Genomics implicates adaptive and innate immunity in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's

Running head: Immune system and neurodegenerative diseases

Authors:
Sarah A Gagliano, PhD [1,2,3]
Jennie G Pouget, PhD [2,3,4]
John Hardy, PhD [5]
Jo Knight, PhD [6,2,3,4,*]
Michael R Barnes, PhD [7,*]
Mina Ryten, MBPhD [5,*]
Michael E Weale, PhD [1,*]

Affiliations:
1: King's College London, Dept. of Medical & Molecular Genetics 8th Floor, Tower Wing, Guy's Hospital, London SE1 9RT, United Kingdom
2: Campbell Family Mental Health Research Institute, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 250 College Street, Toronto, ON, M5T 1R8, Canada
3: Institute of Medical Science, University of Toronto, 1 King's College Circle, Room 2374, Toronto, ON, M5S 1A8, Canada
4: Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto, 250 College Street, 8th Floor, Toronto, ON, M5T 1R8, Canada
5: Institute of Neurology, University College London, Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG, United Kingdom
6: Data Science Institute and Faculty of Health and Medicine, Furness College, Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YG, United Kingdom
7: William Harvey Research Institute, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ, United Kingdom
* Equal authorship

Corresponding author: Sarah A Gagliano
gsarah6221@gmail.com

Characters in the title: 79
Characters in the running head: 43
Words in the Abstract: 234
Words in Introduction: 538
Words in Discussion: 695
Words in Total (excluding abstract, references & fig legends): 3,795
Number of figures: 2
Number of colour figures: 2
Number of tables: 1

Abstract

Objectives: We assessed the current genetic evidence for the involvement of various cell types and tissue types in the aetiology of neurodegenerative diseases, especially in relation to the neuroinflammatory hypothesis of neurodegenerative diseases.

Methods: We obtained large-scale genome-wide association study (GWAS) summary statistics from Parkinson's disease (PD), Alzheimer's disease (AD), and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). We used multiple sclerosis (MS), an autoimmune disease of the central nervous system, as a positive control. We applied stratified LD score regression to determine if functional marks for cell type and tissue activity, and gene set lists were enriched for genetic heritability. We compared our results to those from a gene-set enrichment method (Ingenuity Pathway Analysis).

Results: There were no significant heritability enrichments for annotations marking genes active within brain regions, but there were for annotations marking genes active within cell-types that form part of both the innate and adaptive immune systems. We found this for MS (as expected) and also for AD and PD. The strongest signals were from the adaptive immune system (e.g. T cells) for PD, and from both the adaptive (e.g. T cells) and innate (e.g. CD14: a marker for monocytes, and CD15: a marker for neutrophils) immune systems for AD. Annotations from the liver were also significant for AD. Pathway analysis provided complementary results.

Interpretation: For Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, we found significant enrichment of heritability in annotations marking gene activity in immune cells.

Introduction

Neurodegenerative diseases – including Alzheimer's (AD), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and Parkinson's disease (PD) – are personally devastating and an increasing burden on health-care systems worldwide. Recently there has been much progress in identifying genetic variants associated with neurodegenerative diseases. In the latest AD meta-analysis 19 loci in addition to the well-established APOE locus were pinpointed.[1] The latest PD meta-analysis brought the total number of established PD loci to 26,[2] and the latest ALS meta-analysis identified three ALS-associated loci.[3] Despite progress in identifying genetic hits in these neurodegenerative diseases, the underlying processes or cell-types mediating the pathology remain uncertain.

As genome-wide association studies (GWASs) have grown in size and power, so has the quality and scope of functional information that can be used to annotate the genome with relevant genomic and epigenomic marks linked to the regulation of gene expression. Previous studies have demonstrated enrichment of disease-associated variants (for numerous diseases) with functional genomic annotations, including DNase I hypersensitive sites, transcription factor binding sites, histone modifications, and expression quantitative trait loci (eQTLs).[4–7] These annotations vary depending on cell/tissue-type. Given the many ways in which complex diseases arise, and for human brain diseases, the well-recognized cellular heterogeneity of

the brain, pinpointing cell-types of interest is important to further understand pathogenicity. Efforts to obtain brain samples (the most obviously relevant tissue for neurodegenerative diseases) for eQTL analyses are ongoing.[8–13] There has been a recent proliferation in the availability of cell-type and tissue-specific annotations, including brain tissue, for example through the Roadmap Epigenomics Project[14] and the PsychEncode Project.[11] Nevertheless, obtaining large numbers of post-mortem human brains remains challenging, and current eQTL analyses are likely to be underpowered. Characterization of eQTLs and DNA regulatory elements in blood is a complementary approach.

