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McKay, J.D., Hung, R.J., Han, Y. et al. (138 more authors) (2017) Large-scale association analysis identifies new lung cancer susceptibility loci and heterogeneity in genetic susceptibility across histological subtypes. *Nature Genetics*, 49 (7). pp. 1126-1132. ISSN 1061-4036

<https://doi.org/10.1038/ng.3892>

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Title: Large-scale association analysis identifies new lung cancer susceptibility loci and heterogeneity in genetic susceptibility across histological subtypes.

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Main text

Summary

While several lung cancer susceptibility loci have been identified, much of lung cancer heritability remains unexplained. Here, 14,803 cases and 12,262 controls of European descent were genotyped on the OncoArray and combined with existing data for an aggregated GWAS analysis of lung cancer on 29,266 patients and 56,450 controls. We identified 18 susceptibility loci achieving genome wide significance, including 10 novel loci. The novel loci highlighted the striking heterogeneity in genetic susceptibility across lung cancer histological subtypes, with four loci associated with lung cancer overall and six with lung adenocarcinoma. Gene expression quantitative trait analysis (eQTL) in 1,425 normal lung tissues highlighted *RNASET2*, *SECISBP2L* and *NRG1* as candidate genes. Other loci include genes such as a cholinergic nicotinic receptor, *CHRNA2*, and the telomere-related genes, *OFBC1* and *RTEL1*. Further exploration of the target genes will continue to provide new insights into the etiology of lung cancer.

Text.

Lung cancer continues to be the leading cause of cancer mortality worldwide¹. Although tobacco smoking is the main risk factor, the heritability of lung cancer has been estimated at 18%². Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have identified several lung cancer susceptibility loci including *CHRNA3/5*, *TERT*, *HLA*, *BRCA2*, *CHEK2* and several more^{3,4}, nevertheless most of its heritability remains unexplained. With the goal of conducting a comprehensive characterization of common lung cancer genetic susceptibility loci, we undertook additional genotyping of lung cancer cases and controls using the OncoArray⁵ genotyping platform, which queried 517,482 SNPs chosen for fine mapping of susceptibility to common cancers as well as for *de novo* discovery (Supplementary Table 1, and Online methods). All participants gave an informed consent and each study obtained local ethics committee approval and after quality control filters (Online Methods), a total of 14,803 cases and 12,262 controls of European ancestry were retained and underwent imputation techniques to infer additional genotypes for genetic variants included in the 1000 Genomes Project data (Online Methods). Logistic regression was then used to assess the association between variants (n=10,439,017 SNPs) and lung cancer risk, as well as by predominant histological types and by smoking behaviour (Online Methods). Fixed-effects models (Online Methods) were used to combine the OncoArray results with previously published lung cancer GWAS^{3,4,6},

allowing for analysis of 29,266 patients and 56,450 controls of European descent (Table 1). There were no signs of genomic inflation overall or for any subtypes (Supplementary Figure 1) indicating little evidence for confounding by cryptic population structure (Online methods). All findings with a P-value less than 1×10^{-5} are reported in Supplementary Table 2. As shown in Figure 1, the genetic architecture of lung cancer varies markedly among histological subtypes, with striking differences between lung adenocarcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. Manhattan plots for small cell carcinoma (SCLC), ever and never smoking are displayed in Supplementary Figure 2. The array heritability estimates were comparable among histological subsets, but squamous cell carcinoma appeared to share more genetic architecture with small cell carcinoma (SCLC) than with adenocarcinoma (Supplementary Table 3).

Table 2 presents summary results of all loci with sentinel variants (defined as the variant with the lowest P-value at each locus) that reached genome-wide significance ($P\text{-value} < 5 \times 10^{-8}$) for lung cancer overall and by histological subtypes. Sentinel variants stratified by new and previous genotyping and additional statistical significance assessed based on the number of effective tests, Approximate Bayes Factors, and Bayesian False Discovery Probability are presented in Supplementary Table 4 and 5, respectively. Repeat genotyping of 12% of the OncoArray genotyped samples confirmed the fidelity of the genotyping or imputation for the risk loci, and showed excellent concordance of imputation for SNPs with $MAF > 0.05$ (Online methods, Supplementary note). Among the 18 loci that reached GWAS significance, 10 had not reached significance in a genome-wide scan (Figure 1). Of these, four novel loci were associated with lung cancer overall and six with adenocarcinoma.

To decipher the association between these 18 loci and lung cancer risk, we further investigated their association with gene expression level in normal lung tissues ($n=1,425$) (Supplementary Table 6, Supplementary Figure 3), genomic annotations (Supplementary Table 7) smoking propensity (cigarettes smoked per day ($n=91,046$) and Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence metrics ($n=17,074$)) (Table 2). Previous studies have shown shared risk for lung cancer and COPD through inflammation and ROS pathways⁷; therefore, we also assessed the association between sentinel SNPs and reduced lung capacity through spirometry measurements (forced expiratory volume in 1 second [FEV1], forced vital capacity [FVC], $n = 30,199$) (Table 2 and Online Methods).

