

Supplementary Note 1

Supplemental Methods

Overview of consortium

The SUNLIGHT consortium (Study of Underlying Genetic Determinants of Vitamin D and Highly Related Traits) was formed in 2008. It represents a collaboration of more than 30 studies from the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Italy, and Finland. Fifteen studies had joined SUNLIGHT consortium as of 2010, ten of which, were used in the current analysis, and were described in our earlier GWAS meta-analysis.¹ Additional cohorts joined the consortium since that time, resulting in a significant increase in the sample size. We included 21 of those additional cohorts in our current overall meta-GWAS analysis. Four of the participating cohorts (Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study, Framingham Heart Study, Cardiovascular Health Study, and the Rotterdam Study) are also members of the CHARGE consortium (Cohorts for Heart and Aging Research in Genetic Epidemiology).²

Individual cohort descriptions

The characteristic of the 10 individual cohorts (the **1958 British Birth Cohort Study (1958BC)**, the **Cardiovascular Health Study (CHS)**, the **Framingham Heart Study (FHS)**, the **Gothenburg Osteoporosis and Obesity Determinants Study (GOOD)**, the **Health, Aging and Body Composition Study (Health ABC)**, the **Indiana Women Cohort**, the **Northern Finland Birth Cohort 1966 (NFBC1966)**, the **Old order Amish Study (OOA)**, the **Rotterdam Study (RS)**, and the **TwinsUK registry**) were previously described in detail.¹ The 21 additional cohorts are briefly described below, as well as the 2 cohorts that were used only in the gene-by-dietary vitamin D intake interaction analysis (but not in the overall meta-GWAS analysis) as follows.

The **Alpha-Tocopherol, Beta-Carotene Cancer Prevention Trial (ATBC)** was a randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind cancer prevention trial conducted by the US National Cancer Institute and the National Institute for Health and Welfare of Finland from 1985 to 1993. A total of 29,133 eligible male smokers participated in the study and follow-up for cancer endpoints is conducted with linkage to the Finnish Cancer Registry and cancer reviews. For the current study, follow-up is through 2012. Participants completed a general risk factor, smoking and medical history questionnaire along with a food frequency questionnaire at baseline. Fasting serum samples were collected at the baseline visit, and a whole blood sample was obtained close to the end of the trial.³ Genome-wide genotyping was performed using the Illumina 550K.⁴ The study was approved by the Institutional Review Boards of the National Cancer Institute and the National Public Health Institute of Finland.

The **Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC)** Study is a prospective epidemiologic study conducted in four US communities (Washington County, MD; Forsyth County, NC; Jackson, MS; and Minneapolis, MN) to investigate the etiology of atherosclerosis and its clinical consequences and variation in cardiovascular risk factors, medical care, and disease by race, gender, location and date. ARIC began in 1987, each of the four ARIC field centers randomly recruited a cohort sample of approximately 4,000 individuals aged 45-64 from a defined population in their community, to receive extensive examinations. A total of 15,792 participants were included in the baseline; several follow-up visits have taken place.⁵ Blood samples used for vitamin D measurement were collected in 1990-1992. Genotyping of SNPs was performed using the Affymetrix 6.0 microarray. The study protocols were reviewed and approved by each site's Institutional Review Board at The Johns Hopkins University, Wake Forest University, University of Mississippi Medical Center, and University of Minnesota.

The **AtheroGene** Registry is a cardiovascular registry initiated in 1996 in Germany, enrolling patients who underwent coronary angiography at the Johannes Gutenberg University Hospital in Mainz. Blood was drawn from all study participants under standardized conditions before coronary angiography was performed.⁶ Genotyping was performed using Illumina array. The study protocols were reviewed and approved by the local Ethics Committees at the Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz and the Federal Armed Forces Central Hospital, Koblenz.

The **B-Vitamins for the Prevention of Osteoporotic Fractures (B-PROOF)** Study is a randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind parallel intervention study, carried out by a consortium in the Netherlands to understand the association between vitamin B, folate status, and fracture risk. Recruitment took place from 2008 until 2011, via the registries of municipalities in the area of the research centers by inviting all inhabitants aged > 65 years by mail. A total of 2,919 individuals participated the trial. Measurements covering bone health, nutritional intake and status, cognitive function, depression, genetics and quality of life, were performed at the baseline and after two years.⁷ Genotyping was performed using the IlluminaOmniExpression array. The study protocols were reviewed and approved by the Medical Ethics committees of Wageningen University and the Erasmus MC and VU University Medical Center.

The **Epidemiology of Diabetes Interventions and Complications (EDIC)** Study is a multicenter, longitudinal, observational study designed to use the well-characterized Diabetes Control and Complications Trial patients to determine the long-term effects of prior separation of glycemic levels on micro- and macrovascular outcomes of type 1 diabetes. It was initiated in 1994 in the US, and recruited 1,375 participants at the baseline. Each subject has a standardized annual history and physical examination. DNA has been obtained from peripheral blood leukocytes in all subjects and stored as a long-term resource for further analysis.⁸ Genotyping was performed with the Human 1M BeadChip.⁹ The study protocols were reviewed and approved by Institutional Review Boards at all participating centers.

The Health 2000 Survey was a comprehensive combination of health interview and health examination survey carried out in 2000-2001. It aims to obtain information on the most important public health problems in working-aged and aged population, their causes and treatments, as well as on the population's functional and working capacity. The study collected nationally representative sample of 8,028 individuals aged > 30 living in the mainland Finland, and an additional sample of ~3,100 individuals from the Mini-Finland Health Examination Survey. The **Case-Control Study for Metabolic Syndrome (GENMETS)** sub-cohort with 1,641 individuals was part of the Health 2000 survey, selected as case-control study for metabolic syndrome for genome-wide genotyping, performed at the Illumina 610K platform.¹⁰ The study protocols were reviewed and approved by the Coordinating Ethics Committee at the Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa.

The **Helsinki Birth Cohort Study (HBCS, 1934-44)** is a unique, longitudinal epidemiological cohort including individuals born in Finland, and with extensive data throughout the life span including prenatal, early childhood and later life. Over 2000 randomly selected voluntary participants have been followed up clinically for over one decade with more detailed and extensive phenotypic data, dietary information, psychological factors, and genetic data (genotyped with Illumina 670K) available.¹¹ The study protocols were reviewed and approved by the Coordinating Ethics Committee at the Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa.

The **Health Professionals Fellow-up Study (HPFS)**, began in 1986 in the US, aims to evaluate a series of hypotheses about men's health relating nutritional factors to the incidence of serious illnesses, such as cancer, heart disease, and other vascular diseases. HPFS is all-male study and is designed to complement the all-female Nurses' Health Study. HPFS enrolled 51,529 men aged 40 to 75 at the baseline. The men have been followed with biennial questionnaires to obtain updated demographic, lifestyle, and other information, mirrored the NHS. We used a case-control study of coronary heart study nested within HPFS (HPFS_CHD).¹² The study was reviewed by the Internal Review Board and approved by the Human Subjects Committee at Harvard T.H.Chan School of Public Health.

The **Invecchiare in Chianti, aging in the Chianti Area Study (InChianti)** is a prospective population-based epidemiological study of elder persons living in the Chianti geographical area in Italy. The study was initiated in 1998 and included a representative sample of the older population with 1,453 individuals at the baseline. Fasting blood samples were collected after the baseline visit. The participants were followed up every three years by experienced interviewers.¹³ Genotyping was completed using the Illumina Infinium HumanHap 550 chip.¹⁴ The Italian National Research Council on Aging Ethical Committee ratified the entire study protocol.

The **Cooperative Health Research in the Region Augsburg (KORA)** is a regional research platform for population-based surveys and subsequent follow-up studies in the fields of epidemiology, health economics, and health care research established in 1996 in Germany, with a special focus on the

determination of risk factors and treatment options on myocardial infarction rates in populations.¹⁵ For the genome-wide association study, 1,805 randomly selected participants were genotyped with Affymetrix 6.0 array.¹⁶ The study was reviewed and approved by the Ethics Committee of the Bavarian Medical Association.

The **Leiden Longevity Study** (LLS) was designed to identify genetic and phenotypic markers related to familial longevity. A total of 421 families were recruited, consisting of long-lived white siblings, offspring and the offspring's partners. Families were only included if at least 2 long-lived siblings were still alive and met the age criteria (≥ 89 years for men; ≥ 91 years for women). There was no selection based on health conditions or demographic characteristics.¹⁷ Genome-wide SNP data were obtained by use Illumina Infinium HD Human660W-Quad BeadChips and Illumina OmniExpress BeadChips.¹⁸ The study protocols were reviewed and approved by the Medical Ethical Committee of the Leiden University Medical Center.

The **Ludwigshafen Risk and Cardiovascular Health Study** (LURIC) recruited white patients hospitalized for coronary angiography between 1997 and 2004 at a tertiary care center in Southwestern Germany. A standardized personal and family history questionnaire and an extensive laboratory work-up was obtained from all individuals. Fasting venous blood was sampled for the determinations of genotypes and biochemical phenotypes.¹⁹ The present study included data from 2,864 participants with Affymetrix 6.0 genotyping data available.²⁰ The study protocols were reviewed and approved by the ethics committee at the Landesärztekammer Rheinland-Pfalz.

The **Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis** (MESA) was initiated in 1999 to investigate the prevalence, correlates, and progression of subclinical cardiovascular disease in a population-based sample of ~6000 men and women aged 45-84 years recruited from six field centers across the US. Thirty-eight percent of the recruited participants are white, 28% African-American, 22% Hispanic, and 12% Asian, predominantly of Chinese descent. Participants were recruited from six field centers across the United States. Baseline measurements included extensive aspects of cardiovascular disease related phenotypes, sociodemographic factors, medication use and psychosocial factors. Blood samples were assayed and DNA were extracted for genetic studies. Participants are followed-up with a clinical exam every two years (six exams have been completed) and a yearly phone call to assess cardiovascular events. Genotype data were generated from the Affymetrix 6.0 array.²¹ The tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki were followed and institutional review board approval was granted at all MESA sites. Written informed consent was obtained from each participant. We included only MESA participants of Caucasian-ancestry in our current study. The study protocols were reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board of each of the six field centers.

The **Nijmegen Biomedical Study** (NBS) is a population-based epidemiological survey conducted in the eastern part of the Netherlands. Randomly selected inhabitants from Nijmegen were invited to participate in the study by receiving a postal questionnaire on lifestyle and medical history. Blood samples were collected at the baseline from individuals who consented to participate in the study. The present study included data from 2,610 participants with Illumina HumanHap300 BeadChip genotyping data was available.²² The study protocols were reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board of the Radboud University Medical Center in Nijmegen.

The **Nurses' Health Study** (NHS) was established in 1976, when 121,700 female US registered nurses, 30-55 years of age and residing in eleven of the larger US states completed an initial questionnaire.²³ During 1989-1990, blood samples were collected from 32,826 women. In 1989, the NHSII was established when 116,671 female registered nurses aged 25-44 years completed an initial questionnaire. During 1996-1999, blood samples were collected from 29,611 women in NHSII.²⁴ All women have been followed by mailed questionnaires every two years to update exposure information and ascertain non-fatal incident diseases. The follow-up rates for each biennial cycle have consistently been ~90% for both cohorts. We used data of two case-control studies, one for breast cancer (**Cancer Genetic Markers of Susceptibility**, CGEMS, NHS_BRCA)²⁵ (individuals genotyped on Illumina 550K) and one for type 2 diabetes (T2D, NHS_T2D)⁴ (individuals genotyped using Affymetrix 6.0 platform), nested within the NHS. The study was reviewed by the Internal Review Board and approved by the Human Subjects Committee at Partners Healthcare System, and the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

The **Orkney Complex Disease Study** (ORCADES) is a cross-sectional genetic epidemiology study based in an isolated population in the north of Scotland, UK, concerned with identifying the genes and variants influencing the risk of common, complex diseases. Individuals must have at least two Orcadian grandparents to be eligible to participate, and recruitment of 2,080 subject was completed in 2011. Up to 500 disease-related phenotypes, high density Illumina genotyping and a biobank of DNA, plasma, serum, and whole blood on all 2080 subjects are available.²⁶ The study was approved by Local Research Ethics Committees of NHS Orkney and NHS Grampian.

