit associated protein 1-like 1) shares protein domain similarity with CDK5RAP1, which specifically inhibits activation of CDK5 by CDK5R1 (23). Using quantitative RT-PCR analysis of a panel of RNA samples from human tissues and cells, we detected the highest expression of CDKAL1 in skeletal muscle and brain, and in 293T and HepG2 cells (fig. S3A). The associated SNPs within intron 5, or SNPs in LD with them, may regulate expression of CDKAL1, and so affect expression of CDK5. CDK5/CDK5R1 activity is influenced by glucose and may influence beta-cell processes (24, 25); over-activity of CDK5 in the pancreas may lead to beta-cell degeneration, especially under glucotoxic conditions (26).

SNP rs10811661 near CDKN2A and CDKN2B showed modest evidence for T2D association in our stage 1+2 sample (OR = 1.20, p = .0022) (Table 1 and table S5) and showed genome-wide significance in the all-data meta-analysis (OR = 1.20, $p = 7.8 \times 10^{-15}$). rs10811661 is located upstream of cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitors CDKN2A and CDKN2B, may have a long-range effect on one of these genes, or may influence a gene not yet annotated. CDKN2A and CDKN2B inhibit the activity of cyclin-dependent protein kinases CDK4 and CDK6. Cdk4 activity has been shown to influence betacell proliferation and mass in mice, with loss of Cdk4 leading to diabetes (27, 28). We find CDKN2A to be expressed at high levels in islets, adipocytes, brain, and pancreas, and even higher levels in 293T, HeLa, and HepG2 cells (fig. S3B); CDKN2B is expressed in islets and adipocytes, and to a lesser degree in small intestine, colon, 293T, and HepG2 cells (fig.

S3C). *CDKN2A* and *CDKN2B* are also tumor suppressor genes, and may play a role in aging (29).

SNPs rs1111875 and rs7923837 showed modest evidence of T2D association in the FUSION and DGI scans, much stronger evidence in the WTCCC scan, and genome-wide significant evidence (OR = 1.13, p = 5.7×10^{-10}) in the alldata meta-analysis. These SNPs are in LD ($r^2 = .70$) in a region that includes *HHEX* (hematopoietically expressed homeobox), critical for development of the ventral pancreas (*30*), the insulin degrading enzyme gene *IDE*, and the kinesin-interacting factor 11 gene *KIF11*. Sladek *et al.* (*7*) recently reported independent genome-wide significant evidence for T2D association with these SNPs.

The WTCCC/UKT2D group identified evidence for T2D and BMI associations with a set of SNPs including rs8050136 in the *FTO* region; the T2D association appears to be mediated through a primary effect on adiposity (5, 6, 31). We observed modest evidence for association with T2D in the combined FUSION 1+2 sample (OR = 1.11, p = .016) (Table 1 and table S5).

T2D can be a component of a larger syndrome of metabolic abnormalities, and we were interested to assess the effects of T2D-related traits on our association results. We repeated our T2D association analysis for the ten SNPs in Table 1 with one of several variables included as an additional covariate. Adjustment for BMI strengthened T2D association with *TCF7L2* and *SLC30A8*, weakened association with rs9300039 and *FTO*, and had little effect on the other loci. The effect of waist was similar to that of BMI; blood pressure variables had essentially no effect.

We previously carried out T2D linkage analysis in the families of many of our stage 1 cases (10). None of the ten Table 1 loci had large T2D LOD scores, although those for *FTO* and *TCF7L2* were 0.63 and 0.60, and so nominally significant. Interestingly, LOD scores for six of the ten loci were > 0.2, compared to 2.2 expected for random genome locations, suggesting enrichment for T2D-associated loci in regions with modest evidence of T2D linkage (p = .01), but that the power of the linkage approach was insufficient to distinguish these signals from background.

The ability to construct a list of ten robust and replicated T2D-associated loci (Table 1) represents a landmark in efforts to identify genetic variants that predispose to complex human diseases, although the specific predisposing variants and even the relevant genes remain to be defined. We examined the combined risk of T2D based on these ten loci in our stage 1+2 sample by constructing a logistic regression model and predicting T2D risk for each person (8). Our model distinguished groups of individuals with up to four-times different T2D risk, of potential interest for a personalized preventive medicine program (Fig. 2). However, these predictions from our data may be biased compared to the

general population owing to likely overestimation of ORs due to the "winner's curse", enrichment for familial T2D cases, and exclusion of individuals with impaired glucose tolerance or impaired fasting glucose.