Variants at 4 novel loci (1p31.1, 6q27, 8p21, 15q21.1) were associated with lung cancer risk overall, with little evidence for heterogeneity among subtypes (Supplementary Figure 4). The 1p31.1 locus, recently identified in a pathway-based analysis of the TRICL data⁸, represented by rs71658797 (Odds Ratio [OR]=1.14, 95% Confidence Interval [CI] 1.09-1.18, P-value= 3.25×10^{-11}), is located near *FUBP1/DNAJB4* (Supplementary Figure 4). At 6q27, rs6920364 was associated with lung cancer risk with an OR of 1.07 (95% CI 1.04-1.09, P-value= 2.9×10^{-8}) with little heterogeneity found by smoking status (Supplementary Figure 4). This locus is predicted to regulate *RNASET2* (Supplementary Figure 5, Supplementary Table 7). We identified rs6920364 as a lung cis-eQTL for *RNASET2*, an extracellular ribonuclease, in all five cohorts tested (Supplementary Table 6), with increased lung cancer risk correlating with increased *RNASET2* expression (Figure 2). Variants correlated with rs6920364 ($r^2 > 0.88$) have been noted in GWAS of Crohn's disease and inflammatory bowel disease⁹⁻¹³.

The 8p21 locus has been suggested as a lung cancer susceptibility locus by pathway analysis¹⁴ and now confirmed at GWAS significance level. It is a complex locus represented by sentinel variant rs11780471 associated with lung cancer (OR=0.87, 95% CI 0.83-0.91, P-value= 1.69×10^{-8}) (Supplementary Figure 4) but this region contained additional uncorrelated variants (pairwise $r^2 < 0.10$) associated with lung cancer (Supplementary Table 8). Multivariate analysis was consistent with multiple susceptibility alleles at this locus (Supplementary Table 8). In contrast to lung tissue (Figure 3A, Supplementary Table 6, Supplementary Figure 3), we noted that the alleles associated with lung cancer tended to be associated with cerebellum expression of *CHRNA2*, a member of the cholinergic nicotinic receptor (Figure 3B). The *CHRNA2* rs11780471 cis-eQTL effect in the brain was limited to the cerebellum (Figure 3C), a region not traditionally linked with addictive behaviour but where an emerging role is suggested¹⁵. We therefore investigated rs11780471 in the context of smoking behaviour (Supplementary Methods). Unlike the well-described 15q25.1 (rs55781567) *CHRNA5* locus (Table 2), rs11780471 was not associated with number of cigarettes smoked per day or the FTND metrics (Figure 3D). Nevertheless, lung cancer risk allele carriers of rs11780471 tended to be smokers and initiated smoking at earlier ages (Figure 3D), implying that this variant's association with lung cancer could potentially be mediated via influencing aspects of smoking behaviour. Another potentially relevant gene in this region is *EPHX2*, a xenobiotic metabolism gene.

The genetic locus at 15q21 (rs66759488) was shown to be associated with lung cancer (OR=1.07, 95% CI 1.04-1.10, $p=2.83 \times 10^{-8}$) overall and across lung cancer histologies (Supplementary Figure 4). Genomic annotation suggests that genetic variants correlated with rs66759488 may influence the *SEMA6D* gene (Supplementary Table 7), but there was no clear eQTL effect (Supplementary Table 6) and this variant did not appear to have a major influence on smoking propensity or lung function (Table 2).

For specific lung cancer histology subtypes, we identified 6 novel loci associated with lung adenocarcinoma (15q21, 8p12, 10q24, 20q13.33, 11q23.3 and 9p21.3) (Table 2). The locus at 15q21 (rs77468143, OR=0.86, 95% CI 0.82-0.89, $p=1.15 \times 10^{-16}$) is predicted to target *SECISBP2L* (Supplementary Figure 5) and expression analysis indicated rs77468143 to be a cis-eQTL for *SECISBP2L* in lung tissue in all eQTL cohorts tested (Supplementary Table 6). The genetic risk allele appears to correlate with decreased expression levels of *SECISBP2L* (Figure 2, Supplementary Figure 5), an observation that is consistent with *SECISBP2L* being down regulated in lung cancers¹⁶. rs77468143 was nominally associated with lung function (Table 2), potentially implicating inflammation of lung as part of the mechanism at this locus.

At 8p12, expression analysis indicated that the alleles associated with lung adenocarcinoma (represented by the sentinel variant rs4236709 (Table 2)), also appear to be a lung cis-eQTL for the *NRG1* gene (Supplementary Table 6, Supplementary Figure 5). This region also contains putative regulatory regions (Supplementary Figure 5). Somatic translocations of *NRG1* are infrequently observed in lung adenocarcinomas¹⁷. While somatic translocations at 8p12 generally take place in never smokers and linked with ectopic activation of NRG1, rs4236709 was associated with lung cancer in both ever and never smokers (Supplementary Figure 4) and its genetic risk correlated with decreased *NRG1* expression (Figure 2). Interestingly, 6q22.1 variants located near *ROSI*, another gene somatically translocated in lung adenocarcinoma and in which nearby germline variants have been associated with never smoking lung adenocarcinoma in Asian women¹⁸, were associated with lung adenocarcinoma at borderline genome wide significance (rs9387479; OR=0.92, 95% CI 0.89-0.95, $p=6.57 \times 10^{-8}$) (Supplementary Table 2).