The **Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian Cancer Screening Trial** (PLCO) is an ongoing large population-based randomized trial evaluating screening programs for these cancers. PLCO enrolled a total of 76,685 men and 78,216 women, ages 55 to 74, to randomly assigned intervention arm or control arm. The participants completed questionnaires at both baseline and follow-up visits on a broad range of questions including their dietary, health status, etc. Among participants in the screening arm, serum samples are collected and stored for all study years. Plasma, red blood cells and buffy coat DNA fractions are stored for some years. Buccal cells were collected from participants in the control arm of the trial and served primary as a DNA resource.²⁷ Samples were genotyped with the HumanHap550, HumanHap300 and HumanHap240, Illumina.²⁸ The study protocols were reviewed and approved by the National Cancer Institute Special Institutional Review Board (SSIRB).

The **Prospective Study of Pravastatin in the Elderly at Risk** (PROSPER) was designed to investigate the benefits of treatment with pravastatin (a cholesterol-lowering drugs) in elderly patients. After screening, a total of 5,804 eligible subjects aged 70 to 82 years were recruited in Scotland, Ireland and the Netherlands between 1997 and 1999. A detailed medical history was taken, and a fasting venous blood sample was drawn for each subject.²⁹ The genotyping was conducted using the Illumina 660-Quad beadchips.³⁰ The study protocols were reviewed and approved by the Institutional Ethics Review Boards of centers of Cork University (Ireland), Glasgow University (Scotland) and Leiden University Medical Center (the Netherlands).

The **Study of Health in Pomerania** (SHIP), a population-based project conducted in Northeast Germany, aims to assess prevalence and incidence of common risk factors, subclinical disorders and clinical diseases, and to investigate associations and interactions among them. The SHIP cohort included 4,308 individuals at the baseline and an additional 3,300 individuals after 5 years. The final sample, completed data collection in 2001, included 4310 males and females aged 20 to 79 years, equivalent to a participation rate of 69%.^{31,32} A simple medical examination, and a self-administrated questionnaire were conducted in each individual. Blood and urine samples were obtained according to standardized procedures. The genotyping was performed using the Human SNP 6.0 Array (Affymetrix).³³ The study protocols were reviewed and approved by the Institutional Ethics Review Boards of the University of Greifswald.

The **Scottish Colorectal Cancer Study** (SOCCS) is a case-control study of colorectal cancer in Scotland, UK, recruiting subjects prospectively on a population-wide basis between 1996 and 2006. The study included incident colorectal cancer cases, and 3,123 adult cancer-free controls, identified from the Community Health Index in Scotland as being aged within 5 years of their matched case, of the same sex and living in the same area.³⁴ Genotyping was conducted using custom Illumina Infinium arrays.³⁵ Ethical approval was obtained from Multi-Center Research Ethics Committee for Scotland, 18 Local Research Ethics committees, 18 Caldicott guardians and 16 NHS Trust management committees.

The **Cardiovascular Risk in Young Finns Study** (LASERI, or YFI) is one of the largest follow-up studies into cardiovascular risk from childhood to adulthood launched in the late 1970s in Finland. The baseline study enrolled 3,596 randomly chosen subjects aged from 3 to 18. After that, several follow-up surveys have been conducted up till 2011/12. Examinations included comprehensive data collection using questionnaires, physical measurements and blood tests.³⁶ In the present study, 1,984 randomly selected individuals were genotyped using a custom-built Illumine Human 670k BeadChip.³⁷ The study protocols were reviewed and approved by Institutional Review Boards of Ethics Committee of the Hospital District of Southwest Finland.

The **Prospective Investigation of the Vasculature in Uppsala Seniors** (PIVUS) was started in 2001, with the primary aim to investigate the predictive power of different measurements of endothelial function and arterial compliance in a random sample of 1,016 subjects aged 70 living in the community of Uppsala, Sweden. The participants were asked to answer a questionnaire about their medical history, smoking habits and regular medication. A

fasting blood was sampled.³⁸ Genotyping was performed using the Illumina's Golden Gate assay³⁹ and the CardioMetabochip.⁴⁰ The study protocols were reviewed and approved by Regional Ethical Review Board in Uppsala.

The **Uppsala Longitudinal Study of Adult Men** (ULSAM) is a longitudinal, epidemiologic study based on all available men, born between 1920 and 1924 in Uppsala County, Sweden. Subjects were invited to participate in a health examination at age 50, and were investigated 6 times at age 60, 70, 77, 82, 88 and 93 years of age.⁴¹ Blood samples were obtained from men at examination at 70 years of age, or 77 years of age. Genotyping was performed using the Illumina's Golden Gate assay³⁹ and the CardioMetabochip.⁴² The study protocols were reviewed and approved by Regional Ethical Review Board in Uppsala.

Replication cohort descriptions

EPIC-InterAct study (n=18,078) EPIC-InterAct is a case-cohort study nested within the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition study (EPIC), including 12,403 incident type 2 diabetes cases verified from 340,234 participants across eight European countries (France, Italy, Spain, UK, Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and Denmark), and a subcohort of 16,154 members (with 778 verified incident type 2 diabetes cases as feature of case-cohort design) randomly selected from these participants.⁴³

Genome-wide genotyping in the InterAct study was performed among 23,019 participants with two chips: Illumina HumanCoreExome chip (n=13,725) and Illumina 660W-Quad BeadChip (n=9,294). Genotype imputation was performed to the Haplotype Reference Consortium (HRC) reference panel using IMPUTE v2 software. A total of 18,078 participants with both genotype and baseline plasma 25(OH)D₃ data were included in the analysis. The GWAS in EPIC-InterAct was conducted stratified by the subcohort status (subcohort and non-subcohort) and GWAS chips used respectively. Therefore, four GWAS were performed in InterAct: CoreExomeChip in subcohort (n=6,932), 660W chip in subcohort (n=3,844), CoreExomeChip in non-subcohort (n=4,114), and 660W chip in non-subcohort (n=3,188).

EPIC-CVD study (n=12,253) EPIC-CVD is a large, prospective, case-cohort study nested within the EPIC study,⁴⁴ with a random subcohort of 18,249 participants and 24,557 adults who later developed CVD during the follow-up, stratified by centre and selected from the EPIC participants with a stored blood sample available. EPIC-CVD involved participants from ten European countries (France, Italy, Spain, UK, Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Greece). Genome-wide genotyping in EPIC-CVD was conducted using the Illumina Human Exome v1.1 SNP array. Genotype imputation was performed using the Haplotype Reference Consortium (HRC) reference panel and IMPUTE v2 software. As EPIC-CVD shared the random subcohort with the EPIC-InterAct for eight participating countries, we excluded any overlap samples with InterAct for the GWAS. GWAS was separately performed for subcohort (n=887) and non-subcohort (n=11,366) in EPIC-CVD, with a total of 12,253 participants included in the analyses.

EPIC-Norfolk study (n=10,231) EPIC-Norfolk is one of the two UK constituents of the EPIC study. Between 1993 and 1997, a total of 25,639 men and women aged 40-79 were recruited as baseline of EPIC-Norfolk study.^{45,46} EPIC-Norfolk participants were followed up between 1997 and 2000 and between 2004 and 2011, and the 20 years' follow-up is still going on currently. Plasma 25(OH)D used in the present study was measured from the blood samples collected between 1997 and 2000.⁴⁶ Genome-wide genotyping in EPIC-Norfolk was conducted among 21,044 participants using Affymetrix UK Biobank Axiom Array. Genotype imputation was performed using the Haplotype Reference Consortium (HRC) reference panel and IMPUTE v2 software. EPIC-Norfolk participants, who were part of the EPIC-InterAct or EPIC-CVD study, were excluded to avoid duplication. Finally, 10,231 participants with both genotyping and plasma 25(OH)D₃ data were included for the GWAS.

The study was approved by the local ethics committees in the EPIC participating countries and the International Review Board of the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Supplementary Table 1. Study characteristics of the individual cohort included in the meta-GWAS.

Study name	Study design	In 2010 Lancet paper	In current meta-GWAS	In G-by-E interaction analysis	Number of Subjects (maximum or common)	Number of genotyped/ imputed SNPs (millions)	Genotyping platform	Vitamin D measurements
Previous cohorts by 2010					Type 1 Diabetes Genetics Consortium: 2393; Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium: 2592; total: 4985			
1958 British Birth Cohort (1958BC)	population cohort	Yes, as discovery	Yes	Yes		~2.5m	Affymetrix 500K or Illumina 550K	ELISA
Cardiovascular Health Study (CHS)	population cohort	Yes, as in-silico replication	Yes		1791	~2.2m	Illumina 317K CNV chip	high-performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrum
Framingham Heart Study (FHS)	population cohort	Yes, as discovery	Yes	Yes	5654	~2.5m	Affymetrix 500K and MIPS 50K	RIA
Gothenburg Osteoporosis and Obesity Determinants Study (GOOD)	population cohort	Yes, as in-silico replication	Yes		921	~2.5m	Human610-Quadv1	RIA
Health, Aging, and Body Composition Study (Health ABC)	population cohort	Yes, as in-silico replication	Yes	Yes	1558	~2.5m	Illumina 1M	RIA
The Study of Indiana Women (Indiana)	population cohort	Yes, as in-silico replication	Yes		567	~2.2m	Human610-Quadv1	high-performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrum
North Finland Birth Cohort 1966 (NFBC)	population cohort	Yes, as in-silico replication	Yes	Yes	4604	~2.4m	Illumina Infinium cnvDuo array	high-performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrum
Old Order Amish Study (OOA)	population cohort	Yes, as discovery	Yes		330	~2.3m	Affymetrix 500K and 100K	RIA
The Rotterdam Study (RS)	population cohort	Yes, as discovery	Yes	Yes	1237	~2.5m	HumanHap550K	RIA
TwinsUK	population cohort	Yes, as discovery	Yes		TwinsUK I: 2152; TwinsUK II:2983; total: 5135	~2.4m	Illumina 317K or 610K	RIA
New cohorts since 2010								

Alpha-Tocopherol, Beta-Carotene Cancer Prevention Study (ATBC)	case-control study	No	Yes	Yes	865 cases, 507 controls; total: 1372	~2.2m	Illumina 550K (or higher version) platform	RIA and chemiluminescence immunoassay
Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian Cancer Screening Trial (PLCO)	case-control study	No	Yes	Yes	728 cases, 587 controls; total: 1315	~2.2m	Illumina 240K, 300K, and 550K platform	RIA
Atherosclerosis Risk In Communities (ARIC)	population cohort	No	Yes	Yes	8124	~2.5m	Affymetrix 6.0 array	liquid chromatography-tandem high-sensitivity mass spectrometry
AtheroGene	population cohort	No	Yes		1062	~0.6m	Illumina array	RIA
B-Vitamins for the Prevention Of Osteoporotic Fractures (BPROOF)	population cohort	No	Yes	Yes	2525	~2.5m	IlluminaOmniExpression array	liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry
Epidemiology of Diabetes Interventions and Complications (EDIC)	population cohort	No	Yes		1094	~1.7m	Human 1M BeadChip	liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry
Case-Control Study for Metabolic Syndrome (GENMETS)	case-control study	No	Yes		820 cases, 821 controls; total: 1641	~1.2m	Illumina 610K	RIA
The Helsinki Birth Cohort Study (HBCS)	population cohort	No	Yes		917	~2.4m	Illumina 670K	high-performance liquid chromatography
Coronary Heart Disease Case-Control Study nested within NHS and HPFS (HPFS_CHD)	case-control study	No	Yes	Yes	413 cases, 832 controls; total: 1245	~2.5m	Illumina 550K (or higher version) platform	RIA
The Invecchiare in Chianti Study (InChianti)	population cohort	No	Yes		1094	~2.5m	Illumina Infinium HumanHap 550 chip	enzyme immunoassay (OCTEIA 25-hydroxyvitamin D kit)
Cooperative Health Research in the Region Augsburg (KORA)	population cohort	No	Yes		1805	~0.8m	Affymetrix 6.0 array	enhanced chemiluminescence immunoassay
Leiden Longevity Study (LLS)	population cohort	No	Yes		2265	~1.9m	Illumina Infinium HD Human660W-Quad and Illumina OmniExpress BeadChips	electrochemiluminescence immunoassays
Ludwigshafen Risk and Cardiovascular Health Study (LURIC)	population cohort	No	Yes		LURIC1: 769; LURIC2: 2077; total: 2846	~2.3m, ~3.6m	Affymetrix 6.0 array	RIA
Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA)	population cohort	No	Yes	Yes	2240	~2.7m	Affymetrix 6.0 array	high-performance HPLC-tandem mass spectrometry
Nijmegen Biomedische Studie (NBS)	population cohort	No	Yes		2610	~2.5m	Illumina HumanHap300	RIA