Thirty years ago, James V. Neel labeled type 2 diabetes as "the geneticist's nightmare" (*32*), predicting that discovery of genetic factors in T2D would be profoundly challenging. Until recently, his prediction has proven true. While large samples and collaboration between three groups were required, we can confidently state that new diabetes risk factors have been identified. Each gene discovery points to a pathway that contributes to pathogenesis, and all of these proteins and their relevant pathways represent potential drug targets for the prevention or treatment of diabetes. Based on the number of other interesting results observed in these studies, it is likely that there are additional T2D-predisposing loci to be found. While much remains to be done, we are at last awakening from Jim Neel's nightmare.

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Supporting Online Material

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/1142382/DC1 Author Contributions Materials and Methods Figures S1 to S3 Tables S1 to S7 References

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Fig. 1. Plots of T2D association and LD in FUSION stage 1 samples for regions surrounding (**A**) *IGF2BP2* and (**B**)

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rs9300039. The top panel contains RefSeq genes; there are none in the rs9300039 region. The second panel shows the T2D association -log₁₀ p-values in FUSION stage 1 samples for SNPs genotyped in the GWA panel (•) or imputed (o). The third panel shows T2D association $-\log_{10}$ p-values for each SNP in a logistic regression model correcting for the reference SNP (•, red dot): (A) rs4402960 and (B) rs9300039. SNP rs7480010, reported by Sladek et al. (7), is also labeled in the rs9300039 plot (B) (•, green dot). A decrease in the - \log_{10} p-value from the second to the third panel indicates that the association signal of the tested SNPs can be explained, at least in part, by the reference SNP. In both regions, the reference SNP was chosen for convenience; choice of another strongly associated SNP nearby would have resulted in a similar picture. The fourth panel shows recombination rate in cM per Mb for the HapMap CEU sample (14). The fifth and sixth panels show linkage disequilibrium r² and D' based on FUSION stage 1 genotyped and imputed data.

Fig. 2. Prediction of T2D risk in the FUSION sample using ten T2D susceptibility variants. T2D cases and NGT controls with complete genotype data were included in the analysis. To obtain a sample with T2D prevalence ~10%, 2,176 NGT controls were included nine times each and 2,102 T2D cases once each. The predicted risk for each individual was estimated from a logistic regression model containing the ten risk variants listed in Table 1. The proportion of T2D cases is shown for twenty equal intervals of predicted T2D risk. 95% CIs for the proportion of T2D cases in each interval were constructed using the original sample of 2,102 cases and 2,176 controls. The constructed sample T2D prevalence (.096) is shown as a horizontal line. The proportion of T2D cases increases from ~5% in the lowest to 20% in the highest predicted risk categories.