Three of sentinel variants associated with lung adenocarcinoma are located near genes related to telomere regulation; rs7902587 (10q24) and rs41309931 (20q13.33) near *OBFC1* and *RTEL1*,

respectively, and rs2853677 near *TERT* as previously noted^{19,20}. The variants at 10q24 associated with lung adenocarcinoma also appear associated with telomere length (Supplementary Figure 6). By contrast, and consistent with observations with 20q13.33 variants associated with glioma²¹, the variants associated with telomere length at 20q13.33 were not necessarily those associated with lung adenocarcinoma (Supplementary Figure 6). Nevertheless, more generally the variants associated by GWAS with longer telomere length²² appear linked with risk of lung adenocarcinoma²³ and glioma^{21,24}, a finding consistent with our expanded analysis here (Supplementary Figure 6).

We additionally identified a complex locus at 11q23.3. The sentinel variant rs1056562 (OR=1.11, 95% CI 1.07-1.14, $p=2.7 \times 10^{-10}$) is more prominently associated with lung adenocarcinoma (Supplementary Figure 4). rs1056562 was correlated with expression of two genes at this locus, *AMICA1* and *MPZL3* (Supplementary Table 6). However, there did not appear to be a consistent relationship between the alleles related with *AMICA1* and *MPZL3* gene expression and those with lung adenocarcinoma (Figure 2, Supplementary Table 9), suggesting that expression of these genes alone is unlikely to mediate this association.

At 9p21.3 we identified rs885518 that appeared to be associated with lung adenocarcinoma (OR=1.17, 95% CI 1.11-1.23, $p=6.8 \times 10^{-10}$). 9p21.3 is a region containing *CDNK2A* and variants associated with multiple cancer types, including lung cancer. Nevertheless, rs885518 is located approximately 200kb centromeric the previously described variants (Supplementary Figure 4) and shows little evidence for LD (all pairwise $r^2 < 0.01$) with rs1333040, a variant previously associated with lung squamous cell carcinoma³ and rs62560775, another variant suggested to be associated with lung adenocarcinoma²⁵ that we confirm to genome significance here. Intriguingly, these variants appear to confer predominant associations with different lung cancer histologies suggesting that they are independent associations (Supplementary Figure 7).

Aside from the clear smoking-related effects on lung cancer risk through the *CHRNA5* and *CYP2A6* regions and association with *CHRNA2* noted above, the rest of variants we have identified do not appear to clearly influence smoking behaviors (Table 2), implying that these associations are likely mediated by other mechanisms. Nevertheless, there is shared genetic architecture between smoking behavior and lung cancer risk, consistent with the notion that

genetic variants do influence lung cancer risk also through behavioural mechanisms (Supplementary Figure 8).

In conclusion, the genetic susceptibility alleles we describe here explain approximately 12.3% of the familial relative risk previously reported in family cancer databases^{26,27}, out of which 3.5% was accounted for by the novel loci. Our findings emphasize striking heterogeneity across histological subtypes of lung cancer. We expect that further exploration of the related target genes of these susceptibility loci, as well as validation and identification of new loci, will continue to provide insights into the etiology of lung cancer.

URLs

Oncoarray: <http://epi.grants.cancer.gov/oncoarray/>
<http://oncoarray.dartmouth.edu>

Fastpop <http://sourceforge.net/projects/fastpop/>

PLINK: <http://zzz.bwh.harvard.edu/plink/>

IMPUTE2: http://mathgen.stats.ox.ac.uk/impute/impute_v2.html

SHAPEIN: https://mathgen.stats.ox.ac.uk/genetics_software/shapeit/shapeit.html

GTEEx: <http://www.gtexportal.org/home/>

BRAINEAC: <http://braineac.org>

TAG: <https://www.med.unc.edu/pgc/downloads>

Acknowledgements

Transdisciplinary Research for Cancer in Lung (TRICL) of the International Lung Cancer Consortium (ILCCO) was supported by (U19-CA148127 and CA148127S1). The ILCCO data harmonization is supported by Cancer Care Ontario Research Chair of Population Studies to R. H. and Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, Sinai Health System.

TRICL-ILCCO OncoArray was supported by in-kind genotyping Centre for Inherited Disease Research (26820120008i-0-26800068-1).

CAPUA study. This work was supported by FIS-FEDER/Spain grant numbers FIS-01/310, FIS-PI03-0365, and FIS-07-BI060604, FICYT/Asturias grant numbers FICYT PB02-67 and FICYT IB09-133, and the University Institute of Oncology (IUOPA), of the University of Oviedo and the Ciber de Epidemiología y Salud Pública. CIBERESP, SPAIN.

The work performed in the CARET study was supported by the National Institute of Health / National Cancer Institute: UM1 CA167462 (PI: Goodman), National Institute of Health UO1-CA6367307 (PIs Omen, Goodman); National Institute of Health R01 CA111703 (PI Chen), National Institute of Health 5R01 CA151989-01A1(PI Doherty).

The Liverpool Lung project is supported by the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.

The Harvard Lung Cancer Study was supported by the NIH (National Cancer Institute) grants CA092824, CA090578, CA074386

The Multiethnic Cohort Study was partially supported by NIH Grants CA164973, CA033619, CA63464 and CA148127

The work performed in MSH-PMH study was supported by The Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute (020214), Ontario Institute of Cancer and Cancer Care Ontario Chair Award to R.J.H. and G.L. and the Alan Brown Chair and Lusi Wong Programs at the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation.

NJLCS was funded by the State Key Program of National Natural Science of China (81230067), the National Key Basic Research Program Grant (2011CB503805), the Major Program of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (81390543).