Breast Cancer Case-Control Study nested within NHS (NHS_BRCA)	case-control study	No	Yes	Yes	440 cases, 430 controls; total: 870	~2.5m	Illumina 550K (or higher version) platform	RIA
Type II diabetes Case-Control Study nested within NHS (NHS_T2D)	case-control study	No	Yes	Yes	361 cases, 363 controls; total: 724	~2.5m	Affymetrix 6.0 array	RIA
The Orkney Complex Disease Study (ORCADES)	population cohort	No	Yes		847	~2.1m	Illumina HumanHap300	liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry
Prospective Study of Pravastatin in the Elderly at Risk (PROSPER)	population cohort	No	Yes		4871	~2.4m	Illumina 660-Quad BeadChip	electrochemiluminescence immunoassays
More samples from the Rotterdam Study (RS)	population cohort	No	Yes	Yes, RS III	RSI: 3322; RSII: 2038; RS III: 2953; total: 8313	~2.5m	HumanHap550K	RIA
The Study of Health in Pomerania (SHIP)	population cohort	No	Yes		1655	~2.7m	Affymetrix 500K array	IDS-iSYS 25-Hydroxy Vitamin D assay
The Scottish Colorectal Cancer Study (SOCCS)	case-control study	No	Yes	Yes	449 cases, 716 controls; total: 1165	~2.5m	custom Illumina Infinium array	liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry
Cardiovascular risk in Young Finns Study (YFS)	population cohort	No	Yes	Yes	1984	~1.2m	Illumina Human 670K BeadChip	RIA
Prospective Investigation of the Vasculature in Uppsala Seniors (PIVUS)	population cohort	No	No	Yes	989	~2.7m	Illumina's Golden Gate assay and CardioMetabochip	chemiluminescence immunoassay
Uppsala Longitudinal Study of Adult Men (ULSAM)	population cohort	No	No	Yes	1124	~4.5m	Illumina's Golden Gate assay and CardioMetabochip	high-performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrum
Sample size (maximum or common)			79366	41981				

ELISA: Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; RIA: radioimmunoassay;

Supplementary Table 2. Results from conditional and joint genome-wide association analysis for the six GWAS-identified loci.

Gene	SNP	Chromosome: Position	Effect Allele	Allele Frequency	Effect (Beta)	Standard Error	P-value
<i>GC</i>	rs7662029	4:69996501	A	0.51	0.012	0.0021	1.07E-08
	rs1385986	4:72111975	A	0.03	-0.035	0.0059	2.46E-09
	rs17383291	4:72824274	T	0.90	0.051	0.0055	1.17E-20
	rs3755967*	4:72828262	T	0.28	-0.0667	0.0031	4.98E-101
	rs222040	4:72835796	A	0.56	0.028	0.003	9.08E-20
	rs1474198	4:72987876	T	0.55	0.015	0.0022	1.46E-12
<i>CYP2R1</i>	rs11023314	11:14701509	A	0.96	-0.048	0.0061	3.73E-15
	rs1007392	11:14731167	A	0.56	0.039	0.0035	1.71E-28
	rs1542291	11:14762842	T	0.40	-0.062	0.0041	6.05E-53
	rs2167453	11:14822242	T	0.90	0.054	0.0043	3.73E-36
	rs2060793	11:14871886	A	0.39	0.057	0.0038	2.20E-51
<i>NADSYN1/ DHCR7</i>	rs12785878*	11:70845097	T	0.75	0.036	0.0022	5.70E-61
<i>AMDHD1</i>	rs10745742*	12:94882660	T	0.40	0.013	0.0023	7.73E-09
	rs7308827	12:94906775	A	0.82	0.015	0.0027	1.86E-08
<i>SEC23A</i>	rs8018720*	14:38625936	C	0.82	-0.017	0.0029	6.97E-09
<i>CYP24A1</i>	rs17216707*	20:52165769	T	0.78	0.026	0.0027	2.17E-22

For the six GWAS-identified loci, we further tested whether any other SNPs, in addition to the top SNP, were significantly associated with the serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentrations by using COJO analysis implemented in GCTA. We found multiple independently associated variants at loci *GC*, *CYP2R1*, and *AMDHD1*. *: GWAS-identified lead SNP in each locus. Beta coefficients, standard errors, and P-values were from the joint analysis.

Supplementary Table 3. Significant SNPs from the marginal genetic effect screening performed in a subset of cohorts used for the SNP-by-dietary vitamin D interaction.

SNP	Gene	Effect Allele	Allele Frequency	Effect	P-value
rs2282679	<i>GC</i>	T	0.74	0.087	2.40E-189
rs10741657	<i>CYP2R</i>	A	0.41	0.034	1.10E-36
rs4944062	<i>NADSYN1/ DHCR7</i>	T	0.70	0.035	4.30E-33
rs10745742	<i>AMDHD1</i>	T	0.39	0.016	5.70E-09
rs17216707	<i>CYP24A1</i>	T	0.79	0.028	1.50E-15
rs8018720	<i>SEC23A</i>	C	0.84	-0.015	8.94E-05

Supplementary Table 4. Enrichment estimates for the 24 main annotations, the 500bp windows around each of the 24 main annotations, and the 100-bp windows around ChIP-seq peaks.

Category	24 main annotations				24 main annotations + 500bp				24 main annotation Peak			
	Prop. of SNPs (%)	Prop. of h ² (%)	Enrichment (SE)	Enrichment P-values	Prop. of SNPs (%)	Prop. of h ² (%)	Enrichment (SE)	Enrichment P-values	Prop. of SNPs (%)	Prop. of h ² (%)	Enrichment (SE)	Enrichment P-values
Weak Enhancer	2.11	42.28	20.04(7.79)	0.02	8.9	12.2	1.37(1.73)	0.83				
Conserved region	2.61	35.9	13.77(6.23)	0.03	33.25	47.68	1.43(0.58)	0.45				
Promoter Flanking	0.84	8.94	10.61(9.72)	0.32	3.35	24.23	7.24(3.48)	0.06				
TSS	1.82	19.14	10.51(5.67)	0.087	3.48	35.25	10.12(3.69)	0.01				
Fetal DHS	8.48	78.55	9.27(3.52)	0.02	28.5	59.15	2.08(1.08)	0.31				
Enhancer	6.33	44.26	6.99(3.03)	0.065	15.39	39.29	2.55(1.23)	0.2				
TFBS	13.25	75.04	5.67(2.36)	0.048	34.34	80.63	2.35(0.76)	0.075				
DHS	16.78	93.17	5.55(2.47)	0.056	49.88	68.84	1.38(0.56)	0.5	11.18	51.53	4.61(3.09)	0.23
H3K27ac (PGC)	26.95	112.36	4.17(0.96)	8.00E-04	33.6	86.14	2.56(0.54)	0.0043				
Promoter	3.12	11.65	3.74(4.14)	0.51	3.86	14.17	3.67(2.58)	0.29				
Fantom5 Enhancer	0.43	1.55	3.58(16.91)	0.88	1.91	4.99	2.62(5.03)	0.74				
H3K9ac	12.61	42.69	3.39(1.32)	0.075	23.06	56.86	2.47(0.72)	0.039	3.88	11.25	2.9(5.41)	0.72
Coding	1.47	4.92	3.35(6.84)	0.73	6.46	13.25	2.05(1.59)	0.51				
H3K4me1	42.66	121.13	2.84(0.6)	0.0044	60.92	109.12	1.79(0.24)	0.0019	17.13	49.19	2.87(1.74)	0.29
H3K4me3	13.33	33.31	2.5(1.5)	0.33	25.55	85.2	3.33(0.82)	0.0045	4.18	-5.01	-1.2(4.98)	0.66
3'UTR	1.11	2.26	2.05(6.53)	0.87	2.69	4.56	1.69(3.08)	0.82				
Super Enhancer	16.84	32.48	1.93(0.45)	0.043	17.16	30.73	1.79(0.48)	0.088				
H3K27ac	39.12	75	1.92(0.36)	0.012	42.26	56.55	1.34(0.35)	0.33				
Intron	38.75	55.73	1.44(0.3)	0.14	39.71	57.56	1.45(0.23)	0.058				
Repressed region	46.12	61.83	1.34(0.61)	0.58	71.91	39.46	0.55(0.16)	0.006				
CTCF	2.38	1.94	0.82(5.77)	0.97	7.11	15.94	2.24(2.04)	0.54				
DGF	13.76	11.13	0.81(2.55)	0.94	54.15	50.16	0.93(0.52)	0.89				
Transcribed	34.54	3.81	0.11(0.72)	0.22	76.31	55.86	0.73(0.19)	0.16				
5'UTR	0.54	-5.28	-9.74(11.16)	0.32	2.78	-1.95	-0.7(3.17)	0.58				

Black bold font indicates P-values less than 0.05; Red bold font indicates significant P-values after multiple corrections ($P < 0.05/24$). TSS: transcription start sites; TFBS: transcription factor binding sites; DHS: DNase I hypersensitive sites; CTCF: CCCTC-binding factor; DGF: digital genomic footprinting.