The neuroinflammatory hypothesis of neurodegenerative diseases posits that dysregulation of the immune system is an important factor in the aetiology of these diseases.[15,16] There is little doubt that MS is an immune-mediated disease[17] [18,19] We therefore use this disease as a positive control with regard to expected enrichment in heritability for annotations from immune cells. There is extensive functional and clinical evidence that immune dysfunction plays a key role in the pathogenesis of the relapse-remitting phase of MS.[20,21] For AD, Yokoyama *et al*.[22] showed that eight variants were associated with both AD and immune-mediated diseases, and there is further evidence from pathway analysis[1,23,24] and from animal models.[25] For PD, the role of the immune system has been suggested through pathway analysis[26,27], animal models[28], and variants in the HLA region reaching statistical significance in genome-wide association studies.[2,29] For ALS, there is evidence of immune abnormalities.[30] Nevertheless, the extent to which the immune system is involved in neurodegenerative diseases such as AD, ALS and PD, and the potential roles played by the innate and adaptive immune components, remain unestablished.

Finucane *et al*.[31] introduced stratified LD score regression as a method for partitioning the inferred heritability from GWAS summary statistics. They partitioned heritability for a variety of tissue/cell-types for 17 GWASs. We applied this methodology to four diseases (MS, AD, ALS, PD) to test for enrichment of heritability, both using Finucane *et al*.'s[31] cell-type group annotations and using additional annotations from brain and immune cells and from published sets of brain and immune-related genes.[32]

Methods
We obtained GWAS summary statistics for three neurodegenerative diseases: Alzheimer's disease (AD),[1] amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)[3] and Parkinson's disease (PD).[2] We used multiple sclerosis (MS)[33] as a positive control, as it is a disease affecting the brain with known immune aetiology. All studies were conducted in European populations, and are summarized in **Table 1**. For AD, which is a two-stage study, we only used data from the first stage. (See **Box 1** for details on this study.) We did not study Huntington's disease (which has other genetic modifiers in addition to the primary *HTT* locus) and frontotemporal dementia, because the current GWAS sample sizes for these diseases are modest, and thus the datasets were considered to be insufficiently powered for our analyses.[31]

Box 1.

International Genomics of Alzheimer's Project (IGAP) is a large two-stage study based upon genome-wide association studies (GWAS) on individuals of European ancestry. In stage 1, IGAP used genotyped and imputed data on 7,055,881 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) to meta-analyse four previously-published GWAS datasets consisting of 17,008 Alzheimer's disease cases and 37,154 controls (The European Alzheimer's disease Initiative – EADI the Alzheimer Disease Genetics Consortium – ADGC The Cohorts for Heart and Aging Research in Genomic Epidemiology consortium – CHARGE The Genetic and Environmental Risk in AD consortium – GERAD). In stage 2, 11,632 SNPs were genotyped and tested for association in an independent set of 8,572 Alzheimer's disease cases and 11,312 controls. Finally, a meta-analysis was performed combining results from stages 1 & 2.

We estimated pairwise genetic correlations among the four diseases using cross-trait LD score regression.[34] We then applied stratified LD score regression to determine if various functional categories (cell-type groups, annotations at the tissue/cell level for brain or immune cells, and sets of brain and immune gene lists) were enriched for heritability. LD score regression exploits the expected relationships between true association signals and local LD around them to correct out systematic biases and arrive at unbiased estimates of genetic heritability within a given set of SNPs (here stratified according to their functional category).[31] Following Finucane *et al.*[31], we added annotations individually to the baseline model; we used HapMap Project Phase 3 SNPs for the regression and 1000 Genomes Project European population SNPs for the reference panel; we only partitioned the heritability of SNPs with minor allele frequency >5%; and we excluded the MHC region from analysis. The high LD and strong association signals within the MHC region result in a dominating effect on LD score regression, and for the purposes of our analyses excluding this region results in a conservative approach.

The grouped cell-type annotations provided by Finucane *et al.*[31] are the union of histone marks for 10 broad categories including central nervous system (CNS), cardiovascular, immune/hematopoietic, and liver. For these analyses we corrected for multiple testing of four GWASs across 10 cell-type groups (4 x 10 = 40 hypotheses tested), resulting in a Bonferroni significance threshold of p= 1.2 x 10^{-3}.

We then extended the analytical approach of Finucane *et al.*[31] in the following ways. Firstly, we obtained additional annotation information. We obtained histone marks and DNase I hypersensitive sites data from the Roadmap Epigenomics Consortium;[14] we obtained eQTLs derived from brain regions from the UK Brain Expression Consortium[10] and the GTEx Consortium;[9] and we obtained promoter capture HiC array express data in CD34 cells from GM12878 (reference: E-MTAB-2323).[35] We also considered two gene-sets. All these annotations are listed in **Supplementary Table 1**. Secondly, in order to reduce the multiple testing burden, we combined information across the four different histone marks and the DNase I

hypersensitive marks in order to create an aggregate set of regulatory marks for each cell type.

For brain tissue, we defined a union set of histone marks plus DNase I hypersensitive sites from the Roadmap Epigenomics Consortium.[14] This processing resulted in one annotation per brain region (10 annotations).