Norway study was supported by Norwegian Cancer Society, Norwegian Research Council

The Shanghai Cohort Study (SCS) was supported by National Institutes of Health R01 CA144034 (PI: Yuan) and UM1 CA182876 (PI: Yuan).

The Singapore Chinese Health Study (SCHS) was supported by National Institutes of Health R01 CA144034 (PI: Yuan) and UM1 CA182876 (PI: Yuan).

The work in TLC study has been supported in part the James & Esther King Biomedical Research Program (09KN-15), National Institutes of Health Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) Grant (P50 CA119997), and by a Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, an NCI designated Comprehensive Cancer Center (grant number P30-CA76292)

The Vanderbilt Lung Cancer Study – BioVU dataset used for the analyses described was obtained from Vanderbilt University Medical Center’s BioVU, which is supported by institutional funding, the 1S10RR025141-01 instrumentation award, and by the Vanderbilt CTSA grant UL1TR000445 from NCATS/NIH. Dr. Aldrich was supported by NIH/National Cancer Institute K07CA172294 (PI: Aldrich) and Dr. Bush was supported by NHGRI/NIH U01HG004798 (PI: Crawford).

The Copenhagen General Population Study (CGPS) was supported by the Chief Physician Johan

Boserup and Lise Boserup Fund, the Danish Medical Research Council and Herlev Hospital.

The NELCS study: Grant Number P20RR018787 from the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Vanderbilt University Medical Center's BioVU is supported by institutional funding and by the CTSA grant UL1TR000445 from NCATS/NIH.

The deCODE study of smoking and nicotine dependence was funded in part by a grant from NIDA (R01- DA017932).

The study in Lodz center was partially funded by Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, under task NIOM 10.13: Predictors of mortality from non-small cell lung cancer - field study.

Kentucky Lung Cancer Research Initiative was supported by the Department of Defense [Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Program] under award number: 10153006 (W81XWH-11-1-0781). Views and opinions of, and endorsements by the author(s) do not reflect those of the US Army or the Department of Defense. This research was also supported by unrestricted infrastructure funds from the UK Center for Clinical and Translational Science, NIH grant UL1TR000117 and Markey Cancer Center NCI Cancer Center Support Grant (P30 CA177558) Shared Resource Facilities: Cancer Research Informatics, Biospecimen and Tissue Procurement, and Biostatistics and Bioinformatics.

Genetic sharing analysis was funded by NIH grant CA194393

IARC acknowledges and thanks V.Gaborieau, M. Foll, L. Fernandez-Cuesta, P. Chopard, T. Delhomme and A. Chabrier for their technical assistance in this project.

The authors would like to thank the staff at the Respiratory Health Network Tissue Bank of the FRQS for their valuable assistance with the lung eQTL dataset at Laval University. The lung eQTL study at Laval University was supported by the Fondation de l'Institut universitaire de cardiologie et de pneumologie de Québec, the Respiratory Health Network of the FRQS, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (MOP - 123369). Y.B. holds a Canada Research Chair in Genomics of Heart and Lung Diseases.

The research undertaken by M.D.T., L.V.W. and M.S.A. was partly funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health. M.D.T. holds a Medical Research Council Senior Clinical Fellowship (G0902313).

The work to assemble the FTND GWAS meta-analysis was supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) grant number R01 DA035825 (Principal Investigator [PI]: DBH). The study populations included COGEND (dbGaP phs000092.v1.p1 and phs000404.v1.p1), COPDGene (dbGaP phs000179.v3.p2), deCODE Genetics, EAGLE (dbGaP phs000093.vs.p2), and SAGE. dbGaP phs000092.v1.p1). See Hancock et al. *Transl Psychiatry* 2016 for the full listing of funding sources and other acknowledgments

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Figure Legends

Figure 1. Manhattan plots of lung cancer risk overall and by histological subtypes. (a) lung cancer risk overall, 29,266 cases and 56,450 controls (b) adenocarcinoma, 11,273 cases and 55,483 controls (c) squamous cell carcinoma 7,426 cases and 55,627 controls. Each locus is annotated by their cytoband locations. The X-axis represents chromosomal locations and the Y-axis represents $-\log_{10}(\text{P-value})$. Black denotes the previously known loci and Red denotes the new loci identified in this analysis

Figure 2. Scatter plots comparing variants across the 6q27, 15q21.1, 8p12 and 11q23.3 susceptibility loci and (Y-axis) their associated with lung cancer (or lung adenocarcinoma, as relevant) and (X-axis) the lung cis-eQTL (GTEx). Each variant (dot) is colored relative the degree of linkage disequilibrium (r^2) with sentinel lung cancer variant (marked) at that locus. Indented table, association between sentinel variant and lung cancer (or histological subtype) as well as the eQTL evidence in lung epithelium for the microarray (Laval, UBC, Groningen) and RNAseq (NCI and GTEx) cohorts. At 6q27, 15q21.1 and 8p12, the variants associated with lung cancer also tend to be those that are lung cis-eQTL's for *RNASET2*, *SECISBP2L* and *NRG1*, respectively. At 11q23.3, while the sentinel variant (rs1056562) is a lung cis-eQTL for *AMICA1*, additional variants are *AMICA1* lung cis-eQTL's but not associated with lung adenocarcinoma and *vice versa* suggesting an alternate candidate gene may be responsible for this association or a pleiotropic effect at this locus.