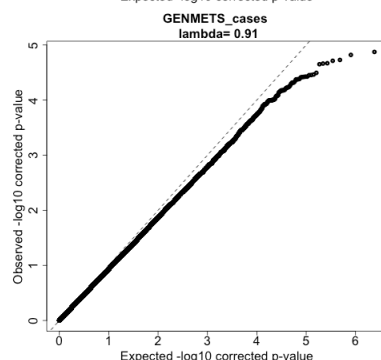
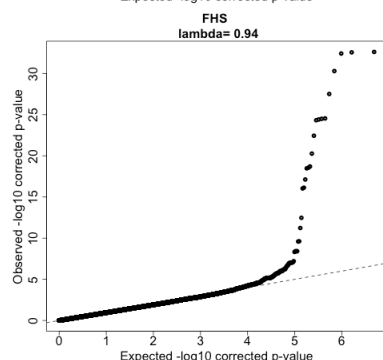
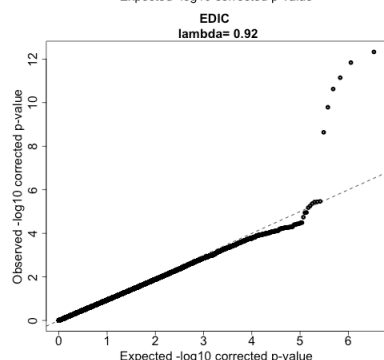
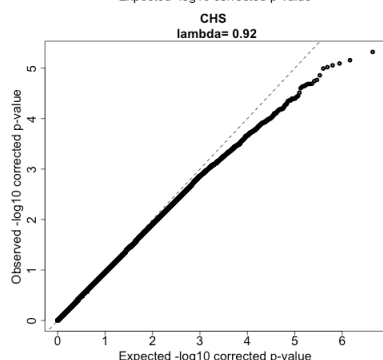
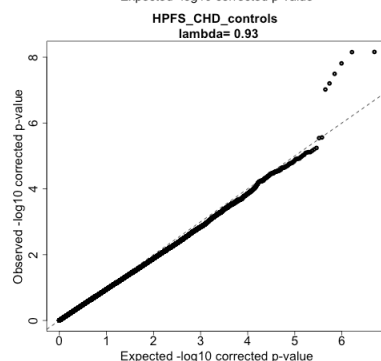
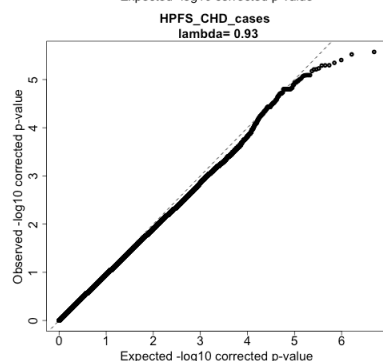
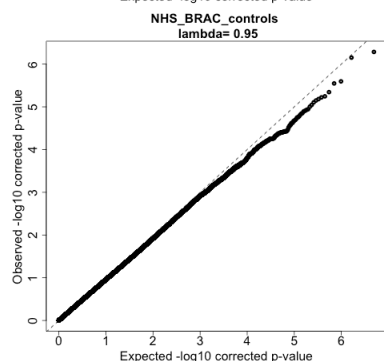
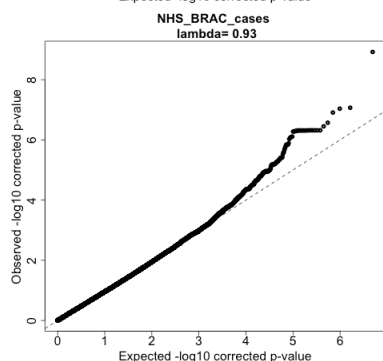
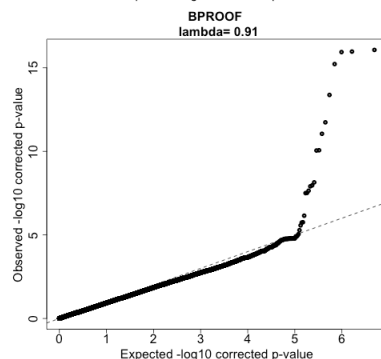
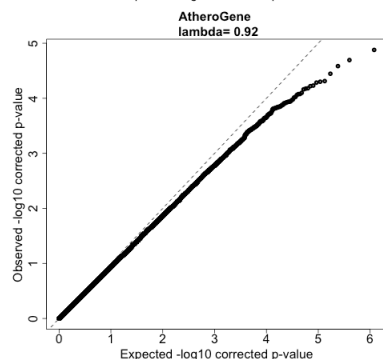
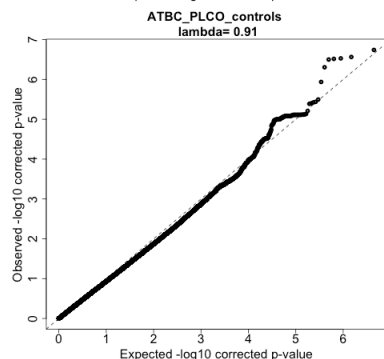
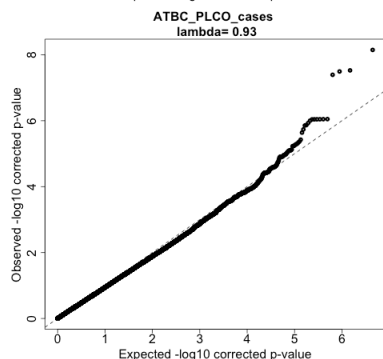
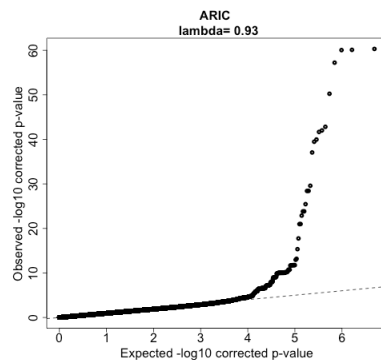
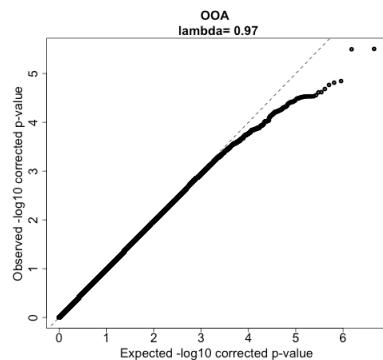
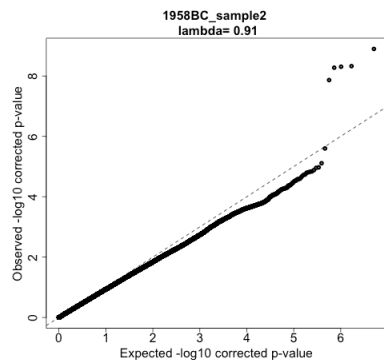
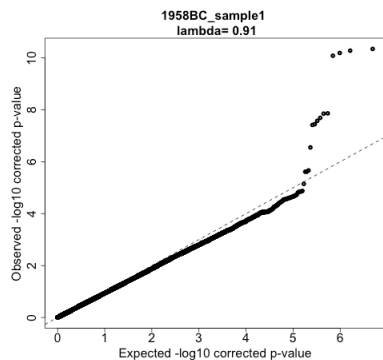
Supplementary Table 5. Numbers of individuals and SNPs involved in the 37 traits.

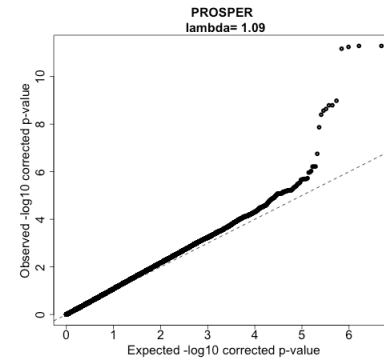
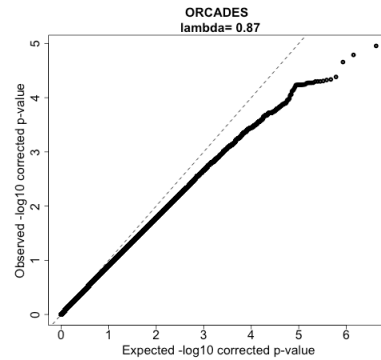
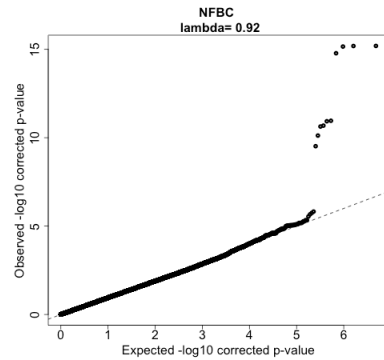
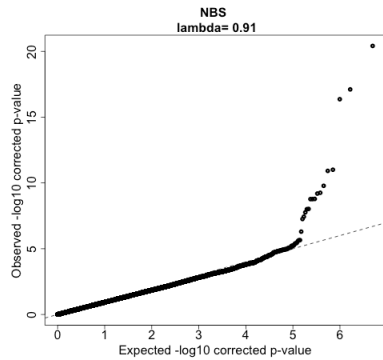
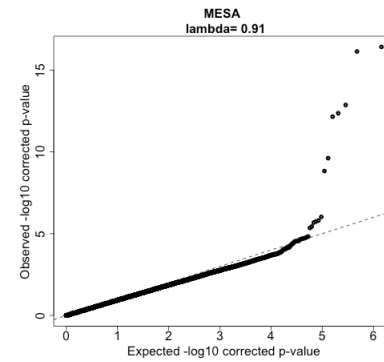
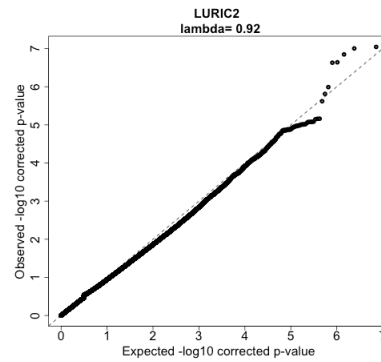
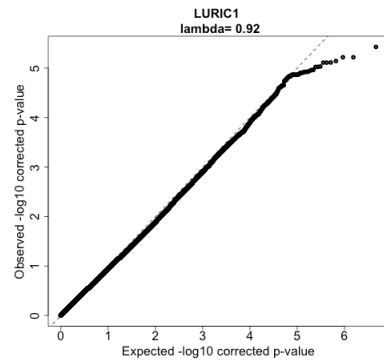
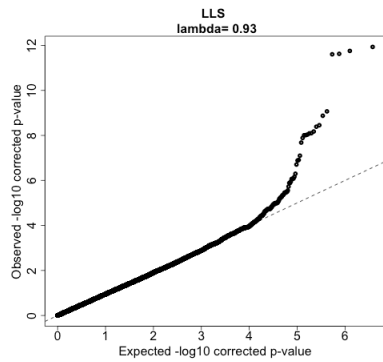
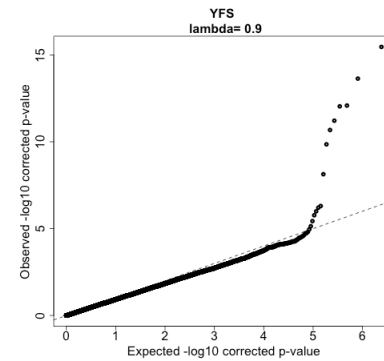
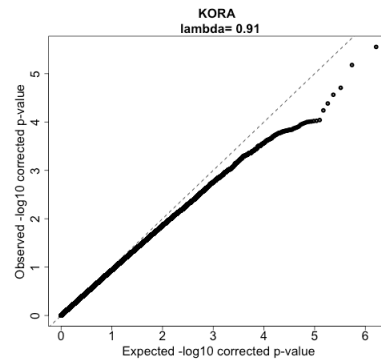
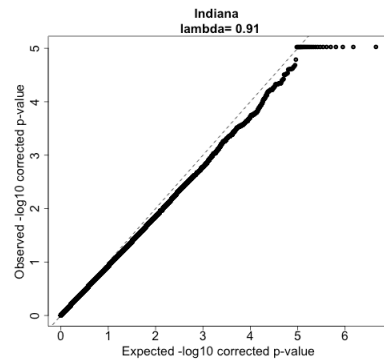
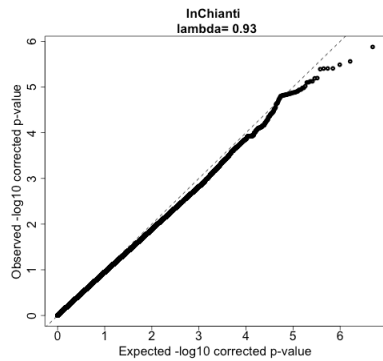
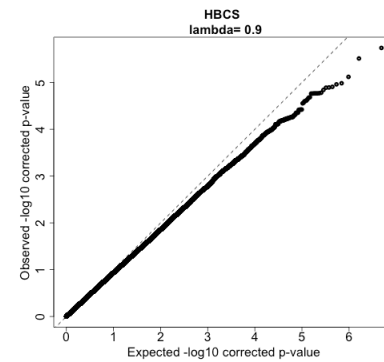
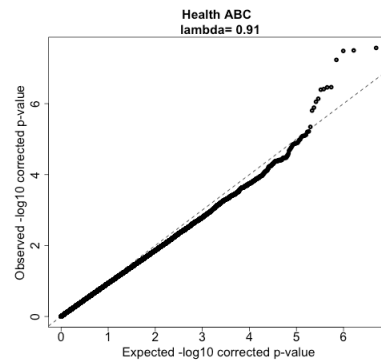
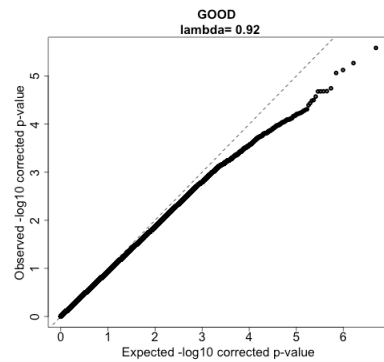
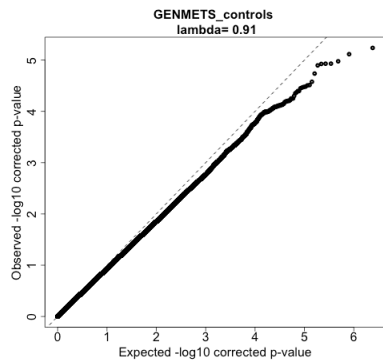
Trait Identifier	Reference	No. of individuals	No. of SNPs	Original files
UKBiobank Age at Menarche	UKBiobank	74944	1187029	
UKBiobank Age at Menopause	UKBiobank	44410	1187051	
UKBiobank Asthma	UKBiobank	145416	1187053	
UKBiobank Diastolic Blood Pressure	UKBiobank	134011	1186980	
UKBiobank Systolic Blood Pressure	UKBiobank	134011	1187025	
UKBiobank BMI	UKBiobank	145209	1186959	
UKBiobank Eczema	UKBiobank	145416	1187034	
UKBiobank Heel T-Score	UKBiobank	141441	1185277	
UKBiobank Height	UKBiobank	145368	1183900	
UKBiobank Hypertension	UKBiobank	145379	1187099	
UKBiobank FEV1FVC ratio	UKBiobank	123935	1186631	
UKBiobank Forced Vital Capacity	UKBiobank	123935	1187014	
UKBiobank Waist Hip Ratio	UKBiobank	145375	1186973	
Alzheimer's Disease	Lambert et al., 2013 Nat Genet	54162	1136071	
Autism Spectrum	PGC Cross-Disorder Group, 2013 Lancet	10263	1173308	http://www.med.unc.edu/pgc/files/resultfiles/pgcasdeuro.gz
Celiac Disease	Dubois et al., 2010 Nat Genet	15283	245449	https://www.immunobase.org/downloads/protected_data/GWAS_Data/
Depressive Symptoms	Okbay et al., 2016 Nat Genet	161460	1115394	http://ssgac.org/documents/DS_Full.txt.gz
Inflammatory Bowel Disease	Jostins et al., 2012 Nature	34652	1078061	http://www.ibdgenetics.org/downloads.html
Multiple Sclerosis	IMS Genetics Consortium, 2011 Nature	27148	227549	https://www.immunobase.org/downloads/protected_data/GWAS_Data/
Neuroticism	Okbay et al., 2016 Nat Genet	170911	1115394	http://ssgac.org/documents/Neuroticism_Full.txt.gz
Primary Biliary Cirrhosis	Cordell et al., 2015 Nat Com	13239	525775	https://www.immunobase.org/downloads/protected_data/GWAS_Data/
Subject Well Being	Okbay et al., 2016 Nat Genet	298420	477900	http://ssgac.org/documents/SWB_Full.txt.gz
Systemic Lupus Erythematosus	Bentham et al., 2015 Nat Genet	14267	654940	https://www.immunobase.org/downloads/protected_data/GWAS_Data/
Anorexia	Boraska et al., 2014 Mol Psych	32143	931185	http://www.med.unc.edu/pgc/downloads/
Bipolar Disorder	BIP Working Group of the PGC, 2011 Nat Genet	16731	750636	http://www.med.unc.edu/pgc/downloads/
Coronary Artery Disease	Schunkert et al., 2011 Nat Genet	77209	925224	http://www.cardiogramplusc4d.org/
Crohn's Disease	Jostins et al., 2012 Nature	20883	1051515	http://www.ibdgenetics.org/downloads.html
Ever Smoked	TAG Consortium, 2010 Nat Genet	74035	1060318	http://www.med.unc.edu/pgc/downloads/
Fasting Glucose	Manning et al., 2012 Nat Genet	46186	1115625	http://www.magicinvestigators.org/downloads/
High-density Lipoprotein	Teslovich et al., 2010 Nature	97749	1019273	http://www.broadinstitute.org/mpg/pubs/lipids2010/
Low-density Lipoprotein	Teslovich et al., 2010 Nature	93354	1017974	http://www.broadinstitute.org/mpg/pubs/lipids2010/
Rheumatoid Arthritis	Okada et al., 2014 Nature	37681	562682	http://plaza.umin.ac.jp/yokada/datasource/software.html
Schizophrenia	SCZ Working Group of the PGC, 2014 Nature	70100	1083015	http://www.med.unc.edu/pgc/downloads/
Triglycerides	Teslovich et al., 2010 Nature	94460	1017799	http://www.broadinstitute.org/mpg/pubs/lipids2010/
Type 2 Diabetes	Morris et al., 2012 Nat Genet	60786	968539	http://www.diagram-consortium.org/
Ulcerative Colitis	Jostins et al., 2012 Nature	27432	1076835	http://www.ibdgenetics.org/downloads.html
Age-related Macular Degeneration	Fritsche et al. (2015) Nature Genetics	33976	12000000	http://amdgenetics.org/