We grouped eQTLs across all brain regions, but treated the eQTLs from the UK Brain Expression Consortium[10] and the GTEx Consortium[9] separately (resulting in two annotations). Both the GTEx and UKBEC analyses included brain regions highly relevant to MS, AD and PD, namely white matter, hippocampus, temporal cortex and substantia nigra.

Amongst specific immune cells we assessed the histone marks previously described,[31] and also the histone marks and DNase I hypersensitive site data from the Roadmap Epigenomics Consortium for immune and blood cells,[14] and we took the union for each cell-type as described above (three histone marks and DNase I hypersensitive site). This resulted in 20 annotations from Finucane *et al*.[31] and 14 annotations from Roadmap.

Additionally, we defined four immune cell-type annotations based on promoter capture HiC array express data in CD34 from GM12878 (reference: E-MTAB-2323).[35] The data for the prey and bait were analysed separately for interactions between captured promoter and captured promoter interactions and for captured promoter and all other regions, which resulted in four annotations.

The above cell/tissue-type specific annotations resulted in a multiple testing correction for four GWASs across 50 (12 brain + 38 immune) annotations (4 x 50 = 204 hypotheses tested). Thus we set a Bonferroni significance threshold of p= 2.5 x 10^{-4} for these analyses. Note that there are correlations within the immune and brain annotations, making our Bonferroni correction somewhat conservative

We also applied heritability enrichment analysis to two sets of genes; one with known brain and one with known immune function. We used a brain gene list of 2,635 genes previously described by Raychaudhuri *et al*.[36], and an immune gene list of 973 genes previously described by Pouget *et al*.[32] Brain genes were defined as those fulfilling any of the following criteria: preferential expression in the brain compared to other tissues, "neural-activity" annotation in Panther, "learning" annotation in Ingenuity, and "synapse" annotation in Gene Ontology. Immune genes were defined as those with an "immune response" annotation in at least three of the following databases: Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes, Gene Ontology, Ingenuity, and Immunology Database and Analysis Portal. SNPs were annotated to genes using a 50 kb window, and a baseline list of all genes using this 50 kb window was included in the model as previously described.[32]

Finally, we contrasted the above heritability enrichment analyses with a complementary approach based on gene-set enrichment analysis. We used Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA) (www.ingenuity.com) to identify pathway enrichment among genes associated with different neurological traits for canonical pathways. Canonical pathways are structured pathways. Data from the different phenotypes were integrated and subjected to network analysis via IPA to identify pathway enrichment. Enriched networks are ordered by –log p-value, based on a Fisher Exact test p-value.[37] Cancer-related functions were removed from the disease and biological functions results, due to their over-representation in the database. For each disease we included SNPs with a p-value $<5 \times 10^{-4}$, and excluded SNPs in the MHC region due to the long stretches of LD in this region.

Results

There is limited evidence of pairwise genetic correlation among the four diseases using cross-trait LD score regression. The lack of an AD-PD pairwise correlation has already been reported, as well as between AD-MS and PD-MS.[38] We also found no statistically significant evidence for genetic correlation between ALS-AD (0.2, p= 0.08), ALS-PD (-0.08, p=0.01), and ALS-MS (-0.04, p=0.7).

For the grouped cell-type analysis from Finucane et al.,[31] the most significant enrichment was seen for the immune/hematopoietic category for MS (10.1, p= 3.8 x 10^{-13}), confirming the recognized role of the immune system in this disease. This category was also significantly enriched for heritability of AD (5.5, p= 2.4 x 10^{-7}), in addition to liver (10.5, p= 1.1 x 10^{-5}), and these AD signals remained significant even after the removal of APOE (chr19: 44905754-44909393) (5.5, p= 2.5 x 10^{-7} and 10.5, p= 1.1 x 10^{-5} respectively). For ALS and PD, there were no significantly enriched functional categories (**Fig 1**).

At the tissue level, none of the enrichments were significant for the brain annotations. The most suggestive signal was for the inferior temporal region in AD (4.9, p= 6.6 x 10^{-4}).

For the cell-specific immune annotations assessed relating to both the innate and adaptive immune systems, there was significant enrichment for MS heritability and to a lesser extent for AD and PD. There was no enrichment of heritability for ALS, the smallest dataset in our study (**Supplementary Table 1, Fig 2**). Strong MS signals for heritability enrichment were found in all immune cell categories, including both adaptive and innate cell types. Significant AD signals were found in all immune cell categories except for the non-T-cell/non-B-cell component of the adaptive immune system. For PD, only two annotations passed the multiple testing threshold: primary T helper cells PMA-I stimulated and primary T regulatory cells from peripheral blood (5.2 and 5.4, respectively, p= 0.0002 for both), but several other immune annotations were suggestive.