Figure 3. eQTL and smoking behavior analysis of the 8p21 lung cancer susceptibility locus. **Upper panel,** Scatter plots of variants across the 8p21 locus and their associated with lung cancer (Y-axis) and *CHRNA2* eQTL (X-axis) in lung epithelial tissues (panel a) and *CHRNA2* eQTL in brain cerebellum tissues (panel b). **Panel C.** eQTL association between rs11780471 across tissues from different parts of the brain from GTEx and Braineac consortia noting *CHRNA2* cis-eQTL effect appears restricted to the brain cerebellum. **Panel D.** Association between rs11780471 and smoking phenotypes, noting evidence for association between smoking status (ever vs never) and age of initiation, with lung cancer risk allele carriers (G) more likely to be ever smokers and take up smoking earlier. Fagerstrom Test for Nicotine Dependence (FTND) index, error bars indicate the 95% confidence intervals.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the participating studies after quality control filters

		Lung cancer patients		Controls	
		number	(%)	number	(%)
OncoArray studies- passed QC		14803	(51)	12262	(22)
Published GWAS studies ^a		14463	(49)	44188	(78)
Total		29266		56450	
Age					
	<=50	3112	(12)	6032	(12)
	>50	23025	(88)	44075	(88)
Sex					
	Male	18208	(62)	27178	(53)
	Female	11059	(38)	24069	(47)
Smoking status					
	Never	2355	(9)	7504	(31)
	Ever	23223	(91)	16964	(69)
		Former	9037	8554	(35)
		Current	13356	7477	(31)
Histology ^c					
	Adenocarcinoma	11273	(39)	55483 ^b	
	Squamous cell carcinoma	7426	(25)	55627 ^b	
	Small cell carcinoma	2664	(9)	21444 ^b	

^a Previous GWAS studies include IARC, MDACC, SLRI, ICR, Harvard, ATBC, CPSII, German and deCODE studies.

^b number of non-cancer individuals included in the corresponding histology-specific analysis.

^c The remaining 27% includes other histological subsets, such as large cell carcinoma, non-small cell lung cancer, NOS, mixed histology, and unknown.

Table 2. The association between sentinel variants representing each lung cancer locus and lung cancer risk.

Strata	Locus*	rs number	Gene	Allele ^a	Imputed or oncoarray genotyped	Candidate Oncoarray	EAF	OR	95%CI	P-value	CPD	FTND	FEV1	FVC	FEV1/FVC
						Customized panel					p-value	p-value	p-value	p-value	p-value
Lung	1p31.1*	rs71658797	<i>FUBP1</i>	T_A	Oncoarray	No	0.103	1.1	1.09-1.18	3.3E-11	0.056	0.334	0.445	0.898	0.334
Lung	6q27*	rs6920364	<i>RNASET2</i>	G_C	Imputed	<i>eQTL</i>	0.456	1.1	1.05-1.10	1.3E-08	0.833	0.104	0.927	0.876	0.986
Lung	8p21.1*	rs11780471	<i>CHRNA2</i>	G_A	Imputed	<i>Lung</i>	0.060	0.9	0.83-0.91	1.7E-08	0.646	0.403	6.9E-04	0.055	0.016
Lung	13q13.1	rs11571833	<i>BRCA2</i>	A_T	Imputed	<i>Lung</i>	0.011	1.6	1.43-1.80	6.1E-16	0.890	0.312	0.601	0.667	0.237
Lung	15q21.1*	rs66759488	<i>SEMA6D</i>	G_A	imputed	<i>Lung</i>	0.362	1.1	1.05-1.10	2.8E-08	0.266	0.888	0.739	0.200	0.202
Lung	15q25.1	rs55781567	<i>CHRNA5</i>	C_G	Imputed	<i>Lung</i>	0.367	1.3	1.27-1.33	3.1E-103	6.8E-38	9.7E-16	7.2E-03	0.020	0.144
Lung	19q13.2^	rs56113850	<i>CYP2A6</i>	C_T	Oncoarray	<i>Lung</i>	0.440	0.9	0.86-0.91	5.0E-19	8.1E-20	7.5E-04	0.822	0.826	0.319
Adeno	3q28	rs13080835	<i>TP63</i>	G_T	Imputed	<i>Lung</i>	0.493	0.9	0.87-0.92	7.5E-12	0.803	0.336	0.135	0.445	0.834
Adeno	5p15.33	rs7705526	<i>TERT</i>	C_A	Oncoarray	<i>All</i>	0.342	1.3	1.21-1.29	3.8E-35	0.511	0.738	0.292	0.038	0.657
Adeno	8p12*	rs4236709	<i>NRG1</i>	A_G	Imputed	<i>eQTL</i>	0.218	1.1	1.09-1.18	1.3E-10	0.991	0.957	0.503	0.151	0.403
Adeno	9p21.3*	rs885518	<i>CDNK2A</i>	A_G	Imputed	<i>Several</i>	0.101	1.2	1.11-1.23	9.96E-10	0.904	0.321	0.421	0.096	0.146
Adeno	10q24.3*	rs11591710	<i>OBFC1</i>	A_C	Imputed	<i>Lung</i>	0.137	1.2	1.11-1.22	6.3E-11	0.500	0.152	0.027	0.019	0.533
Adeno	11q23.3*	rs1056562	<i>AMICA1</i>	C_T	Oncoarray	<i>Breast</i>	0.473	1.1	1.07-1.14	2.8E-10	0.717	0.538	0.449	0.718	0.039
Adeno	15q21.1*	rs77468143	<i>SECISBP2L</i>	T_G	Imputed	<i>No</i>	0.253	0.9	0.83-0.89	1.7E-16	0.071	0.184	4.9E-03	0.440	1.4E-03
Adeno	20q13.33*	rs41309931	<i>RTEL1</i>	G_T	Imputed	<i>Prost/ColR</i>	0.117	1.2	1.11-1.23	1.3E-09	0.146	0.939	0.964	0.657	0.284
SQC	6p21.33	rs116822326	<i>MHC</i>	A_G	Imputed	<i>Lung</i>	0.155	1.3	1.19-1.32	3.8E-19	0.392	0.774	0.132	0.498	0.103
SQC	12p13.33	rs7953330	<i>RAD52</i>	G_C	Oncoarray	<i>Lung</i>	0.315	0.9	0.83-0.90	7.3E-13	0.800	0.463	0.019	3.3E-03	0.424
SQC	22q12.1	rs17879961	<i>CHEK2</i>	A_G	Oncoarray	<i>Lung</i>	0.005	0.4	0.32-0.52	5.7E-13	0.441	0.360	0.041	0.040	0.805