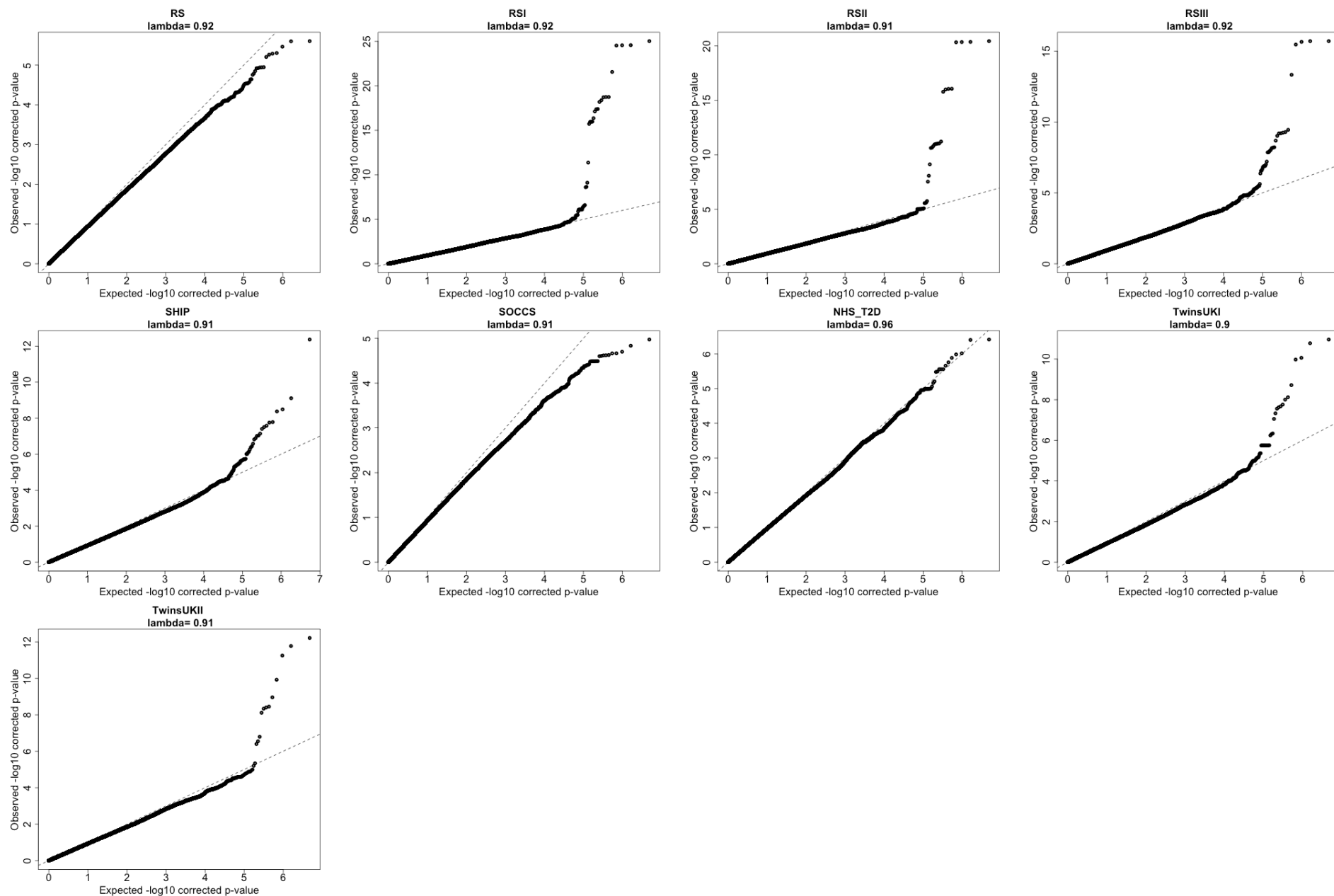
Supplementary Table 6. Directional genetic correlation analysis between 25-hydroxyvitamin D and traits.

Phenotype1	Phenotype2	RHO1	RHO2	FZ1	FZ2	SE1	SE2	Likelihood 1_cause_2	Likelihood 2_cause_1	AIC best causal model	AIC non- causal model	ratio
vitamin D	HDL	1.00	0.14	18.37	0.14	0.71	0.11	-0.16	-336.66	2.32	649.67	2.68E-141
vitamin D	Crohn's Disease	-0.26	0.44	-0.26	0.47	0.58	0.24	-1.78	0.02	1.95	3.13	0.55
vitamin D	Systemic Lupus	-0.38	0.43	-0.40	0.46	0.58	0.27	-1.45	-0.20	2.41	3.36	0.62
vitamin D	Rheumatoid Arthritis	-0.80	0.13	-1.10	0.13	0.71	0.27	-0.29	-1.38	2.58	2.99	0.81
vitamin D	Ulcerative Colitis	-0.71	-0.29	-0.90	-0.30	0.58	0.26	-0.60	-1.14	3.21	2.76	1.25
vitamin D	LDL	0.70	0.09	0.87	0.09	0.71	0.12	0.35	-0.12	1.29	0.80	1.28
vitamin D	TG	-0.20	-0.15	-0.20	-0.15	0.71	0.13	-0.10	0.52	0.95	0.29	1.40
vitamin D	Bipolar	0.09	0.80	0.09	1.10	0.58	1.00	-1.89	-1.30	4.60	3.81	1.49
vitamin D	Alzheimer	-0.70	-0.60	-0.87	-0.69	0.71	0.71	-1.63	-1.90	5.25	4.32	1.59
vitamin D	Type2 Diabetes	-0.52	-0.07	-0.58	-0.07	0.58	0.32	-0.16	-0.64	2.33	1.33	1.64
vitamin D	Height	0.49	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.58	0.05	1.79	1.37	-1.59	-2.74	1.78
vitamin D	Inflammatory Bowel Disease	-0.49	0.14	-0.53	0.14	0.58	0.18	0.11	0.01	1.78	0.62	1.78
vitamin D	Body Mass Index	0.14	-0.09	0.14	-0.09	0.58	0.11	0.57	0.85	0.31	-1.07	1.99
vitamin D	Coronary Artery Disease	-0.37	-0.01	-0.39	-0.01	0.58	0.28	-0.01	-0.23	2.01	0.47	2.16
vitamin D	Neuroticism	0.32	-0.31	0.33	-0.32	0.58	0.50	-0.80	-0.76	3.52	1.92	2.22
vitamin D	Years of Education	0.14	-0.01	0.14	-0.01	0.58	0.23	0.18	0.15	1.64	-0.30	2.64
vitamin D	Schizophrenia	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.58	0.17	0.49	0.49	1.02	-0.98	2.71