Consistent with previous applications of the LD score regression method, we included the annotations separately in the regression model. This means that that

enrichments in innate immune cells could in principle be due to overlap in annotation with adaptive immune cell-types, and vice versa. To assess this issue, we determined the degree of annotation overlap between all pairs of immune cell types in our study (**Supplementary Table 2**). We found the degree of overlap between innate versus adaptive cells ranged from 0.06% (for CD14 versus CD20) to 12% (for peripheral blood mononuclear primary cell versus primary T cells from cord blood), suggesting a large degree of independence between adaptive and innate cell marks. To further investigate this issue, we carried out deeper analyses on a representative adaptive cell type (primary T cells from cord blood) and a representative innate cell type (CD15), both of which displayed strong heritability enrichment signals in AD. The annotation overlap between these two cell types was 6.7% (**Supplementary Table 2**). When we included both annotations simultaneously in the LD score regression model, we found that both cell lines remained significantly enriched for MS (22.0, p= 7.4 x 10^{-20} and 17.2, 2.3 x 10^{-5}, respectively). Similarly, for AD, both cell lines remained significantly enriched (8.7, p= 1.7 x 10^{-7} and 14.3, p= 7.3 x 10^{-6}, respectively). Neither of these cell lines had reached significance for PD or ALS in the models where they were inputted separately, nor were they significant when included simultaneously into the model. The enrichment results for primary T cells from cord blood and CD15 when included simultaneously in the model for PD are 4.9, p= 1.1 x 10^{-3} and 7.0, p= 5.2 x 10^{-3}, respectively; and for ALS 3.5, p= 0.03 and 3.1, p= 0.37 respectively. Overall, these analyses provided us with re-assurance that we were detecting independent signals in adaptive versus innate immune cell types.

Our heritability enrichment analysis within brain-related and immune-related gene sets also provided strong evidence for a signal in the immune gene set, and not in the brain gene set (**Supplementary Table 1**). As expected, the strongest immune gene signal was for MS (1.6, p= 4.6x10^{-14}). We have previously reported the enrichment of this immune gene list in the same MS dataset, using an earlier version of LD score regression.[32] The immune gene list was also enriched for heritability in AD (5.2, p= 4.8 x 10^{-4}), and the effects in PD and ALS were suggestive but would not survive multiple testing correction (4.5, p= 0.02 and 2.5, p= 0.03, respectively). The brain gene list was not significantly enriched in any of the neurodegenerative diseases assessed (among the other three diseases enrichment ranges from 0.9 to 1.9, p >0.04 for all three).

Finally, we compared the above results to an Ingenuity IPA pathway enrichment analysis within canonical pathways (**Supplementary Table 3**). Remarkably, all the significant pathways save one ("Aldosterone Signaling in Epithelial Cells") were found to be connected to either adaptive or innate immune response. Specific examples included: in MS (e.g. T helper cell differentiation, role of macrophages, fibroblasts and endothelial cells in RA, B cell receptor signaling, dendritic cell maturation, PI3K signaling in B lymphocytes, CD40 signaling; PKCθ signaling in T lymphocytes, NF-κB activation by viruses); in PD (e.g. dendritic cell maturation – shared with MS, graft-versus-host disease signaling, altered T cell and B cell signaling in rheumatoid arthritis); in AD (IL-8 signaling, IL-12 signaling and production in macrophages, Fc epsilon RI signaling, Fcγ receptor-mediated

phagocytosis in macrophages and monocytes, role of pattern recognition receptors in recognition of bacteria and viruses, natural killer cell signaling); and in ALS (e.g. NF-κB signaling). The value of the IPA method was also demonstrated in providing significant signals for other pathways previously implicated in the pathogenesis of AD, including CREB signaling in neurons,[39] neuregulin signaling, and ErbB signaling.[40]

Discussion
Multiple lines of evidence suggest a significant contribution of variants exhibiting functional marks for chromatin accessibility (i.e. histone marks, DNase I hypersensitive sites) in immune cell types to the heritability of two neurodegenerative diseases, namely AD and PD. To the best of our knowledge this is the first report of enrichment of immune cell chromatin accessibility marks among the genetic risk alleles for neurodegenerative diseases. Annotations from immune cells are most significantly enriched for the heritability of MS, a known autoimmune disease which acted as a positive control in our investigations.[17] Immune annotations are also consistently enriched but to a lesser degree for AD (with involvement from both the innate and adaptive immune systems), and some cell-specific immune annotations (T-cells) were significantly enriched for PD. A lack of results from the ALS dataset could be attributed to this dataset being smaller than the other datasets investigated (**Table 1**). These results provide further support for the neuroinflammatory hypothesis of neurodegenerative disease,[15,16] and highlight the potential utility of immune modulating agents, such as those currently used in MS for the treatment of AD and PD. However, one needs to be cautious with interpreting these cell/tissue-type specific results in the absence of functional and other studies.