* denote novel locus identified to GWAS significance by this study; a, reference_effect. Bolded p-values indicate significant associations with consistent direction as expected. Genome positions relative to GRCh37, EAF, effective allele frequency; OR, odds (log additive) ratio; 95%CI, 95% confidence interval. P-value, based on fixed-effect meta-analysis adjusted for age, sex and genetically derived ancestry; CPD, cigarette per day; FTND, Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence; FEV1, forced expiratory volume in 1 second; FVC, forced vital capacity. Adeno, adenocarcinoma; SQC, squamous cell carcinoma. ^ marker had an acceptable, but not ideal concordance rate (see Supplementary Note)

Online methods

This work is conducted based on the collaboration of Transdisciplinary Research of Cancer in Lung of the International Lung Cancer Consortium (TRICL-ILCCO) and the Lung Cancer Cohort Consortium (LC3). The participating studies are individually described in the Supplementary Note.

OncoArray genotyping.

Genotyping was completed at the Center for Inherited Disease Research (CIDR), the Beijing Genome Institute, the HelmholtzCenter Munich (HMGU), Copenhagen University Hospital, and the University of Cambridge. Quality control steps follow the approach described previously for the OncoArray⁵ (Supplementary Note).

Genotype quality control.

After removing the 1,193 expected duplicates, QC procedures for the 43,398 individuals are summarized in Supplementary Note Figure 1. Standard quality control procedures (detailed in the Supplementary Note) were used to exclude underperforming individuals (number of DNAs=1,708) and genotyping assays (judged by success rate, genotype distributions deviated from that expected by Hardy Weinberg equilibrium, number of variants=16,149). After filtering, there were 517,482 SNPs available for analysis.

Identity by Descent (IBD) was calculated between each pair of samples in the data using PLINK to detect unexpected duplicates and relatedness. Details are described in Supplementary Note. 340 unexpected duplicated samples (proportion IBD>0.95) and 940 individuals were removed as related samples with proportion IBD between 0.45 and 0.95. Of these, 721 of them were expected first degree relatives. In total, 0.56% of the total samples were removed as unexpected duplicates or relatives in the QC analysis. We additionally considered the potential that more distant familial relationships could have impacted the results. However, further restriction to proportion IBD > 0.2 identified 139 second degree relatives and excluding these had minimal impact on the association results (Supplementary Note Table 1).

Complete genotype data for X chromosomes were used to verify reported sex by using PLINK sex inference and a support vector machine procedure resulting in 306 non concordant samples being removed (Supplementary Note).

We used the program FastPop (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/fastpop/>)²⁸ was used to identify 5,406 individuals of non-European ancestry (Supplementary Note) resulting in a final association analysis including 14,803 lung cancer cases and 12,262 controls.

We confirmed the fidelity genotyping (directly and imputed) of the OncoArray platform by considering concordance of these genotypes relative to genotypes obtained from analogous genotyping platform (Supplementary Note).

Imputation analysis.

A detailed description of the imputation procedures used by the OncoArray consortium and in this Lung

Oncoarray project, has been described previously.⁵ Briefly, the reference Dataset was the 1000 Genomes Project (GP) Phase 3 ([Haplotype release date October 2014](#)). The forward alignment of SNPs genotyped on the Oncoarray was confirmed by blasting the sequences used for defining SNPs against the 1000 Genomes. Any ambiguous SNPs were subjected to a frequency comparison to 1000 Genomes variants. Allele frequencies were calculated from a large collection of control samples from Europeans (from 108,000 samples) and Asians (11,000 samples). A difference statistic is calculated by the formula: $(|p_1 - p_2| - 0.01)^2 / ((p_1 + p_2)(2 - p_1 - p_2))$ where p_1 and p_2 are the frequencies our dataset and in the 1000 genomes respectively⁵. A cutoff of 0.008 in Europeans and 0.012 in Asians is needed to pass. SNPs where the frequency would match if the alleles were flipped were excluded from imputation but not from the association analyses.⁵ AT/GC SNPs were not present in previously genotyped lower density arrays. Because all imputation was performed to the same standard all SNPs had the same orientation at the time of imputation. The OncoArray whole genome data were imputed in a two-stage procedure using SHAPEIT to derive phased genotypes, and IMPUTEv2²⁹ to perform imputation of the phased data. We included for imputation only the more common variant if more than one variant yielded a match at the same position. The detailed parameter settings are in the Supplementary Note.