		Position		Risk allele/ non-risk	FUSION control risk allele	FUSION Stage 1			FUSION Stage 2			FUSION Stage 1 + 2			DGI All Samples			UK All Samples				FUSION DGI UK All Samples		
FUSION	Chr	(bp)	Genes	allele	freq	OR	95% CI	p-value	OR	95% CI	p-value	OR	95% CI	p-value	OR	95% CI	p-value	OR	95% CI	p-value	OR	95% CI	p-value	power
New T2D Loci																								
rs4402960	3	186,994,389	IGF2BP2	T/G	.30	1.28	1.13-1.45	1.2 x 10 ⁻⁴	1.08	0.96-1.22	.22	1.18	1.08-1.28	2.1 x 10 ⁻⁴	1.17	1.11-1.23	1.7 x 10 ⁻⁹	1.11	1.05-1.16	1.6 x 10 ⁻⁴	1.14	1.11-1.18	8.9 x 10 ⁻¹⁶	~4,300
rs7754840°	6	20,769,229	CDKAL1	C/G	.36	1.16	1.02-1.30	.021	1.08	0.96-1.22	.20	1.12	1.03-1.22	.0095	1.08	1.03-1.14	2.4 x 10 ⁻³	1.16	1.10-1.22	1.3 x 10 ⁻⁸	1.12	1.08-1.16	4.1 x 10 ⁻¹¹	~5,300
rs10811661	9	22,124,094	CDKN2A/B	T/C	.85	1.17	0.98-1.39	.082	1.22	1.04-1.44	.015	1.20	1.07-1.36	.0022	1.20	1.12-1.28	5.4 x 10 ⁻⁸	1.19	1.11-1.28	4.9 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.20	1.14-1.25	7.8 x 10 ⁻¹⁵	~3,900
rs9300039 ^d	11	41,871,942		C/A	.89	1.52	1.24-1.87	6.0 x 10 ⁻⁵	1.45	1.19-1.77	2.7 x 10 ⁻⁴	1.48	1.28-1.71	5.7 x 10 ⁻⁸	1.16 ^h	0.95-1.42	.12	1.13 ⁱ	0.99-1.29	.068	1.25	1.15-1.37	4.3 x 10 ⁻⁷	~3,400
rs8050136	16	52,373,776	FTO	A/C	.38	1.03	0.92-1.16	.58	1.18	1.05-1.33	.0063	1.11	1.02-1.20	.016	1.03 ^h	0.91-1.17	.25	1.23	1.18-1.32	7.3 x 10 ⁻¹⁴	1.17	1.12-1.22	1.3 x 10 ⁻¹²	~2,700
Previously published T2D association																								
rs1801282	3	12,368,125	PPARG	C/G	.82	1.30	1.11-1.53	.0011	1.08	0.93-1.26	.33	1.20	1.07-1.33	.0014	1.09	1.01-1.16	.019	1.23 ⁱ	1.09-1.41	.0013	1.14	1.08-1.20	1.7 x 10 ⁻⁶	~6,400
rs13266634	8	118,253,964	SLC30A8	C/T	.61	1.22	1.08-1.38	.0010	1.14	1.02-1.28	.026	1.18	1.09-1.29	7.0 x 10 ⁻⁵	1.07	1.0-1.16	.047	1.12	1.05-1.18	7.0 x 10 ⁻⁵	1.12	1.07-1.16	5.3 x 10 ⁻⁸	~5,100
rs1111875°	10	94,452,862	HHEX	C/T	.52	1.13	1.01-1.27	.039	1.06	0.94-1.19	.34	1.10	1.01-1.19	.026	1.14	1.06-1.22	1.7 x 10 ⁻⁴	1.13	1.07-1.19	4.6 x 10 ⁻⁶	1.13	1.09-1.17	5.7 x 10 ⁻¹⁰	~4,200
rs7903146 ^f	10	114,748,339	TCF7L2	T/C	.18	1.39	1.20-1.61	1.2 x 10 ⁻⁵	1.30	1.12-1.50	3.5 x 10 ⁻⁴	1.34	1.21-1.49	1.3 x 10 ⁻⁸	1.38	1.31-1.46	2.3 x 10 ⁻³¹	1.37 ⁱ	1.25-1.49	6.7 x 10 ⁻¹³	1.37	1.31-1.43	1.0 x 10 ⁻⁴⁸	~1,000
rs5219 ^g	11	17,366,148	KCNJ11	T/C	.46	1.20	1.07-1.36	.0022	1.04	0.92-1.16	.55	1.11	1.02-1.21	.013	1.15	1.09-1.21	1.0 x 10 ⁻⁷	1.15 ⁱ	1.05-1.25	.0013	1.14	1.10-1.19	6.7 x 10 ⁻¹¹	~3,700
Total sample N cases/contr	size ols				2,335 1,161/1,12			4	2,473 1,215/1,258			4,808 2,376/2,432			13,781 6,529/7,252			13,965 5,681/8,284				32,544 14,586/17,968		

Table 1. Confirmed T2D susceptibility loci based on all available data from the FUSION, DGI, and UK samples

^aStage 1 + 2 risk allele frequency

^bApproximate sample size for power 80% to detect T2D-SNP association at significance level .05 based on FUSION control risk allele frequency and the risk ratio calculated from FUSION-DGI-WTCCC/UK all samples OR assuming .10 T2D prevalence. Note the sample sizes vary slightly from those of (4) because study-specific allele frequencies were used in the calculations. ^crs10946398 UK $r^2 = 1$

ⁱWTCCC GWA samples