We note that if we correct for the 17 GWASs assessed in Finucane *et al*.[31] as well as the four GWASs we assessed here for the 10 cell-type groups ((17+4) x 10 = 210 hypotheses tested), both the immune/hematopoietic and liver categories remain significant for AD.

The role of the immune system in AD pathogenicity has been previously shown[22,25] and previous pathway analysis of the AD GWAS we assessed here showed enrichment in immune-related pathways.[24] Findings are strongest for the innate immune response, for instance association with the *TREM2* gene, which in brain cells are primarily expressed on microglia.[41,42] Our findings further support the role of immune variation in AD susceptibility. Interestingly, using LD score regression, AD was found to be not significantly correlated with a variety of immune diseases.[34] This lack of correlation could be because when considering the entire genome the signal coming from the correlated loci between the diseases is diluted, or the immune variants involved in AD are different from those involved in other immune diseases. Microglia, the main immune cell type in the brain, have a different developmental trajectory separate from the peripheral immune system.[43] The unique mechanisms of immune surveillance in the brain [44,45]also makes immune diseases of the brain biologically distinct to peripheral immune diseases,

but there is much evidence that disruption of the brain's immune surveillance is critical to the "vicious cycle" of worsening pathology seen in neurodegeneration.[46] Our analysis suggests a predominantly epigenomic mechanism for immune dysregulation in neurodegenerative disease, and if confirmed this may be of therapeutic relevance, as many drugs are known to act through this mechanism. Some, such as histone deacetylase inhibitors, are already known to be efficacious in neurodegeneration treatment.[47]

Functional marks from liver were also enriched for the heritability of AD. This result agrees with findings in the literature of the contribution of lipid metabolism through liver X receptors (LXR) to the initiation and progression of this disease.[48,49]

Canonical pathway analysis showed enrichment of AD associations in CREB signaling in neurons, and also IL8 and IL12 signaling (which are CREB regulated), supporting the immune hypothesis in AD, and pointing to interleukin signaling as a potential CREB-responsive mechanism.[50]

Our results do not provide statistically significant evidence that variants overlapping with functional annotations from the brain contribute excessively to the heritability of neurodegenerative diseases. The brain doubtless plays an important role in the genetic aetiology of these diseases. The lack of brain annotation enrichment could be due to data being based on few samples for the brain. Furthermore, the brain is a very heterogeneous tissue. Data from brain regions contain a mixture of different cell types such as microglia and neurons. Single cell sampling may reduce this heterogeneity in the future.[51] This analysis should be revisited as brain annotation information improves.

In summary, our results suggest a significant contribution of variants that exhibit chromatin accessibility marks in immune cells to the heritability of two neurodegenerative diseases, namely AD and PD.

Acknowledgements

Author Contributions
S.A.G., M.R., M.R.B., J.K., and M.E.W. are responsible for concept and study design. S.A.G. analysed data, M.R.B. conducted the pathway analysis, and J.G.P. analysed data for the gene list enrichment. S.A.G. drafted the manuscript and figures, with input from all the authors.

Conflicts of Interest
Author MEW an employee of Genomics plc, a company providing genomic analysis services to the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors. His involvement in the conduct of this research was solely in his capacity as a Reader in Statistical Genetics at King's College London.

References
1. Lambert JC, Ibrahim-Verbaas CA, Harold D, et al. Meta-analysis of 74,046 individuals identifies 11 new susceptibility loci for Alzheimer's disease. Nat Genet 2013;45(12):1452–8.

2. Nalls MA, Pankratz N, Lill CM, et al. Large-scale meta-analysis of genome-wide association data identifies six new risk loci for Parkinson's disease. Nat. Genet. 2014;46(9):989–993.

3. Fogh I, Ratti A, Gellera C, et al. A genome-wide association meta-analysis identifies a novel locus at 17q11.2 associated with sporadic amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Hum. Mol. Genet. 2014;23(8):2220–2231.

4. Maurano MT, Haugen E, Sandstrom R, et al. Large-scale identification of sequence variants influencing human transcription factor occupancy in vivo. Nat. Genet. 2015;

5. Farh KK-H, Marson A, Zhu J, et al. Genetic and epigenetic fine mapping of causal autoimmune disease variants. Nature 2015;518(7539):337–343.

6. Gagliano SA, Barnes MR, Weale ME, Knight J. A Bayesian method to incorporate hundreds of functional characteristics with association evidence to improve variant prioritization. PLoS ONE 2014;9(5):e98122.

7. Schaub MA, Boyle AP, Kundaje A, et al. Linking disease associations with regulatory information in the human genome. Genome Res 2012;22(9):1748–59.

8. The GTEx Consortium. The genotype-tissue expression (GTEx) project. Nat Genet 2013;45(6):580–585.

9. Ardlie KG, Deluca DS, Segrè AV, et al. The Genotype-Tissue Expression (GTEx) pilot analysis: Multitissue gene regulation in humans. Science 2015;348(6235):648–660.