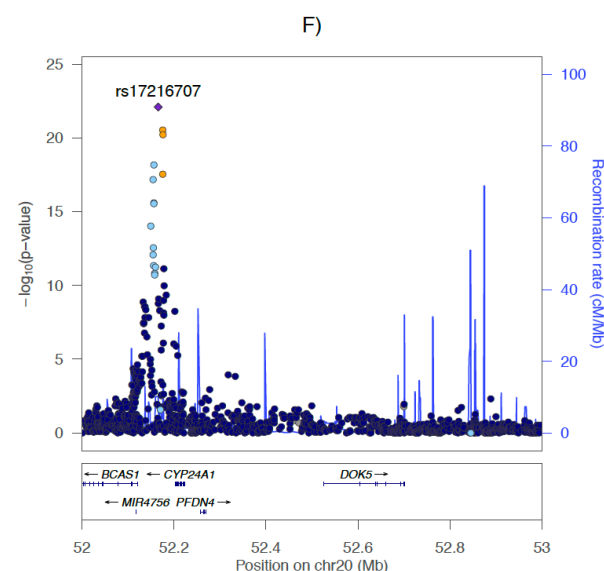
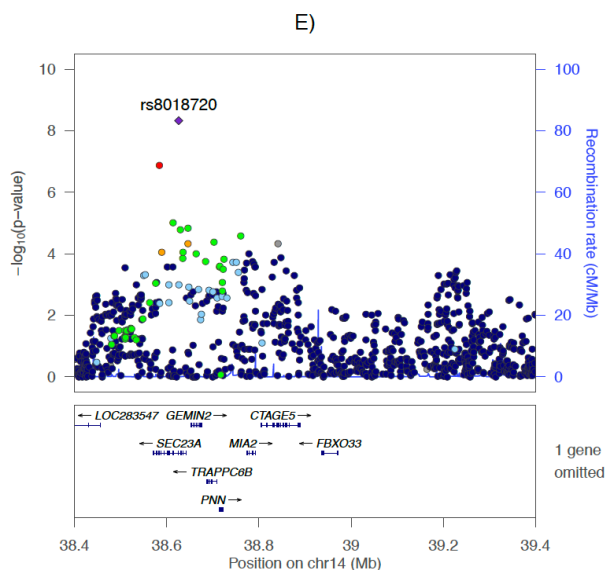
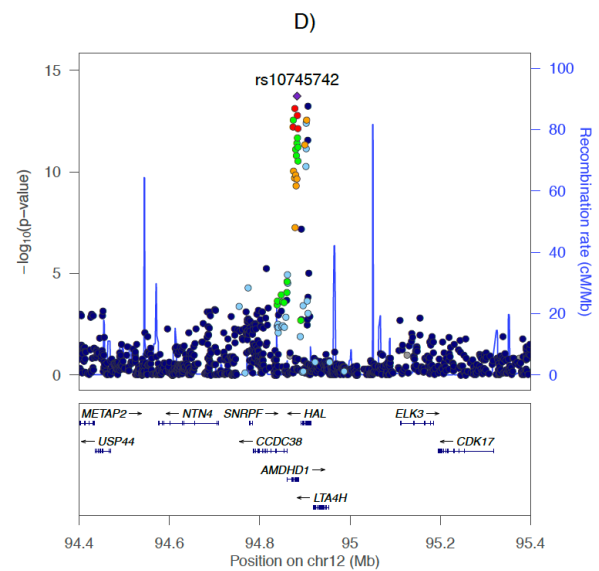
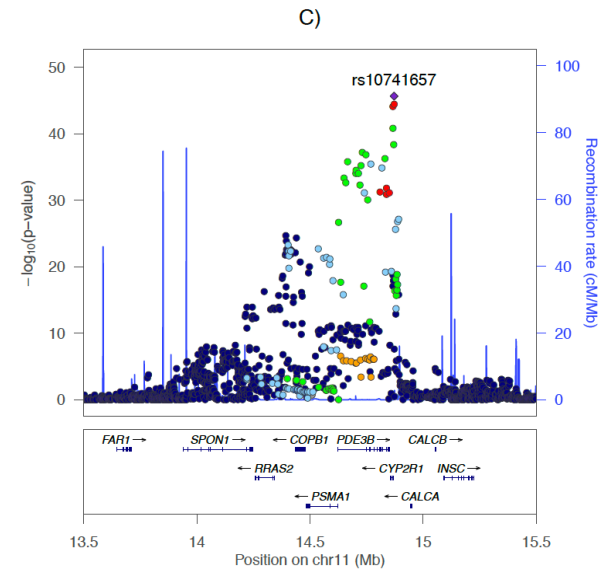
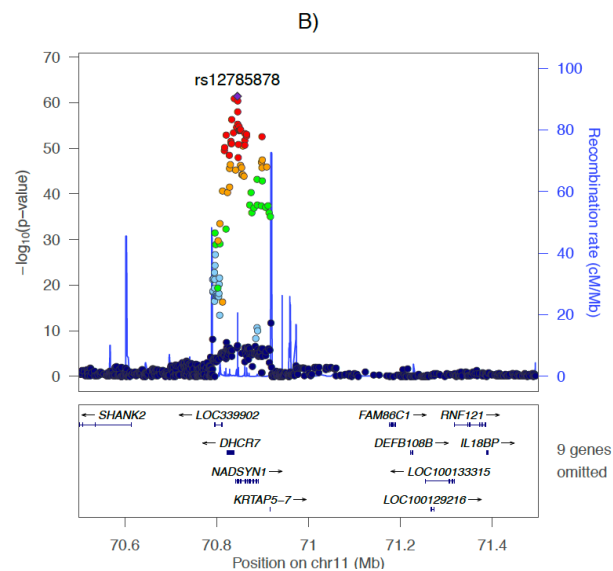
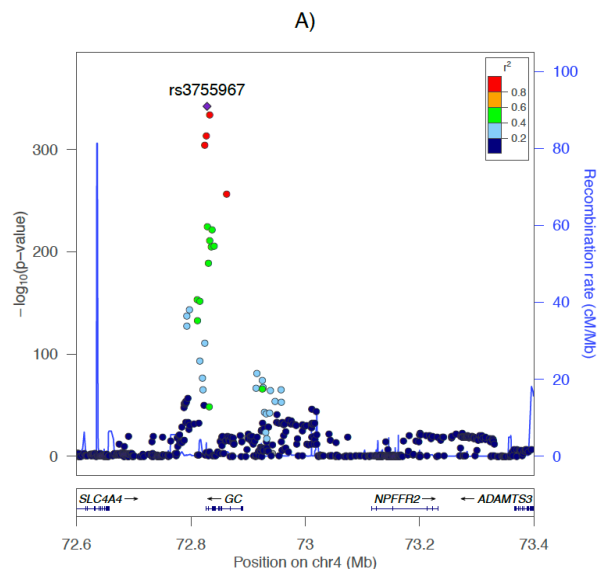
Only traits with more than 5 significant GWAS hits were included. For example, smoking has only 2 genome-wide significant loci and were therefore not included in the analysis. Let Beta_{xx} be the vector of effect sizes on vitamin D for the set of variants ascertained through the association study (6 SNPs), and Beta_{xy} be the vector of the effect sizes of these variants on phenotype2. Define Beta_{yy} and Beta_{yx} analogously. RHO1 is the rank correlation between Beta_{xx} and Beta_{xy} , RHO2 is the rank correlation between Beta_{yy} and Beta_{yx} . FZ: Fisher's Z-transformation of RHO; AIC: Akaike information criterion.





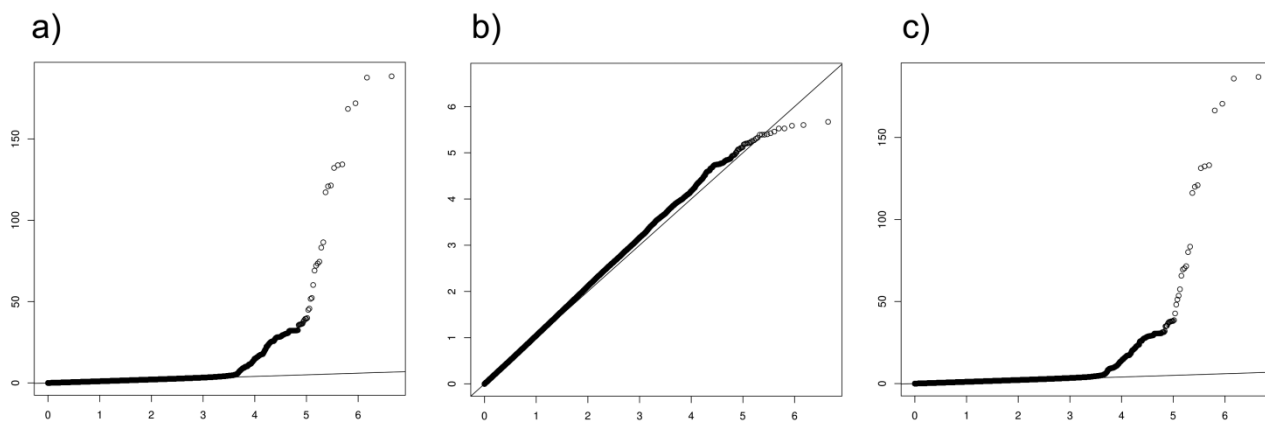


Supplementary Figure 1: QQ-plot for each participating cohort. For contributing studies with a case-control design, we performed QQ-plot separately in cases and controls. Genomic inflation factor (lambda) was estimated and presented above each plot.