Meta analysis of lung cancer GWAS.

FlashPCA³⁰ was run for principal component analysis (PCA) to infer genetic ancestry by genotype. The regression model assumed an additive genetic model and included the first three eigenvalues from FlashPCA as covariates. For imputed data of smaller sample size, which was enrolled in our analysis later, we changed the method score to EM algorithm to accommodate smaller sample size.

We combined imputed genotypes from 14,803 cases and 12,262 controls from the OncoArray series with 14,436 cases and 44,188 controls samples undertaken by the previous lung cancer GWAS^{3,4,6}, including studies of IARC, MDACC, SLRI, ICR, Harvard, NCI, Germany and deCODE as described previously^{3,4,6}, and we ensured that there were no overlap between the ATBC, EAGLE and CARET studies included in both the previous GWAS and current OncoArray dataset by comparing the identity tags (IDs) of all study participants.

In addition to lung cancer, histological strata (adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, small cell carcinoma (SCLC) and smoking status (Ever/Never) was assessed where data were available. Additional details on subsets that were used are available upon request.

We conducted the fixed effects meta-analysis with the inverse variance weighting and random effects meta-analysis from the DerSimonian-Laird method³¹. All meta-analysis and calculations were performed using SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA). As the same referent panel was used for all studies, all SNPs showed the same forward alignment profiles. We excluded poorly imputed SNPs defined by imputation quality $Rsq < 0.3$ or $Info < 0.4$ for each meta-analysis component and SNPs with a Minor allele frequency (MAF) > 0.01 (except for *CHEK2* rs17879961 and *BRCA2* rs11571833 which we have validated extensively previously⁴). We generated the index of heterogeneity (I^2) and P-value of Cochran's Q statistic to assess heterogeneity in meta-analyses and considered only variants with little

evidence for heterogeneity in effect between the studies (P-value of Cochran's Q statistic >0.05). SNPs were retained for study provided the average imputation R-square was at least 0.4. For SNPs in the 0.4-0.8 range that reached genome wide significance results were evaluated for consistency with neighboring SNPs to assure a reliable inference. Due to the smaller sample size and fewer sites contributing in the strata of Never Smokers and SCLC, we additionally required variants to be present in each of the meta-analysis components to be retained for these 2 stratified analyses.

Conditional analysis was undertaken using SNPTEST where individual level data was available and GCTA³² packages for the previous lung cancer GWAS, with the LD estimates obtained from individuals of European origin for the later. Results were combined using fixed effects inverse variance weighted meta-analysis as described above³³.

Assessing Statistical Significance

Genome wide statistical significance was considered at P-values of 5×10^{-8} or lower, but we also presented significance per alternative criteria following Bonferroni correction for the number of effective tests or Bayesian False Discovery Probability (BFDP) described below.

To evaluate the effective number of tests we used the Li and Ji (2005)³³ method which performs an initial step of filtering out SNPs with $MAF < 0.01$ (imputation is less reliable for these and power is also limited for most odds ratios). Among the 4,751,148 markers with that MAF there were 1,182,363 effective tests.

The BFDP combines significance level, study power, and cost of false discovery and non-discovery into consideration. The detailed procedures of this method are described in Wakefield, 2007³⁴. Essentially, the approximate Bayes Factor (ABF) which BFDP uses reflects how much the prior odds change in the light of the observed data (i.e. relative probability of the observed estimates under the null versus alternative hypothesis). Given the nature of GWA studies, we applied a flat prior for all variants at prior probability of 10^{-6} and 10^{-8} to demonstrate the range of BFDP.

Annotation of susceptibility loci.

We combined multiple sources of *in silico* functional annotation from public databases to help identify potential functional SNPs and target genes, based on previous observations that cancer susceptibility alleles are enriched in *cis*-regulatory elements and alter transcriptional activity. The details are described in the Supplementary Note.

eQTL analysis of lung cancer sentinel variants.

To investigate the association between the sentinel variants and mRNA expression, we used three different eQTL datasets : (i) Microarray eQTL study: The lung tissues for eQTL analyses were from patients who underwent lung surgery at three academic sites, Laval University, University of British Columbia (UBC), and University of Groningen. Whole-genome gene expression profiling in the lung was performed on a custom Affymetrix array (GPL10379). Microarray pre-processing and quality controls were described previously. Genotyping was carried on the Illumina Human 1M-Duo BeadChip array. Genotypes and gene expression levels were available for 409, 287 and 342 patients at Laval, UBC, and Groningen, respectively. (ii) NCI RNAseq eQTL study: RNA was extracted from lung tissue samples within

the Environment and Genetics in Lung cancer Etiology (EAGLE) study. RNAseq was carried out on 90 lung tissue sampled from an area distant from the tumor (defined here as “non-malignant lung tissue”) to minimize the potential for local cancer field effects. Transcriptome sequencing of 90 non-tumor samples was performed on the Illumina HiSeq2000/2500 platform with 100-bp paired-end reads. Genotyping was undertaken using Illumina bead arrays as described previously. (iii) GTEx: eQTL summary statistics based on RNAseq analysis were obtained for eQTL summary statistics from the GTEx data portal <http://www.gtexportal.org/home/>³⁵. This data included 278 individuals with data from lung tissue. Details of these three eQTL studies are included in the Supplementary Note.