10. Ramasamy A, Trabzuni D, Guelfi S, et al. Genetic variability in the regulation of gene expression in ten regions of the human brain. Nat. Neurosci. 2014;17(10):1418–1428.

11. Akbarian S, Liu C, Knowles JA, et al. The PsychENCODE project. Nat. Neurosci. 2015;18(12):1707–1712.

12. Miller JA, Ding S-L, Sunkin SM, et al. Transcriptional Landscape of the Prenatal Human Brain. Nature 2014;508(7495):199–206.

13. Fromer M, Roussos P, Sieberts SK, et al. Gene Expression Elucidates Functional Impact of Polygenic Risk for Schizophrenia. bioRxiv 2016;52209.

14. Roadmap Epigenomics Consortium, Kundaje A, Meuleman W, et al. Integrative analysis of 111 reference human epigenomes. Nature 2015;518(7539):317–330.

15. Floyd RA. Neuroinflammatory processes are important in neurodegenerative diseases: an hypothesis to explain the increased formation of reactive oxygen and nitrogen species as major factors involved in neurodegenerative disease development. Free Radic. Biol. Med. 1999;26(9–10):1346–1355.

16. Klegeris A, McGeer EG, McGeer PL. Therapeutic approaches to inflammation in neurodegenerative disease. Curr. Opin. Neurol. 2007;20(3):351–357.

17. Steinman L. Multiple sclerosis: a two-stage disease. Nat. Immunol. 2001;2(9):762–764.

18. International Multiple Sclerosis Genetics Consortium. Network-based multiple sclerosis pathway analysis with GWAS data from 15,000 cases and 30,000 controls. Am. J. Hum. Genet. 2013;92(6):854–865.

19. van Baarsen LGM, van der Pouw Kraan TCTM, Kragt JJ, et al. A subtype of multiple sclerosis defined by an activated immune defense program. Genes Immun. 2006;7(6):522–531.

20. Hellings N, Gelin G, Medaer R, et al. Longitudinal study of antimyelin T-cell reactivity in relapsing–remitting multiple sclerosis: association with clinical and MRI activity. J. Neuroimmunol. 2002;126(1):143–160.

21. Hernandez-Pedro NY, Espinosa-Ramirez G, Perez de la Cruz V, et al. Initial Immunopathogenesis of Multiple Sclerosis: Innate Immune Response. J. Immunol. Res. 2013;2013, 2013:e413465.

22. Yokoyama JS, Wang Y, Schork AJ, et al. Association Between Genetic Traits for Immune-Mediated Diseases and Alzheimer Disease. JAMA Neurol. 2016;

23. Jones L, Holmans PA, Hamshere ML, et al. Genetic Evidence Implicates the Immune System and Cholesterol Metabolism in the Aetiology of Alzheimer's Disease. PLOS ONE 2010;5(11):e13950.

24. International Genomics of Alzheimer's Disease Consortium (IGAP). Convergent genetic and expression data implicate immunity in Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimers Dement. J. Alzheimers Assoc. 2015;11(6):658–671.

25. Wang Y, Cella M, Mallinson K, et al. TREM2 Lipid Sensing Sustains the Microglial Response in an Alzheimer's Disease Model. Cell 2015;160(6):1061–1071.

26. Holmans P, Moskvina V, Jones L, et al. A pathway-based analysis provides additional support for an immune-related genetic susceptibility to Parkinson's disease. Hum. Mol. Genet. 2013;22(5):1039–1049.

27. Durrenberger PF, Grünblatt E, Fernando FS, et al. Inflammatory Pathways in Parkinson's Disease; A BNE Microarray Study. Park. Dis. 2012;2012:214714.

28. Kannarkat GT, Boss JM, Tansey MG. The Role of Innate and Adaptive Immunity in Parkinson's Disease. J. Park. Dis. 2013;3(4):493–514.

29. Hamza TH, Zabetian CP, Tenesa A, et al. Common genetic variation in the HLA region is associated with late-onset sporadic Parkinson's disease. Nat. Genet. 2010;42(9):781–785.

30. McCombe P., Henderson R. The Role of Immune and Inflammatory Mechanisms in ALS. Curr. Mol. Med. 2011;11(3):246–254.

31. Finucane HK, Bulik-Sullivan B, Gusev A, et al. Partitioning heritability by functional annotation using genome-wide association summary statistics. Nat. Genet. 2015;47(11):1228–1235.

32. Pouget JG, Gonçalves VF, Consortium SWG of the PG, et al. Genome-Wide Association Studies Suggest Limited Immune Gene Enrichment in Schizophrenia Compared to 5 Autoimmune Diseases. Schizophr. Bull. 2016;sbw059.

33. International Multiple Sclerosis Genetics Consortium, Wellcome Trust Case Control Consortium 2, Sawcer S, et al. Genetic risk and a primary role for cell-mediated immune mechanisms in multiple sclerosis. Nature 2011;476(7359):214–219.