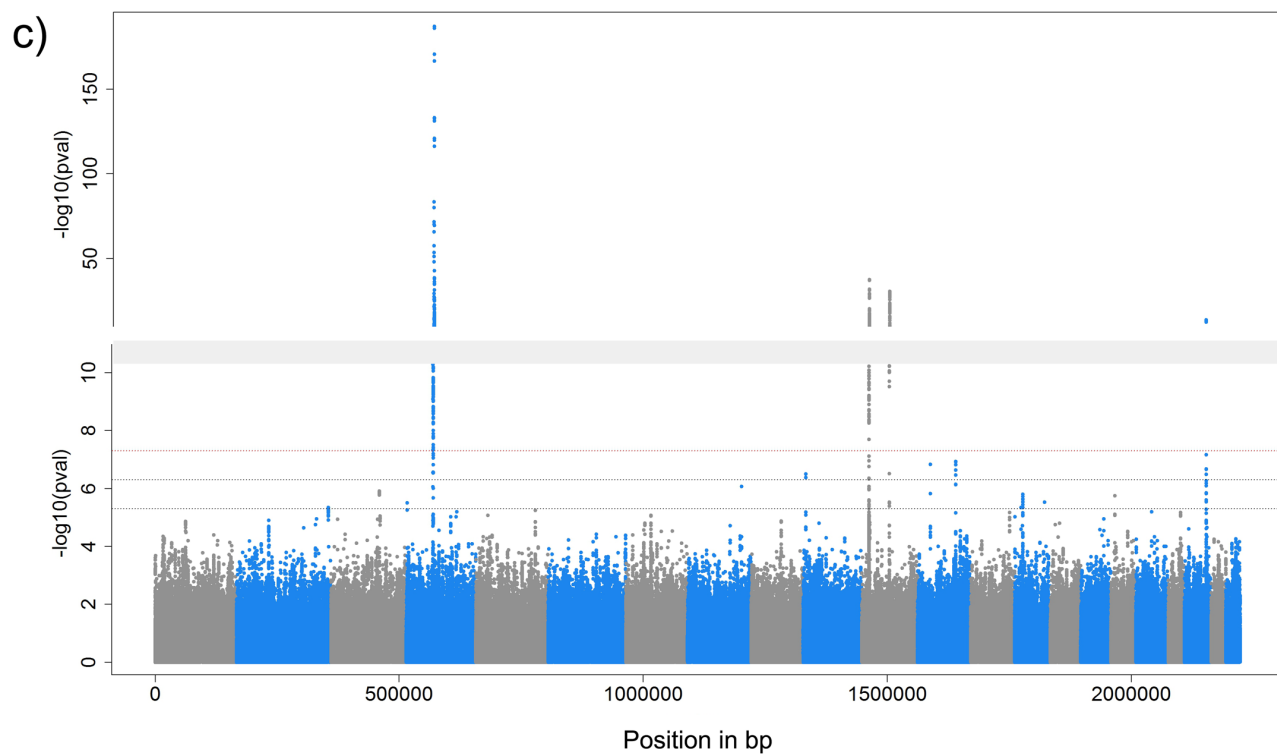
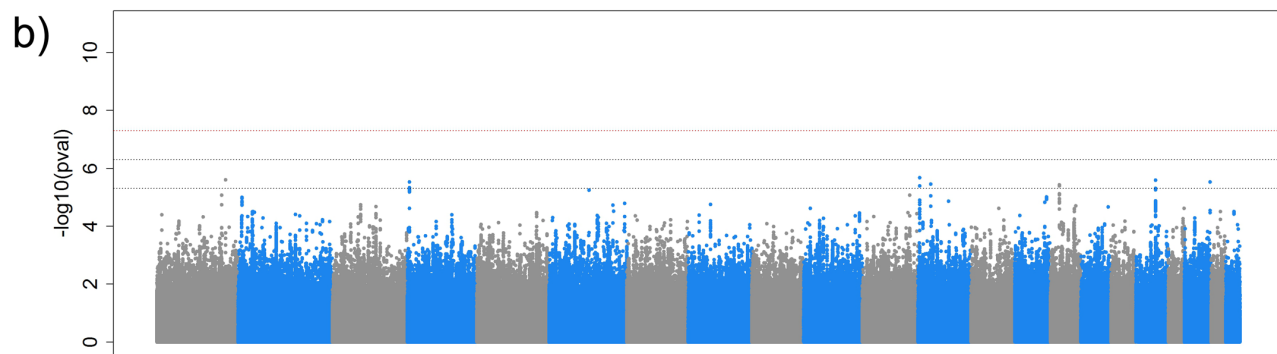
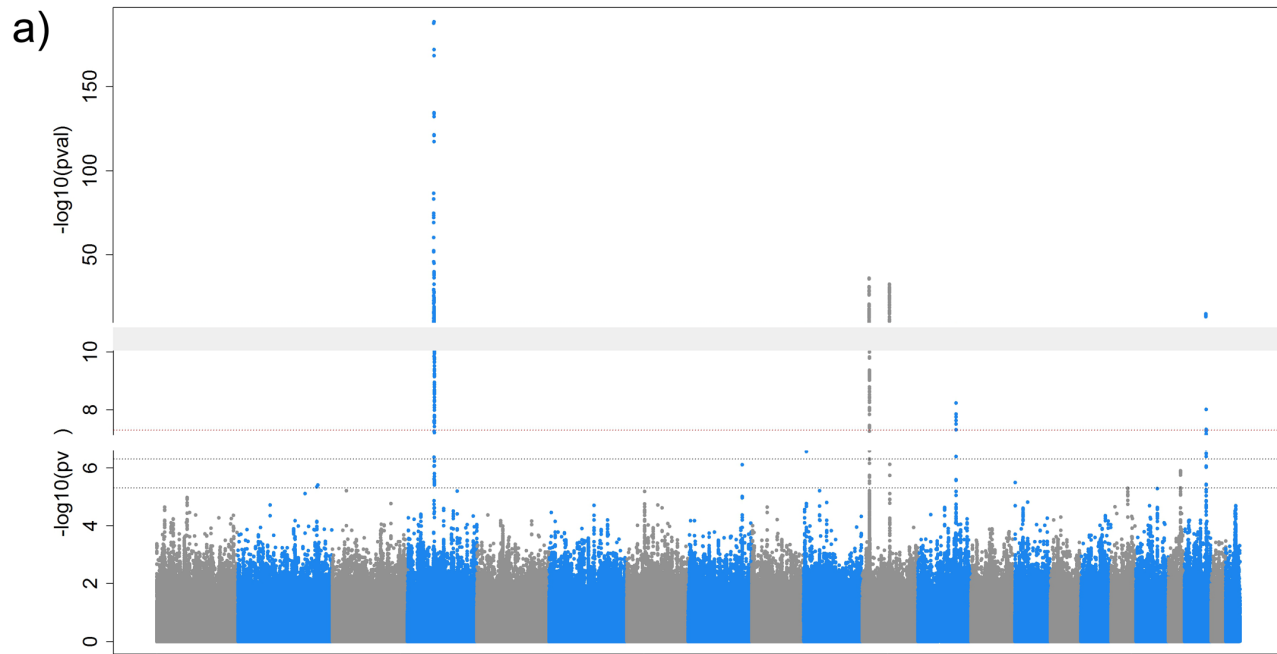
Supplementary Figure 2: Regional association plots of the six GWAS-identified loci for 25-hydroxyvitamin D concentration (rs3755967, rs12785878, rs10741657, rs10745742, rs8018720, rs17216707).

A) Regional association plot at rs3755967. Above, the P-values of each SNP are plotted (as $-\log_{10}$ P-values) against their physical position on chromosome 4 (NCBI Build 37). The P-value for rs3755967 is represented by a purple diamond. Estimated recombination rates from the HapMap CEU population show the local LD structure. Inset, the SNP's colors indicate LD with rs3755967 according to a scale from $r^2 = 0$ to $r^2 = 1$ based on pairwise r^2 values from HapMap CEU. Below, gene annotations from the UCSC genome browser. B) Regional association plot at rs12785878. C) Regional association plot at rs10741657. D) Regional association plot at rs10745742. E) Regional association plot at rs8018720. F) Regional association plot at rs17216707.



Supplementary Figure 3. QQ-plots from the dietary vitamin D intake analyses.

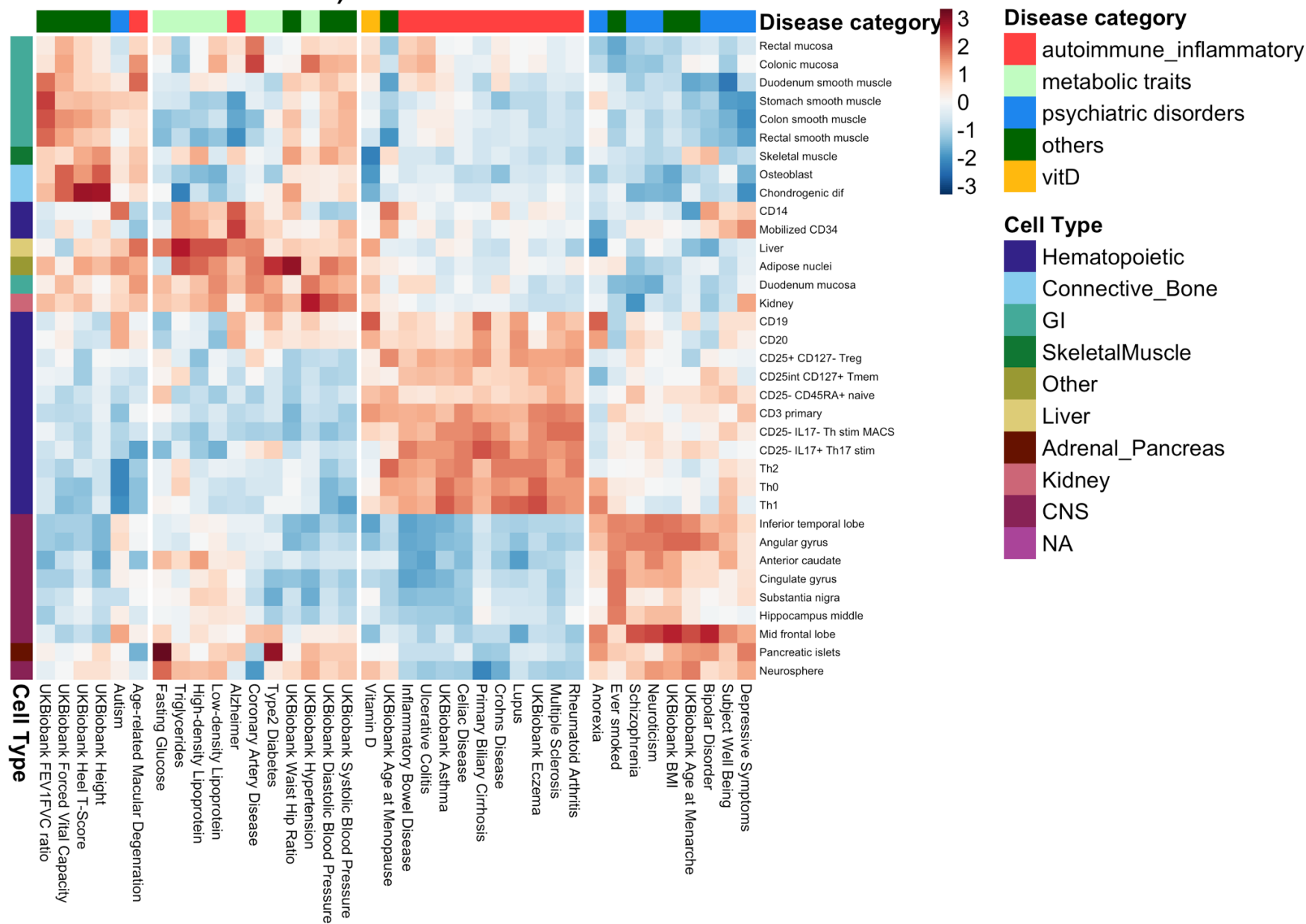
We performed additional genome-wide association screenings in a subset of 15 cohorts ($N = 36,198$) having available information on vitamin D intake while considering three models. In model (a), we only included vitamin D as a covariate on top of a marginal genetic effect, in model (b) we performed a 1 degree-of-freedom test for SNP-by-vitamin D intake interaction, and in model (c) we performed a 2 degree-of-freedom test of main SNP effect and SNP-by-vitamin D intake interaction. QQ-plots of the three tests are presented below. Genomic inflation factors equaled 1.03, 1.03, and 1.07, for test (a), (b), and (c), respectively.