The Microarray eQTL study was used as a discovery cohort. Probe sets located within 1 Mb up and downstream of lung cancer SNPs were considered for cis-eQTL analyses. We have also explored a 5 Mb interval for lung cancer-associated SNPs not acting as lung eQTL within the 1 Mb window. The top eQTL association for that sentinel variant (or if contained multiple eQTL's with P-value<0.0005 each was considered), this particular eQTL was then chosen and assessed specifically in the independent NCI and GTEx RNAseq eQTL datasets. Statistical significance was defined the eQTL surpassed a locus specific Bonferroni correlation in the discovery cohort (P-value=0.05/number of probes at that locus) and subsequently there was evidence for replication of the eQTL effect with that variant and gene within the validation cohorts (NCI/GTEx RNAseq).

Lung cancer susceptibility variants in other phenotypes.

We assessed associations between sentinel genetic variant associated with lung cancer and other phenotypes, including smoking behavior Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence, lung function and telomere length. Additional details of these analyses for other phenotypes are described in Supplementary Note. Briefly:

Smoking behaviors.

The effects of lung cancer sentinel variants and smoking behavior were assessed based on the meta-analysis across 3 studies: ever-smoking controls with intensity information from the Oncoarray studies (N=8,120), deCODE (N=40,882) and UK Biobank (N=42,044). The association with nicotine dependence was evaluated based on Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence (FTND) data collected in 4 studies (n=17,074): deCODE Genetics, Environment and Genetics in Lung Cancer Etiology (EAGLE), Collaborative Genetic Study of Nicotine Dependence (COGENE), and Study of Addiction: Genetics and Environment (SAGE) and among current smokers in one other study [Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Gene (COPDGene)]. The study-specific SNP association results were combined using fixed effects, inverse variance-weighted meta-analysis with genomic control applied. Specifically for the 8p21 variant rs11780471, we additionally considered other aspects of smoking behavior data from UKBiobank, deCODE and OncoArray controls. We additionally included summary statistics for the rs11780471 variants from the TAG consortium (described in detail in the Supplementary Note).

Lung function.

The lung function *in silico* look up was conducted in SpiroMeta consortium, which included 38,199 European ancestry individuals. The genomewide associations between genetic variants and forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV1), forced vital capacity (FVC) and FEV1/FVC with 1000 Genomes

Project (phase 1)-imputed genotypes in the GWAS with 38,199 individuals³⁶.

Telomere Length (TL).

Sentinel genetic variants associated with telomere length were those described by Codd et al²².

Telomere lengths in 6,766 individuals from the UK Studies of Epidemiology and Risk Factors in Cancer Heredity (SEARCH) study controls using a real-time PCR methodology and genotyping as described in Pooley et al., 2013³⁷.

Genetic heritability and correlations.

Genome-wide SNP heritability and correlation estimates were obtained using association summary statistics and linkage disequilibrium (LD) information through LD Score (LDSC) regression analyses^{38,39}. These analyses were restricted to HapMap3 SNPs with minor allele frequency above 5% in European populations of 1000 Genomes. Association summary statistics used for these analyses were based on lung cancer histological/smoking types (lung cancer overall, adenocarcinoma, squamous cell, small cell, ever smokers and never smokers) and smoking behavior parameters (cigarettes per day (CPD), smoking status (ever vs never smokers), and smoking cessation (current vs former smokers) from TRICL-ILCCO OncoArray consortium and Tobacco And Genetics consortium (<https://www.med.unc.edu/pgc/downloads>)⁴⁰.

Estimating the percentage of familial relative risks explained

The familial relative risk to a first degree relative accounted for by an individual variant (denoted as λ_i) is estimated based on relative risk per allele and allele frequency for that variant, using the method described in Hemminki et al⁴¹, and Bahcall⁴², under the assumption of log-additive effect. Assuming the effects of all susceptibility variants combined multiplicatively and not in linkage disequilibrium, the combined effect (λ_T) can then be expressed as the product of all λ_i . The proportion of the familial relative risk attributable to the totality of the susceptibility variants can then be computed as $\log(\lambda_T)/\log(\lambda_P)$. For lung cancer, the λ_P is approximately 2.0 based on the family cancer databases^{26,27}. The percentage reported is based on the 18 sentinel variants reported in Table 2. The multiple independent alleles in the same locus are not accounted for in this estimation.

Data Availability

The datasets generated during the current study are available in the dbGAP repository under phs0012733.

MetaAnalyses included in the analysis are available at dbGAP under phs000877.

The Oncoarray data deposited at dbGAP includes data excluded from the analyses presented in this paper to avoid overlap with prior studies. Readers interested in obtaining a copy of the original data can do so by completing a proposal request form that is located at <http://oncoarray.dartmouth.edu>. Cluster plots of all SNPs on the Oncoarray are located at <http://oncoarray.dartmouth.edu>

Methods-only references.

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