34. Bulik-Sullivan B, Finucane HK, Anttila V, et al. An atlas of genetic correlations across human diseases and traits. Nat. Genet. 2015;47(11):1236–1241.

35. Mifsud B, Tavares-Cadete F, Young AN, et al. Mapping long-range promoter contacts in human cells with high-resolution capture Hi-C. Nat. Genet. 2015;47(6):598–606.

36. Raychaudhuri S, Korn JM, McCarroll SA, et al. Accurately assessing the risk of schizophrenia conferred by rare copy-number variation affecting genes with brain function. PLoS Genet. 2010;6(9):e1001097.

37. Krämer A, Green J, Pollard J, Tugendreich S. Causal analysis approaches in Ingenuity Pathway Analysis. Bioinforma. Oxf. Engl. 2014;30(4):523–530.

38. Anttila V, Bulik-Sullivan B, Finucane HK, et al. Analysis of shared heritability in common disorders of the brain [Internet]. bioRxiv 2016;Available from: http://biorxiv.org/content/early/2016/04/16/048991.article-info

39. Pugazhenthi S, Wang M, Pham S, et al. Downregulation of CREB expression in Alzheimer's brain and in Aβ-treated rat hippocampal neurons. Mol. Neurodegener. 2011;6:60.

40. Wieduwilt MJ, Moasser MM. The epidermal growth factor receptor family: biology driving targeted therapeutics. Cell. Mol. Life Sci. CMLS 2008;65(10):1566–1584.

41. Guerreiro R, Wojtas A, Bras J, et al. TREM2 Variants in Alzheimer's Disease. N. Engl. J. Med. 2013;368(2):117–127.

42. Jonsson T, Stefansson H, Steinberg S, et al. Variant of TREM2 associated with the risk of Alzheimer's disease. N. Engl. J. Med. 2013;368(2):107–116.

43. Bilbo SD, Schwarz JM. The Immune System and Developmental Programming of Brain and Behavior. Front. Neuroendocrinol. 2012;33(3):267–286.

44. Ransohoff RM, Engelhardt B. The anatomical and cellular basis of immune surveillance in the central nervous system. Nat. Rev. Immunol. 2012;12(9):623–635.

45. Louveau A, Smirnov I, Keyes TJ, et al. Structural and functional features of central nervous system lymphatic vessels. Nature 2015;523(7560):337–341.

46. Zlokovic BV. The Blood-Brain Barrier in Health and Chronic Neurodegenerative Disorders. Neuron 2008;57(2):178–201.

47. Abel T, Zukin RS. Epigenetic targets of HDAC inhibition in neurodegenerative and psychiatric disorders. Curr. Opin. Pharmacol. 2008;8(1):57–64.

48. Zelcer N, Khanlou N, Clare R, et al. Attenuation of neuroinflammation and Alzheimer's disease pathology by liver x receptors. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 2007;104(25):10601–10606.

49. Kang J, Rivest S. Lipid metabolism and neuroinflammation in Alzheimer's disease: a role for liver X receptors. Endocr. Rev. 2012;33(5):715–746.

50. Wen AY, Sakamoto KM, Miller LS. The Role of the Transcription Factor CREB in Immune Function. J. Immunol. 2010;185(11):6413–6419.

51. Lacar B, Linker SB, Jaeger BN, et al. Nuclear RNA-seq of single neurons reveals molecular signatures of activation. Nat. Commun. 2016;7:11022.

Figure Legends

Fig 1. Enrichment of cell-type groups as used in Finucane et al. 2015. The black dashed lines at -$\log_{10}$(P) = 2.9 is the cutoff for Bonferroni significance.

Fig 2. Enrichment of immune cell annotations. The black dashed lines at -$\log_{10}$(P) = 3.6 is the cutoff for Bonferroni significance. White bars= tissue; purple bars= CD34 (marker of immature hematopoietic cells - not strictly adaptive or innate); light blue bars= marker of T cells; dark blue bar= marker of B cells; royal blue bars= cells of the adaptive immune system; pink bars= cells of the innate immune system

Tables

Table 1. Description of the GWASs summary statistics

Neurodegenerative disease	PMID	Cases	Controls	Cohorts
Parkinson's disease	25064009	13,708	95,282	15
Alzheimer's disease	24162737	17,008	37,154	19
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis	24256812	7,177	8,393	8
Multiple sclerosis	21833088	9,772	17,376	23

Supplementary files:

Supplementary Table 1. Annotation enrichment results. Red cells mark enrichment that survived Bonferroni correction.

Supplementary Table 2. Overlap among chromatin accessibility annotations for immune cells. The main diagonal shows genome coverage (base pairs) for that cell type. The upper off-diagonal shows the overlap coverage (base pairs) for that cell-type-pair. The lower off-diagonal shows the proportion of overlap coverage for that cell-type pair.