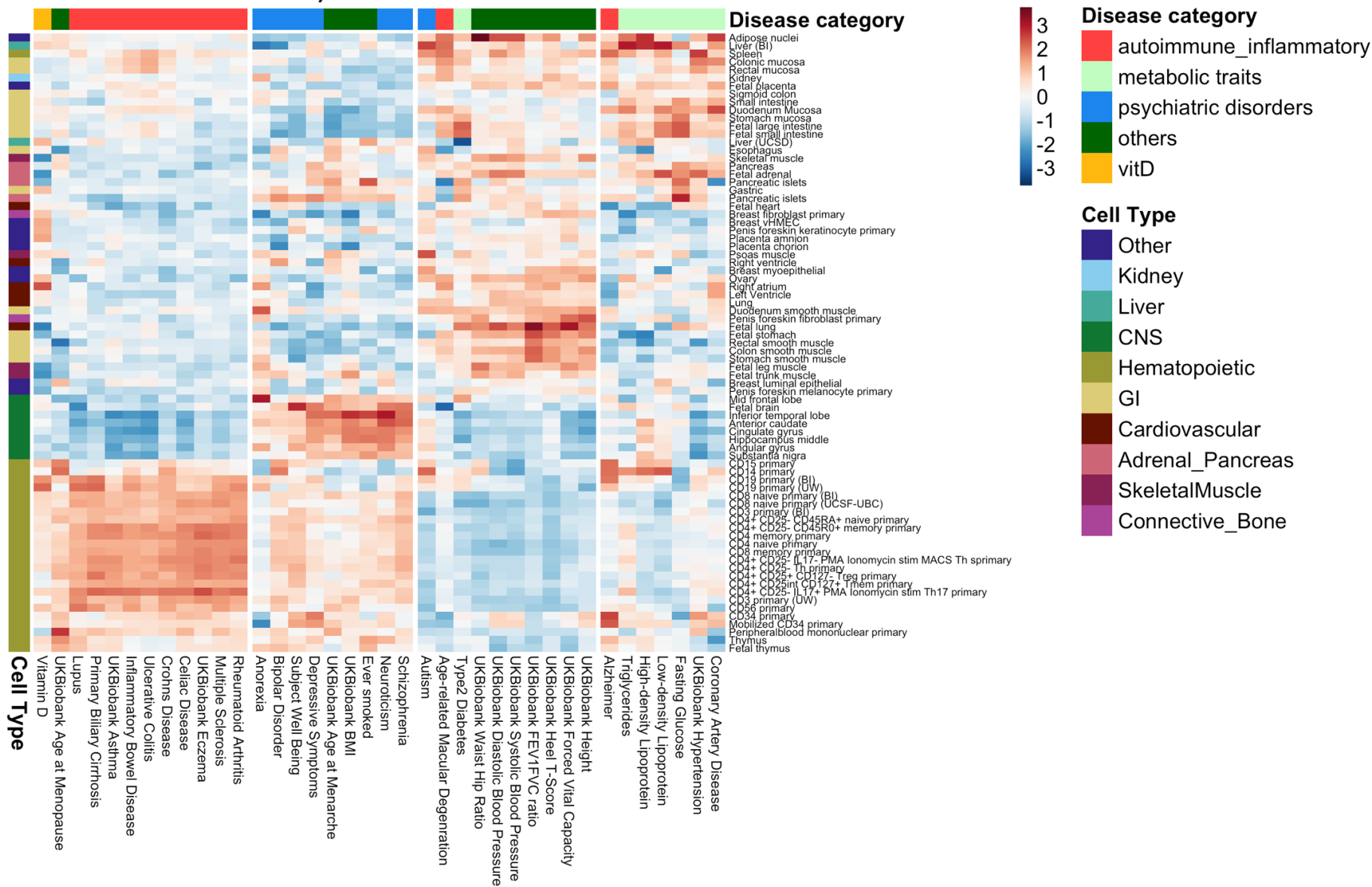
Supplementary Figure 4. Manhattan plots from the dietary vitamin D intake analyses.

We performed additional genome-wide association screenings in a subset of 15 cohorts ($N = 36,198$) having available information on dietary vitamin D intake while considering three models. In model (a), we only included vitamin D as a covariate on top of a marginal genetic effect, in model (b) we performed a 1 degree-of-freedom test for SNP-by-vitamin D intake interaction, and in model (c) we performed a 2 degree-of-freedom test of main SNP effect and SNP-by-vitamin D intake interaction. Manhattan plots of the three tests are presented below. Note that for GWAS harboring very low P-value (model a) and c)), plots are separated in 2 parts by a gray bar. Lower part focuses on the standard genome-wide significance threshold of $P=5e-08$ while the upper part display signal with very low P-values.

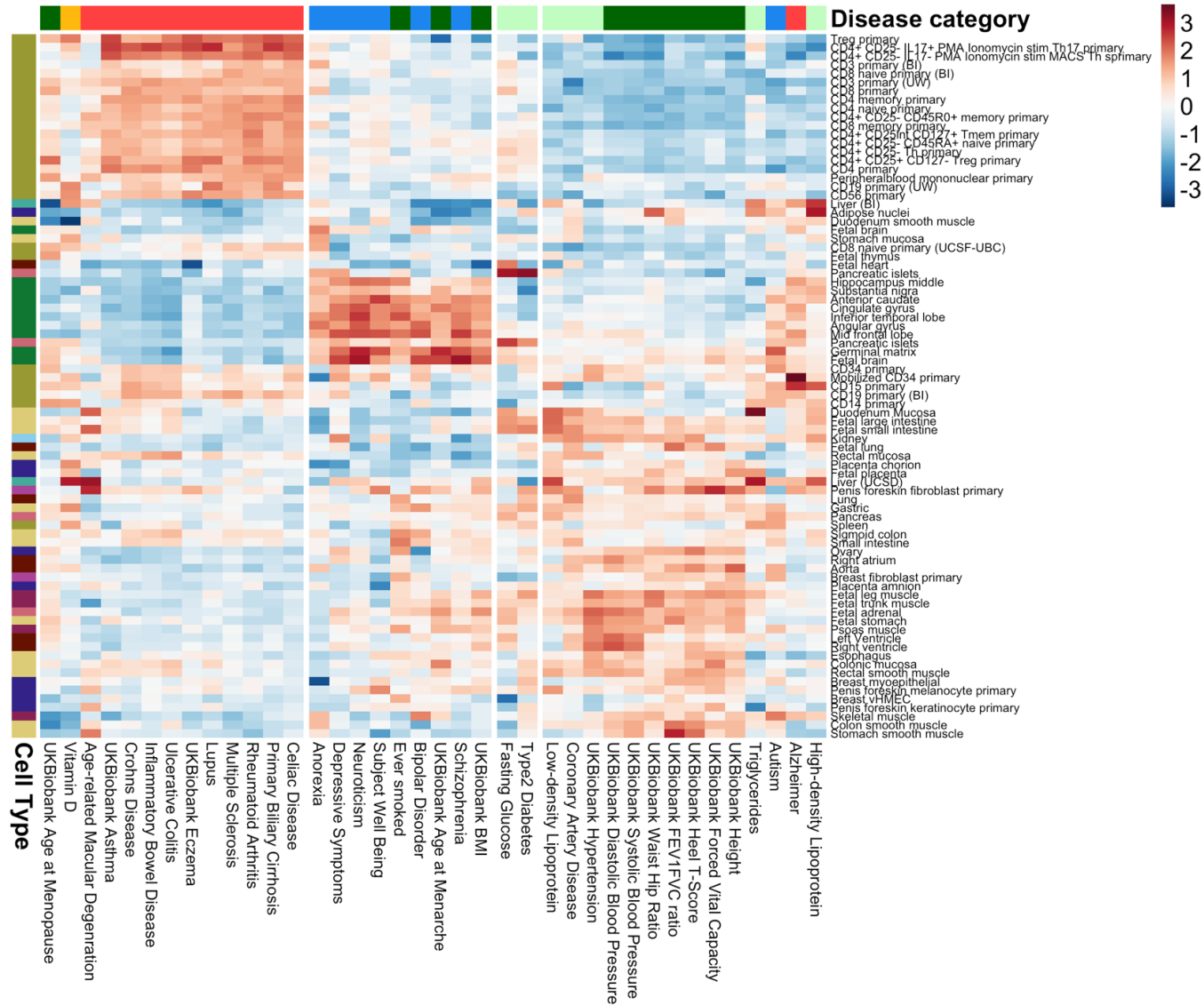
A) H3K27ac



B) H3K4me1



C) H3K4me3



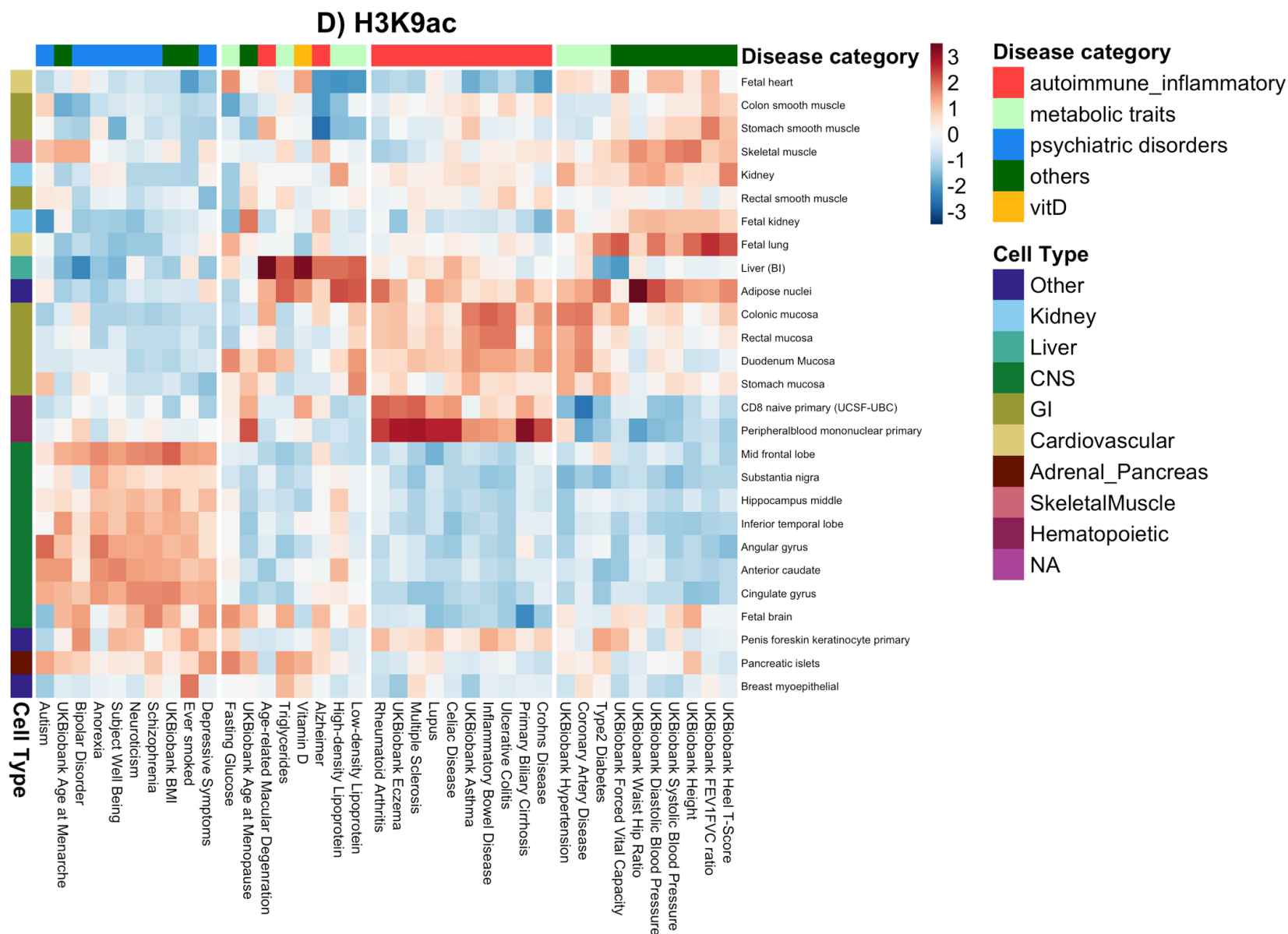
Disease category

3
2
1
0
-1
-2
-3

autoimmune_inflammatory
metabolic traits
psychiatric disorders
others
vitD

Cell Type

Other
Kidney
Liver
CNS
Hematopoietic
GI
Cardiovascular
Adrenal_Pancreas
SkeletalMuscle
Connective_Bone



Supplementary Figure 5. Heat-maps showing bi-clustering of traits and cell-types over four histone marks.

We performed 220 cell-type-specific annotation analysis in each of the 37 traits, and compared these enrichment results to the enrichment results of 25-hydroxyvitamin D. Each checker reflects the beta coefficient Z-score, scaled by traits. Red indicates enrichment, blue indicates depletion. Deeper color represents stronger magnitude of significance. The category of each disease/trait is color coded to the top, and the category of cell types is color coded to the left. A) H3K27ac, B) H3K4me1, C) H3K4me3 and D) H3K9ac. GI: gastrointestinal cell types; CNS: central nervous system cell types.

Supplementary Note2

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