Supplementary Table 3. Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA) results. Red cells mark enrichment that survived Bonferroni correction.
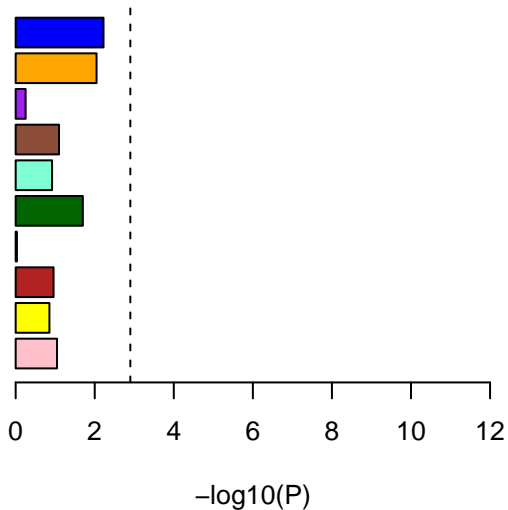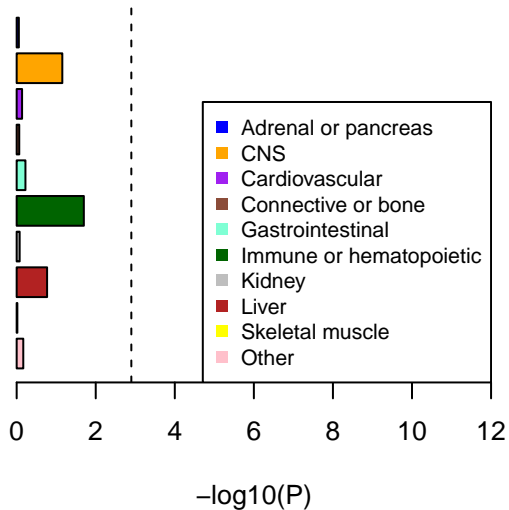
Multiple Sclerosis
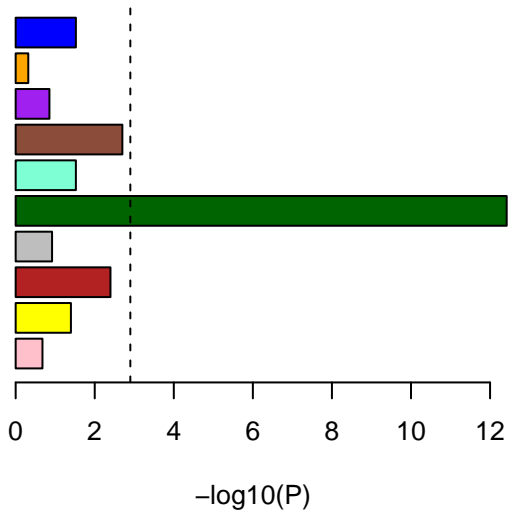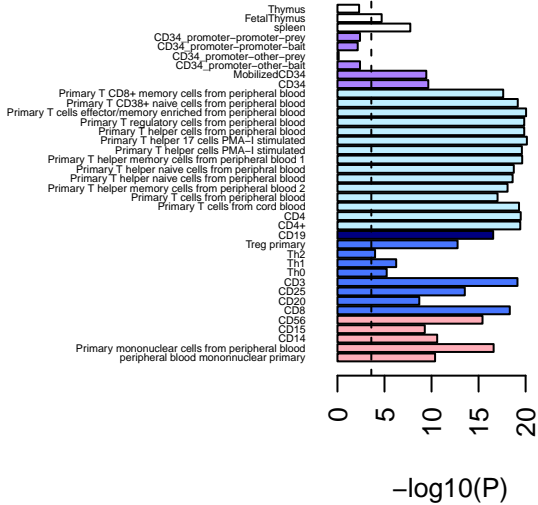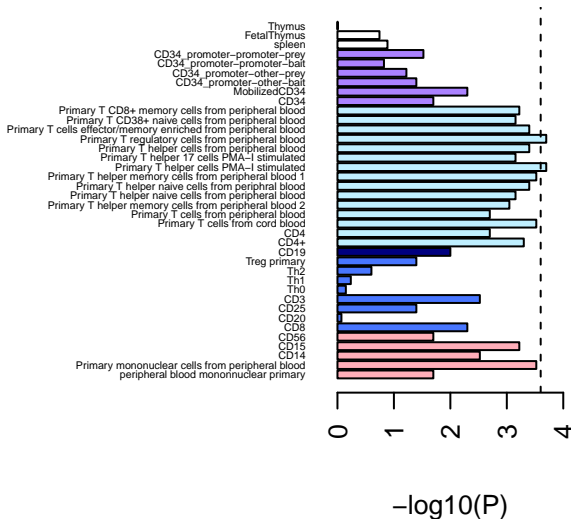
Alzheimer's Disease

Parkinson's Disease

ALS